

# The export competitiveness of Vietnam tuna industry in the global market: Evidence from revealed comparative advantage and constant market share of harmonized system code 6-digit products

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## ABSTRACT

Export competitiveness is essential to a country's global success. In this study, we assess the competitiveness of Vietnam's Tuna industry compared to its major competitors (Ecuador, Indonesia, Taipei – China, and Thailand) in the most significant world tuna-importing regions (ASEAN, Japan, the Middle East, the EU, and US) at four detailed industry codes, namely fresh or chilled tuna (0302:31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 35, 36, 39), frozen tuna (0303:41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49), filets (0304-87), and preserved tuna (1604:14). The analysis is based on the secondary data from the International Trade Centre database (Trade Map/COMTRADE) and the UNCTAD stat database in period 2007-2019, using the RCA (Revealed Comparative Advantage) and the CMS (Constant Market Share) analyses. The RCA reveals that Vietnam's competitiveness in exporting 0302 tuna declined significantly after 2012, especially in the US and Japanese markets, while competitors like Ecuador and Taipei (China) capitalized on the market. The CMS shows that although the competitiveness effect had different values in each market, it tended to remain the same. For Tuna 0303: The RCA value declined significantly across all markets, especially evident in the Middle East; meanwhile, competitors like Ecuador held a significant advantage in key markets like the EU. Results from CMS show that the demand for Vietnam's tuna 0303 decreased. Besides, for the commodity composition effect, from period I-II, its value increased sharply, but when entering period III, it started to decrease. The market distribution effect fluctuates strongly. For Tuna 0304: The RCA reveals that Vietnam dominated the export of 0304 tuna in all markets, with a consistently high RCA value. The standard world growth effect value increased considerably. Vietnam's market distribution and competitiveness affect positive growth in all markets except the ASEAN. For the prepared or preserved tuna product (1604), its comparative advantage in the US, Japan, EU, and Middle East markets was average and tended to decrease. Only in the ASEAN market did Vietnam have a relatively high comparative advantage. In general, a comparison with crucial competitors shows that Vietnam's level of competitiveness is similar due to the influence of resources, market demand, and technological capacity, but Vietnam holds a competitive edge in tuna exports in key markets. An investment policy is being implemented to assist fishermen, including procuring novel, high-capacity vessels outfitted with fishing equipment and facilities designed to enhance quality preservation. Furthermore, ongoing endeavors are to enhance fish consumption and foster collaborations between the fishing sector and fishermen. In addition, there is a focus on enhancing fisheries logistics services to reduce expenses before exporting to global markets.

**Key words:** CMS, export competitiveness, RCA, Tuna export, Vietnam

## 1 INTRODUCTION

2 Export competitiveness (EC) is a means to achieve  
3 global competitiveness<sup>1-3</sup>. The term EC pertains to  
4 the capacity of a country or region to effectively cre-  
5 ate and possess markets, as well as generate prof-  
6 its, in foreign marketplaces where its products are  
7 traded<sup>4</sup>. In the past thirty years, the research on  
8 EC has achieved remarkable advancements and gar-  
9 nered recognition as a distinct concept<sup>5</sup>. There have  
10 been endeavors to construct theoretical frameworks

encompassing certain aspects of EC<sup>6,7</sup>. Besides, EC 11  
was assessed at different levels, including the prod- 12  
uct level<sup>8</sup>, firm level<sup>9,10</sup>, regional level<sup>11</sup>, industry 13  
level<sup>12,13</sup>, and country level<sup>14-17</sup>. However, in previ- 14  
ous studies, commodity EC was examined at an aggre- 15  
gate level<sup>5,18</sup>. A practical issue of utmost importance 16  
for a country with a substantial agricultural sector is 17  
maintaining sustainability and increasing its agricul- 18  
tural products' international competitiveness<sup>8,15,17</sup>. 19  
The tuna export industry has been one of the crit- 20

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ical structural sectors in Vietnam over the past 15 years, accounting for 21.56% of total seafood exports in 2021, playing an essential role in the global value chain, with 5.0% of the total tuna exported worldwide. However, Vietnam's tuna export value is only about 35.0% of Thailand's and Indonesia's, but Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand have similar advantages in this industry. The research landscape regarding the competitiveness of Vietnam's tuna export industry presented a noticeable disparity compared to other countries in the region and the whole world<sup>19,20</sup>. This study aims to determine Vietnam's tuna industry's current position and competitiveness in comparison with its major competitors (Ecuador, Indonesia, Taipei – China, and Thailand) in the largest tuna-importing regions (ASEAN, Japan, the Middle East, the EU, and US) at the HS (harmonized system) 06-digit levels, namely fresh or chilled tuna (0302:31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 35, 36, 39), frozen tuna (0303:41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49), filets (0304-87), and preserved tuna (1604:14). The study used the RCA and CMS approach to analyze data from 2007 to 2019.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The economic literature focuses on the concept of comparative advantage, while the business literature has recently developed the concept of competitive advantage<sup>3,5,21</sup>. However, comparative advantage and competitiveness have many things in common<sup>21</sup>. A country's comparative advantage makes it capable of creating more value in the long run than the products it produces, in which it lacks the comparative advantage. Thanks to comparative advantages, countries will generate higher profits and greater competitiveness<sup>21</sup>.

Several theories exist to elucidate the variables influencing the competitiveness of agricultural and agro-industrial product exports worldwide, including the Theory of Comparative Advantage, the Resource Endowment Theory, and the Theory of International Trade. The Heckscher-Ohlin-Samuelson theorem posits that countries will export goods that utilize the factor relatively more abundantly in their production, be it capital- or labor-intensive.

Many different methods are used across many fields to consider competitiveness. Comparative advantages such as revealed comparative advantage, constant market share, compound annual growth rate, trade competitiveness, trade intensity index, creation, and redirection index trade, revealed normalized comparative advantage approach had been used to analyze a country's competitiveness and examine competitiveness and trade structure of different economies and sectors in many industries.

The RCA index is a comprehensive and widely accepted measure in the literature to assess a country's export competitiveness in specific products<sup>22</sup>. Balassa estimated the index of RCA to compare a country's specialization level and competitive position in exporting goods and services among major exporting countries in the world<sup>23</sup>. The RCA index is calculated based on export performance and observed trade patterns<sup>24</sup>, providing insight into a country's comparative advantage from trade data<sup>24</sup>.

The Constant Market Share model assumes that a country's export market share remains stable in the absence of external disruptions and if it maintains competitiveness in its home market. In contrast to traditional market share analysis, which compares a country's exports to the total imports of partner countries, the Constant Market Share (CMS) delves deeper, enabling researchers to isolate the factors driving export growth beyond global trends. The CMS model, introduced by Richardson, offers a framework for analyzing export performance<sup>25</sup>. The CMS assesses competitiveness retrospectively, comparing a specific country's exports with global exports<sup>26,27</sup>. The CMS analysis categorizes export performance into four distinct effects: the impact of global economic growth, the influence of commodity composition, the effect of market distribution, and a residual competitiveness effect<sup>28</sup>. Despite theoretical and empirical criticisms against the CMS approach, its popularity in international trade analysis persisted and was adjusted to analyze four effects of export performance in different contexts<sup>28</sup>. Integrating RCA and CMS methodologies offers significant advantages in analyzing a nation's export competitiveness in the tuna industry.

In the context of this research, utilizing both methods provides a comprehensive and insightful perspective on Vietnam's competitive landscape in the global market. Initially, the RCA method allows for a clear identification of Vietnam's comparative advantage in the tuna sector compared to other nations. It provides an overview of the comparative advantage of Vietnam's tuna exports based on the ratio between exports and production in a specific industry. It shows whether or not Vietnam has a competitive advantage in this industry. Then, based on each specific RCA index, the government can identify which tuna industry codes should be focused on investment and development. Subsequently, the CMS method aids in quantifying and evaluating Vietnam's ability to sustain its competitive advantage over time. By analyzing changes in Vietnam's export market share and the factors influencing it, CMS helps identify internal

127 and market-driven factors that Vietnam needs to ad- 176  
 128 dress to maintain and enhance its export competitive- 177  
 129 ness. Integrating data from both methodologies en- 178  
 130 ables this study to identify and assess the factors influ- 179  
 131 encing Vietnam’s export competitiveness in the tuna 180  
 132 industry, including productivity, product quality, and 181  
 133 operational efficiency. Based on this analysis, the gov- 182  
 134 ernment and businesses can guide development poli- 183  
 135 cies for the industry by building competitive strate- 184  
 136 gies, such as improving technology, improving prod- 185  
 137 uct quality, and expanding markets. This contributes 186  
 138 to enhancing Vietnam’s position in the international  
 139 market and positively impacts the sustainable devel-  
 140 opment of the domestic tuna industry.

141 **METHODOLOGY**

142 **Data collection**

143 We determined the HS codes of tuna that have been  
 144 exported around the world, including four signifi-  
 145 cant codes: fresh or chilled tuna (0302:31, 32, 33,  
 146 34, 35, 35, 36, 39), frozen tuna (0303:41, 42, 43,  
 147 44, 45, 46, 49), fillets (0304:87), and preserved tuna  
 148 (1604:14). The analysis used secondary data from the  
 149 International Trade Centre database, the UNCTAD  
 150 stat database. We selected five markets that consid-  
 151 ered the potential for exporting tuna, including the  
 152 US, Japan, the EU, the Middle East, and ASEAN, from  
 153 2007 to 2019. In these five import markets, the group  
 154 selects the typical countries for each group of tuna  
 155 export capacity (e.g., in the EU, exporting countries  
 156 like Vietnam, Ecuador, Thailand, and Indonesia). The  
 157 team will rely on the above data to calculate the RCA  
 158 and CMS of each country; each market is then com-  
 159 bined with several factors and models for the conclu-  
 160 sions.

161 **The Revealed Comparative Advantage**

162 Revealed Comparative Advantage (RCA) is com- 210  
 163 monly used to identify a particular country’s export 211  
 164 shift concerning its comparative advantage. RCA is 212  
 165 one of the most prominent tools that allow effec- 213  
 166 tive measurement of competitiveness among indus- 214  
 167 tries (39), developed following the theory of trade 215  
 168 for measuring a country’s adeptness in exporting a  
 169 particular commodity compared to a group of other  
 170 countries<sup>18</sup>. CA has risen to prominence as a piv-  
 171 otal method for elucidating the intricate dynamics  
 172 of international trade. By employing RCA compu-  
 173 tations, researchers and policymakers gain valuable  
 174 insights into the structural shifts unfolding within a  
 175 country’s export sector over specific time intervals.

RCA serves as a robust analytical framework, allow-  
 ing for an in-depth exploration of the intricate rela-  
 tionship between a country’s export performance in  
 a particular commodity, its overall export portfolio,  
 and the aggregate exports of that commodity across  
 a diverse set of trading partners. Though numerous  
 formulas devised by eminent scholars exist for com-  
 puting the RCA index, we utilize the foundational for-  
 mula articulated by Balassa for this study<sup>23</sup>. This for-  
 mula, which serves as the cornerstone of our analysis,  
 is shown in Figure 1.

$$RCA_{c,i,t} = \frac{\sum_c EX_{c,i,t}}{\sum_i EX_{c,i,t}} \bigg/ \frac{\sum_i EX_{c,i,t}}{\sum_c \sum_i EX_{c,i,t}}$$

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Figure 1: The Balassa index (RCA)

Where:

- $X_{ij}$ : Country i’s export of commodity j
  - $X_i$ : Country i total commodities export to the world
  - $X_{mj}$ : Total import value/volume of commodity j in country m
  - $X_m$ : Total import value/volume of country m.
- With:
- $0 \leq RCA \leq 1$ : no comparative advantage
  - $1 \leq RCA \leq 2$ : a low comparative advantage
  - $2 \leq RCA \leq 4$ : an average comparative advantage
  - $RCA > 4$ : a high comparative advantage

**The Constant Market Share**

A country’s exports can be classified by applying a  
 constant market share (CMS) model by decomposing  
 export growth into their respective parts (including  
 the standard world growth effect, commodity compo-  
 sition effect, market distribution effect, and competi-  
 tion effect). Thus, the overall CMS identifies a fun-  
 damental change in the focus country’s exports be-  
 tween the two periods and describes a country’s ex-  
 port growth. The CMS model used in this study can  
 be performed in Figure 2.

Where:

- r: proportionate change in total world exports in aggregate from the initial period (0) to the terminal period (1);
- $r_i$ : proportionate change in world exports of the i<sup>th</sup> commodity in aggregate from the initial period (0) to the terminal period (1);

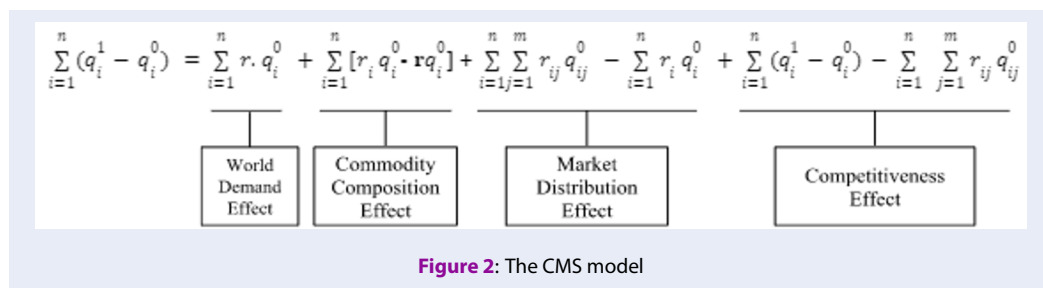


Figure 2: The CMS model

216  $r_{ij}$ : proportionate change in world exports of com-  
 217 modity  $i$ , to market  $j$  in aggregate from the initial pe-  
 218 riod (0) to terminal period (1);  
 219  $q_i^0$ : total exports by the focus country of commodity  
 220  $i$  in the initial period;  
 221  $q_{ij}^0$ : total export by the focus country of commodity  $i$ ,  
 222 to the  $j$ 'th market in the initial period;  
 223  $q_i^1$ : total export by the focus country of commodity  
 224  $i$  in the terminal period.

## 225 RESULTS

### 226 Total HS Codes

#### 227 Results from RCA

228 The competitiveness of tuna exports is determined us-  
 229 ing the RCA method, as shown in Table 1. RCA analy-  
 230 sis shows Vietnam's moderate competitiveness in US  
 231 tuna exports (average RCA 3.59). Although exports  
 232 are growing, Vietnam's RCA to the US market is still  
 233 low, while the RCA of competitors has no adverse  
 234 fluctuations. This shows that the US market has be-  
 235 come more open to tuna exporters.

236 In the Japanese market, Vietnam's RCA value, which  
 237 is about three times smaller on average than in the US,  
 238 has fluctuated around one and even below one after  
 239 2015. This suggests that Vietnam should have concen-  
 240 trated its tuna exports on other nations and regions  
 241 with more significant potential than Japan.

242 In the EU market, Vietnam had a lower competi-  
 243 tiveness than Thailand, Indonesia, and Ecuador (with  
 244 RCA of 4.08, 15.61, 4.96, and 57.27, respectively).  
 245 Vietnam's RCA value decreased gradually from 2012,  
 246 reaching its bottom of 2.94 (2007-2019), and only re-  
 247 covered to 3.14 in 2019. This shows that Vietnam's  
 248 competitiveness in tuna exports must still be fixed.  
 249 Meanwhile, Ecuador's RCA value continuously in-  
 250 creased, and the RCA values of Indonesia and Thai-  
 251 land fluctuated slightly. Interestingly, all the above  
 252 countries had higher RCA values in the EU (during  
 253 2007-2019) than in the US. This reflects that they had  
 254 a higher competitiveness level of tuna export to the  
 255 EU than the US.

256 The tuna value of Vietnam's exports to the Middle  
 257 East was small, but the average RCA value (4.08) was  
 258 higher than that of the US. Besides, Thailand's com-  
 259 petitor was highly competitive, with an average RCA  
 260 index of 14.57. However, Vietnam and Thailand's  
 261 RCA value in this market tended to decrease from  
 262 2013-2019, showing that Vietnam and Thailand re-  
 263 duced their priority for tuna exports.

264 The RCA value in the ASEAN market was even  
 265 smaller than in the Middle East, with an average value  
 266 of 1.85. Taipei (China) had a slight upward trend  
 267 in RCA value, but its competitiveness was similar to  
 268 Vietnam's. This shows that Vietnam had a low but sta-  
 269 ble competitiveness.

#### 270 Results from CMS

271 CMS method further analyses Vietnam's tuna exports  
 272 through global markets. As shown in Table 2, the  
 273 standard world growth effect and commodity com-  
 274 position effect were the same in all markets and had  
 275 positive values from 2007-2019. The Standard World  
 276 Growth Effect value declined from period I-II and in-  
 277 creased by 4.6 times after, showing that the influence  
 278 of world demand increased strongly in Vietnam. The  
 279 positive value of the commodity composition effect  
 280 during 2007-2019 reflects the high market demand for  
 281 this product.

282 The market distribution effect reflects Vietnam's re-  
 283 sponse to the increase in demand occurring in the im-  
 284 porting country. Table 3, from 2007 to 2019, shows  
 285 that Vietnam needed to allocate tuna exports to these  
 286 markets properly. This may be because Vietnam fo-  
 287 cused on low-potential countries. Moreover, the mar-  
 288 ket distribution effect decreased during three periods  
 289 in the US, Japan, EU, and Middle Eastern markets.  
 290 However, its value slightly increased in the ASEAN  
 291 market from period II-III.

292 Lastly, the Competitiveness Effect was positive for five  
 293 markets from 2007-2019. This shows that Vietnam  
 294 focused on increasing the value and quality of ex-  
 295 ported tuna. In addition, this value tended to increase  
 296 sharply in periods I-II and decreased slightly then.

**Table 1: Overall RCA of Total Tuna Export to the US, Japan, EU, Middle East and ASEAN Market**

Country/Year/Market	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>US</b>													
Vietnam	4.36	3.44	3.04	4.05	4.01	4.14	3.99	3.79	3.57	3.33	3.08	2.80	3.08
Indonesia	4.43	4.05	3.92	3.41	3.67	4.21	4.63	4.49	4.61	4.55	4.91	4.85	5.81
Ecuador	41.24	48.19	36.51	30.49	42.27	41.86	52.64	53.49	53.98	60.75	74.32	69.01	65.86
Thailand	15.59	18.14	14.76	13.77	15.33	13.73	14.19	13.80	12.64	12.38	11.32	11.42	11.90
<b>Japan</b>													
Vietnam	1.05	0.96	0.79	1.16	1.19	1.19	1.28	1.15	0.92	0.77	0.76	0.78	0.80
Thailand	3.75	5.08	3.84	3.94	4.54	3.96	4.56	4.18	3.25	2.87	2.79	3.19	3.11
Taipei, China	0.91	1.45	0.97	1.09	1.33	1.26	1.24	1.14	0.89	0.85	0.93	0.99	0.94
<b>EU</b>													
Vietnam	5.09	3.86	3.57	5.35	4.66	5.36	4.28	4.15	3.89	3.66	3.13	2.94	3.14
Indonesia	5.17	4.54	4.60	4.51	4.26	5.45	4.97	4.91	5.03	5.00	4.99	5.09	5.92
Ecuador	48.09	54.09	42.90	40.28	49.10	54.14	56.52	58.47	58.90	66.77	75.57	72.46	67.20
Thailand	18.18	20.36	17.34	18.19	17.81	17.76	15.23	15.09	13.79	13.61	11.51	11.99	12.14
<b>Middle East</b>													
Vietnam	5.57	3.99	3.16	3.92	3.89	4.60	4.63	4.18	3.94	2.94	3.38	2.61	2.62
Thailand	19.89	21.05	15.34	13.32	14.86	15.24	16.45	15.20	13.95	10.95	12.42	10.63	10.12
<b>ASEAN</b>													
Vietnam	1.75	1.21	1.46	1.96	1.74	2.05	2.03	2.34	2.55	1.75	1.62	1.62	1.91
Taipei, China	1.52	1.82	1.78	1.84	1.95	2.17	1.96	2.32	2.48	1.92	1.99	2.04	2.23
Japan	0.16	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.15	0.17	0.16	0.09	0.11	0.15	0.15

Table by authors

**Table 2: Standard World Growth Effect and Commodity Composition Effect of Tuna in Total, Tuna 0302, 0303, 0304, and 1604**

Period/Effect/Hs	Standard World Growth Effect	Commodity Composition Effect
Total		
2007-2010	6456.50	103.81
2011-2014	3410.60	21841.84
2015-2019	15938.24	13618.69
0302		
2007-2010	1554.30	-1490.15
2011-2014	665.88	-3644.96
2015-2019	338.62	-334.62
0303		
2007-2010	593.40	-217.39
2011-2014	790.35	4912.00
2015-2019	1591.92	1441.13
0304		
2012-2014	966.20	21766.89
2015-2019	6729.49	14993.96
1604		
2007-2010	4308.79	2204.82
2011-2014	1954.37	10192.44
2015-2019	7278.20	6869.49

Table by authors

297 This proves Vietnam improved its tuna quality to meet  
 298 the needs of the importing countries (see Table 4).

299 **Results from Detailed HS Codes**

300 **0302**

301 *Results from RCA*

302 Table 5 shows that, because of the highest RCA value,  
 303 Vietnam’s comparative advantage was highest in the  
 304 US in 2007. However, from 2008-2012, Ecuador in-  
 305 creased (average RCA value of 7.71), while Vietnam  
 306 decreased with an average RCA value of 4.42. This  
 307 shows that Vietnam gradually lost its comparative ad-  
 308 vantage over its rivals. Then, after 2015, the RCA  
 309 value was under 1. This reflects that Vietnam had no  
 310 comparative advantage since 2015.

311 Table 5 shows that the RCA value of Vietnam’s 0302  
 312 tuna in Japan was generally smaller than in the US  
 313 market. Moreover, only in 2007, 2011, and 2012 was  
 314 the RCA value of Vietnam higher than 1, while the  
 315 RCA value of Thailand was lower than 1 for 13 years.

Besides, Vietnam’s RCA value was higher in the EU 316  
 than in the US. From 2007-2012, Vietnam had a 317  
 high comparative advantage in exporting 0302 tuna, 318  
 with an average RCA value of 22,30. However, from 319  
 2013, Vietnam’s RCA value decreased sharply; after 320  
 2016, this value was lower than 1 (see Table 5). 321  
 While Indonesia’s RCA value also decreased, it still 322  
 maintained an average comparative advantage, and 323  
 Ecuador owned the highest comparative advantage 324  
 In the Middle East and ASEAN markets, as shown in 325  
 Table 5, during 2007-2012, with average RCA values 326  
 of 61.09 and 27.26, respectively, Vietnam had a higher 327  
 comparative advantage than the EU market. How- 328  
 ever, there was a downward trend after 2012. Mean- 329  
 while, in the ASEAN market, Taipei (China), with 330  
 a lower comparative advantage from 2007, became 331  
 a powerful competitor (8.71 of RCA value in 2019). 332  
 This shows that Vietnam lost its competitiveness. 333  
 In conclusion, Vietnam’s competitiveness in export- 334  
 ing 0302 tuna declined significantly after 2012. By 335  
 2016-2019, Vietnam lost its advantage, especially in 336

**Table 3: Market Distribution Effect of Tuna in Total, HS 0302, 0303, 0304, and 1604**

Period/Market/H:	The US	Japan	The EU	The Middle East	The ASEAN
<b>Total</b>					
2007-2010	-2706.86	-5906.97	-6247.92	-5827.84	-2673.61
2011-2014	-13390.18	-23896.74	-21873.62	-23629.90	-26622.50
2015-2019	-16946.34	-29146.83	-22572.95	-27358.95	-17476.12
<b>0302</b>					
2007-2010	-967.63	34.08	-229.74	-63.11	1245.15
2011-2014	4775.57	1195.32	2979.00	3068.31	4395.13
2015-2019	198.58	-10.56	-1.26	-3.92	-12.48
<b>0303</b>					
2007-2010	-702.40	-210.87	-354.29	-140.11	395.13
2011-2014	-7354.81	-5856.73	-5507.23	-5320.82	-6139.34
2015-2019	1355.59	-3035.29	-2856.48	-3043.61	-414.95
<b>0304</b>					
2012-2014	-26356.41	-23208.78	-21855.30	-22658.07	-19562.92
2015-2019	-12734.51	-20920.65	-13636.52	-20041.58	1239901.93
<b>1604</b>					
2007-2010	-2335.88	-5792.74	-6064.14	-5942.93	1077.08
2011-2014	-10369.31	-12142.59	-9859.14	-10984.93	-10373.82
2015-2019	-9460.01	-13693.32	-10909.03	-12645.35	56480.21

Table by authors

337 the US and Japanese markets. This indicates Vietnam  
 338 shifted focus away from this tuna product while compet-  
 339 itors like Ecuador and Taipei (China) capitalized  
 340 on the market.

341 **Results from CMS**

342 Table 2 shows that the standard world growth effect  
 343 had a positive value from 2007-2019. This reflects that  
 344 the effect of world demand put pressure on Vietnam's  
 345 0302 tuna exports. Moreover, this value declined sig-  
 346 nificantly, showing that the world's 0302 tuna con-  
 347 sumption continued to increase. The negative value  
 348 of the Commodity Composition Effect during 2007-  
 349 2019 reflects that consumers worldwide did not favor  
 350 Vietnamese 0302 tuna exports. From period I-II, this  
 351 value fluctuated but was still negative.

352 The market distribution effect of all five markets had  
 353 positive values in period II, while periods I and III  
 354 were unstable (increasing in I-II, decreasing in II-III).  
 355 This shows that Vietnam properly distributed 0302  
 356 tuna in these markets in period II (see Table 3).

Table 4 shows that although the competitiveness effect  
 had different values in each market, it tended to  
 remain the same. In period I, the positive value shows  
 that Vietnam focused on increasing the value of 0302  
 tuna exports. This effect decreased sharply from peri-  
 od I-II and increased slightly from period II-III.

**0303**

**Result from RCA**

Table 6 shows that Vietnam was the third country with  
 a comparative advantage when exporting this code to  
 the US at a 3.07 average. Meanwhile, Indonesia and  
 Ecuador had higher average values (8.39 and 13.93,  
 respectively). Vietnam's exports of 0303 tuna gener-  
 ally showed a downward trend, especially from 2012-  
 2014 and 2016-2019.

Table 6 shows that the RCA of 0303 tuna in the EU  
 market is higher than in the US (3.78) but significantly  
 lower than in Ecuador (18.40). Moreover, Vietnam's  
 declining RCA, particularly during 2015-2018, shows

**Table 4: Competitiveness Effect of Tuna in Total, HS 0302, 0303, 0304, and 1604**

Period/Market/H:	The US	Japan	The EU	The Middle East	The ASEAN
<b>Total</b>					
2007-2010	77017.55	80217.67	80558.62	80138.53	76984.30
2011-2014	173533.75	184040.00	182017.18	183773.46	186766.06
2015-2019	168146.41	180346.90	173773.02	178559.02	168676.19
<b>0302</b>					
2007-2010	10382.48	9380.77	9644.59	9477.96	8169.70
2011-2014	-33610.49	-30030.00	-31813.92	-31903.22	-33230.05
2015-2019	-6389.59	-6180.45	-6189.74	-6187.08	-6178.53
<b>0303</b>					
2007-2010	39756.39	39264.85	39408.28	39194.10	38658.86
2011-2014	-36488.54	-37987.00	-38336.13	-38522.53	-37704.01
2015-2019	-9073.64	-4682.76	-4861.58	-4674.45	-7303.10
<b>0304</b>					
2012-2014	105834.31	102687.00	101333.20	102135.97	99040.82
2015-2019	132123.05	140309.20	133025.06	139430.13	-1120513.39
<b>1604</b>					
2007-2010	27784.27	31241.13	31512.54	31391.32	24371.31
2011-2014	77759.49	79533.00	77249.32	78375.12	77764.01
2015-2019	45829.32	50062.63	47278.34	49014.66	-20110.90

Table by authors

376 that Vietnam needs to focus on exporting this product  
377 code.

378 As shown in Table 6, Vietnam lost its comparative ad-  
379 vantage with an average RCA value of 0.21. However,  
380 Taipei's biggest market rival also held a low average  
381 RCA value. The RCA of Vietnam in the Japanese mar-  
382 ket increased slightly while it decreased in ASEAN.  
383 This reflects that Vietnam could have improved its  
384 comparative advantage in these markets.

385 Table 6 shows Vietnam has a comparative advantage  
386 in the Middle East (average RCA value of 3.59). De-  
387 spite solid potential in this market, Vietnam's exports  
388 have declined since 2012.

389 In conclusion, the RCA value in 0303 tuna declined  
390 significantly across all markets, suggesting a shift in  
391 focus away from this product. This is especially ev-  
392 ident in the Middle East, where Vietnam needed  
393 more competitiveness. Meanwhile, competitors like  
394 Ecuador held a significant advantage in key markets  
395 like the EU.

*Results from CMS*

396  
397 Table 2 shows that Vietnam's standard world growth  
398 effect value increased significantly. This means that  
399 the demand for 0303 tuna decreased. Besides, for the  
400 commodity composition effect, from period I-II, its  
401 value increased sharply, but when entering period III,  
402 it started to decrease.

403 Table 3 shows that the market distribution effect fluc-  
404 tuates strongly. In most markets, its value was nega-  
405 tive from 2007-2018. Moreover, regarding the Com-  
406 petitiveness Effect (see Table 4), there was a fluctuant  
407 trend during three periods in all markets. This shows  
408 that the quality of this HS code from Vietnam needed  
409 to be guaranteed.

**0304**

410  
411 For 0304 tuna, in 2012, Vietnam started exporting to  
412 all five markets. Therefore, this study analyses the fac-  
413 tors affecting Vietnam's competitiveness in the 2012-  
414 2014 and 2015-2019 periods.



**Table 5: RCA of Tuna 0302 Export to the US, Japan, EU, Middle East and ASEAN Market**

Country/Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>US</b>													
Vietnam	5.01	2.79	4.02	4.87	5.01	5.44	2.08	1.10	0.48	0.09	0.14	0.12	0.10
Indonesia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecuador	3.05	5.85	9.47	8.09	6.66	8.50	8.66	4.82	7.56	8.42	6.97	9.89	9.74
Thailand	0.76	0.43	0.51	0.55	0.37	0.32	0.77	1.03	0.97	0.88	0.18	0.06	0.04
<b>Japan</b>													
Vietnam	1.07	0.63	0.70	0.99	1.19	1.33	0.65	0.41	0.19	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.06
Thailand	0.16	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.24	0.38	0.39	0.30	0.08	0.03	0.02
Taipei, China	0.05	0.84	0.63	1.27	1.63	1.67	1.93	1.84	1.49	1.26	1.28	1.06	0.73
<b>EU</b>													
Vietnam	23.31	15.77	20.09	26.62	22.18	25.83	10.10	5.20	2.11	0.35	0.52	0.49	0.41
Indonesia	29.28	37.77	30.16	33.56	18.33	15.97	16.40	14.41	9.45	9.37	4.84	3.27	2.77
Ecuador	14.21	33.11	47.35	44.18	29.49	40.38	41.99	22.72	33.57	34.31	25.93	39.60	39.22
Thailand	3.56	2.46	2.55	3.00	1.65	1.50	3.72	4.86	4.32	3.60	0.67	0.22	0.14
<b>Middle East</b>													
Vietnam	77.21	46.79	54.60	62.05	72.92	52.97	12.38	8.44	3.51	0.93	1.48	1.06	0.76
Thailand	1.33	0.18	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.98	1.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>ASEAN</b>													
Vietnam	37.10	25.47	24.21	20.56	28.57	27.68	16.73	7.15	2.01	0.43	0.64	0.90	0.63
Taipei, China	1.63	33.78	21.72	26.22	39.38	34.73	49.65	32.44	15.69	18.83	13.17	16.02	8.17
Japan	1.96	2.42	1.88	1.04	1.79	1.41	1.62	1.67	0.99	1.00	1.01	1.87	1.74

Table by authors

**Table 6: RCA of Tuna 0303 Export to the US, Japan, EU, Middle East and ASEAN Market**

Country/Year/Market	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>US</b>													
Vietnam	1.90	1.64	1.89	6.15	5.90	4.61	2.12	1.28	2.22	1.73	1.56	1.04	7.83
Indonesia	4.27	4.75	4.15	4.76	6.13	10.75	9.55	7.37	5.89	5.19	8.71	4.89	32.71
Ecuador	4.03	11.11	20.05	20.11	22.11	7.20	10.47	14.39	8.30	5.69	15.50	18.44	23.72
Thailand	1.83	2.50	2.01	0.97	1.61	1.91	0.65	0.94	0.81	0.90	1.68	1.46	7.76
<b>Japan</b>													
Vietnam	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.44	0.43	0.37	0.23	0.12	0.21	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.14
Thailand	0.15	0.20	0.16	0.07	0.12	0.15	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.15	0.16	0.14
Taipei. China	1.42	2.07	1.35	1.25	1.56	2.21	2.36	1.92	1.69	1.58	1.87	2.31	2.36
<b>EU</b>													
Vietnam	3.63	2.70	3.69	10.39	7.92	5.62	2.60	1.77	3.51	2.26	1.86	1.37	1.78
Indonesia	8.17	7.84	8.08	8.05	8.23	13.10	11.74	10.17	9.32	6.77	10.41	6.49	7.43
Ecuador	7.72	18.34	39.07	33.99	29.69	8.77	12.87	19.87	13.14	7.41	18.51	24.47	5.39
Thailand	3.49	4.13	3.92	1.63	2.16	2.33	0.79	1.30	1.29	1.17	2.00	1.94	1.76
<b>Middle East</b>													
Vietnam	3.59	3.90	3.03	5.66	6.97	7.14	2.73	1.17	2.61	1.54	1.71	1.54	1.61
Thailand	3.45	5.95	3.22	0.89	1.90	2.97	0.83	0.86	0.96	0.79	1.84	2.17	1.60
<b>ASEAN</b>													
Vietnam	0.17	0.11	0.17	0.51	0.44	0.32	0.17	0.13	0.24	0.16	0.14	0.10	0.12
Taipei. China	1.56	1.69	1.57	1.44	1.61	1.93	1.68	2.10	1.90	1.65	1.89	2.05	2.11
Japan	0.14	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.09	0.13	0.14	0.10	0.05	0.08	0.11	0.09

Table by authors

415 *Result from RCA*

416 Table 7 shows that, in the US, Vietnam had a comparative advantage, and Vietnam's RCA value was the highest. Regarding export value, most countries had an increasing trend. Vietnam had the fastest growth rate, but the RCA value fluctuated. This shows that the US market was losing interest in Vietnamese tuna code 0304.

423 As shown in Table 7, in the EU, Vietnam's RCA index was the highest (average value of 28.45). However, RCA value decreased slightly while Vietnam's market share in the EU increased. Vietnam should maintain the competitiveness of tuna code 0304 in this market.

428 Table 7 shows that Vietnam retains a comparative advantage for tuna code 0304 in the Japanese market (average RCA of 1.16). Meanwhile, Thailand and Taipei did not have a comparative advantage in this market (average RCA of 0.13 and 0.03, respectively). Additionally, along with the increase in export value, the RCA also increased simultaneously. This means that Vietnam focused more on exporting tuna code 0304 to this market.

437 In the Middle East and ASEAN markets, Vietnam's 0304 tuna fluctuated strongly between 2012 and 2019, reaching a high RCA value of 64.01 and 51.89, respectively. Although rival countries also had RCA values > 1, their export values tended to fluctuate or even decrease. It can be concluded that Vietnam's comparative advantage in these two markets was quite high and relatively stable (see Table 7).

445 In conclusion, from 2012 to 2019, Vietnam dominated the export of 0304 tuna in all five markets, with a consistently high RCA value, showcasing it as a priority product for export.

449 *Results from CMS*

450 Table 2 shows that the standard world growth effect value for 0304 tuna increased considerably. This shows that total market demand decreased significantly, which contributed to reducing negative pressure on exporters. Besides, the Commodity Composition Effect value decreased from II-III. This reflects that consumer interest in this tuna code dropped.

457 Table 3 shows that Vietnam's market distribution factor for exporting tuna 0304 showed positive growth in all markets except the ASEAN market. The factor increased slightly from 2011-2014 to 2015-2019, indicating Vietnam's efforts in resource allocation. The ASEAN market showed a negative and decreasing market distribution factor, requiring improvement from Vietnam.

465 Table 4 shows that the competitiveness effect factor for 0304 tuna in the ASEAN market declined while

467 other markets have slightly improved. This may show that the quality of Vietnamese tuna filets exported to ASEAN was not rated higher than in other regions.

1604

470 *Results from RCA*

472 Table 8 shows that, in the US market, Vietnam's RCA index averaged 3.34. Equivalent to Vietnam, Indonesia also owned an RCA value of around 4.09. However, the RCA values of Ecuador and Thailand were even higher, at 84.48 and 22.82, respectively. This means that Vietnam had a comparative advantage but encountered strong competitors.

479 From Table 8, the export value of Vietnamese 1604 tuna tended to increase in the US market. However, the RCA value showed a downward trend, which means that this product should be focused more despite being exported more.

484 Moreover, in the EU market, Vietnam's RCA index averaged 3.43. While Ecuador - the strongest competitor - had an average value of 66.54. Furthermore, with RCA around 18.7, Thailand was also a strong opponent for Vietnam. Besides showing an upward trend in export value, only Ecuador's RCA showed growth, while Vietnam did not.

491 From Table 8, in the Japanese and The Middle East, for 1604 tuna, Vietnam retained 3.66 and 2.51 in RCA average, respectively. Meanwhile, the competitor - Thailand, had a higher comparative advantage with 24.5 and 16.83. In addition, the export value from Vietnam and Thailand fluctuated while the RCA of both countries decreased. This shows that this product was gradually no longer receiving priority from those two countries.

500 Table 8 illustrates that, in the ASEAN market, Vietnam had the highest RCA for 1604 tuna, with an average value of 26.09. Meanwhile, other opponents like Taipei and Japan's RCA only reached 0.01 and 0.1. In terms of value, there were periods of rapid increase. However, the RCA value showed a downward trend, making Vietnam's competitiveness unstable.

507 Vietnam's competitiveness in exporting tuna code 1604 remained stable but lagged behind major competitors like Ecuador and Thailand. While export value decreased in most markets, Vietnam maintained its position in ASEAN but needs to improve its efforts to exploit this code's potential fully.

513 *Results from CMS*

514 Table 2 reveals fluctuating global demand for Vietnam's 1604 tuna. The decreasing standard world

**Table 7: RCA of Tuna 0304 Export to the US, Japan, EU, Middle East and ASEAN Market**

Country/Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>US</b>													
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-	5.13	10.31	12.18	8.87	7.65	7.37	7.36	6.67
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.59	5.09	7.50	9.67	7.90	5.68	6.37
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.76	1.09	1.18	1.13	0.66	0.63	0.51
<b>Japan</b>													
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-	0.82	1.29	1.73	1.18	1.11	1.02	1.06	1.10
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	0.19	0.10	0.15	0.16	0.16	0.09	0.09	0.08
Taipei, China	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.05
<b>EU</b>													
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-	25.45	40.46	42.92	31.30	23.57	20.97	21.09	21.87
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	10.15	17.94	26.49	29.77	22.45	16.28	20.87
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	5.90	2.99	3.84	4.18	3.47	1.87	1.81	1.69
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	10.61	12.34	19.91	16.05	13.46	10.83	21.02	22.83
<b>Middle East</b>													
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-	42.76	59.73	84.16	81.89	76.84	56.88	56.35	56.63
Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	9.92	4.41	7.54	10.94	11.32	-	4.85	4.37
<b>ASEAN</b>													
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-	42.24	74.82	54.70	29.24	35.60	66.59	57.90	54.01
Taipei, China	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.01	0.47	0.68	1.18	3.44	3.29	2.49
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	1.66	1.32	0.73	0.49	0.56	1.27	1.03	1.28

Table by authors

**Table 8: RCA of Tuna 1604 Exports to the US, Japan, EU, Middle East and ASEAN Market**

Country/Year/	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>US</b>													
Vietnam	5.03	4.11	3.09	3.36	3.35	3.54	3.69	3.34	3.19	3.29	2.89	2.42	2.17
Indonesia	3.82	3.14	3.28	2.45	2.99	3.50	4.06	3.89	5.00	5.17	5.24	5.08	5.56
Ecuador	68.63	69.85	48.43	38.27	55.01	66.14	81.83	85.73	98.29	118.25	136.25	123.22	108.29
Thailand	25.97	27.24	22.16	19.95	21.89	22.03	22.91	22.92	23.80	24.81	21.43	21.40	20.15
<b>Japan</b>													
Vietnam	5.40	4.40	3.55	4.94	4.31	4.52	4.58	4.16	3.00	2.49	2.27	2.03	1.88
Thailand	27.92	29.10	25.47	29.33	28.14	28.17	28.43	28.57	22.40	18.77	16.88	17.93	17.48
Taipei.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
China													
<b>EU</b>													
Vietnam	4.15	3.54	2.75	3.60	3.24	3.48	2.95	2.62	2.23	2.32	1.96	1.70	1.65
Ecuador	56.62	60.06	43.17	41.05	53.29	65.04	65.40	67.40	68.61	83.22	92.71	86.30	82.14
Thailand	21.43	23.42	19.75	21.40	21.21	21.66	18.31	18.02	16.61	17.46	14.58	14.99	15.28
Indonesia	3.15	2.70	2.92	2.62	2.90	3.44	3.24	3.06	3.49	3.64	3.56	3.56	4.22
<b>Middle East</b>													
Vietnam	4.42	3.43	2.38	2.69	2.59	2.70	3.15	2.74	2.23	1.74	2.00	1.34	1.24
Thailand	22.84	22.68	17.08	16.00	16.93	16.84	19.58	18.83	16.66	13.07	14.89	11.87	11.52
<b>ASEAN</b>													
Vietnam	39.27	19.78	21.00	25.49	14.38	12.76	15.01	14.15	9.80	8.20	11.32	8.21	6.60
Taipei.	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
China													
Japan	0.23	0.13	0.22	0.19	0.11	0.07	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.09

Table by authors

516 growth effect in stages I-II suggests rising export pres- 568  
 517 sure, while its subsequent rise in II-III indicates im- 569  
 518 proved export opportunities. Similarly, the com- 570  
 519 modity composition effect reflects rising Vietnamese 571  
 520 product preference in I-II and declining consumer in- 572  
 521 terest in II-III.

522 Table 3 shows negative market distribution (except 573  
 523 ASEAN) across all periods, highlighting the need 574  
 524 for Vietnam to optimize resource allocation. While 575  
 525 ASEAN distribution was favorable in stages I and III 576  
 526 (indicating rational allocation), the shift to negative in 577  
 527 phase II suggests ongoing limitations in Vietnamese 578  
 528 distribution strategies.

529 From Table 4, the Competitiveness Effect of Vietnam's 581  
 530 1604 tuna in all five markets was up in Phase I-II and 582  
 531 down in Phase II-III. Except for the ASEAN market, 583  
 532 the value of the competition effect in all countries was 584  
 533 positive, which means that the quality of this prod- 585  
 534 uct improved significantly. However, in the ASEAN 586  
 535 market, in period III, the quality was significantly re- 587  
 536 duced.

## 537 DISCUSSION

### 538 Main findings

539 Our research determines Vietnam's tuna industry's 590  
 540 current position and competitiveness in major im- 591  
 541 port markets (US, Japan, the EU, the Middle East, 592  
 542 and ASEAN) with significant competitors (Indone- 593  
 543 sia, Ecuador, Thailand, and Taipei - China) at four 594  
 544 detailed industry codes, namely fresh or chilled tuna 595  
 545 (0302:31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39), frozen tuna 596  
 546 (0303:41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49), fillets (0304-87), and 597  
 547 preserved tuna (1604:14), using RCA and CMS ap- 598  
 548 proaches from 2007-2019. Specifically, the compar- 599  
 549 ative advantage of tuna filets increased in all five mar- 600  
 550 kets, but it was accompanied by a gradual decline 601  
 551 in fresh tuna (0302). On the contrary, frozen tuna 602  
 552 (0303) experienced significant fluctuations across dif- 603  
 553 ferent periods. Despite growing consumer interest 604  
 554 globally, ensuring adequate production volume and 605  
 555 quality remains crucial. Vietnam has primarily con- 606  
 556 centrated on improving the distribution of frozen 607  
 557 tuna within the ASEAN market, necessitating a more 608  
 558 balanced distribution across other markets.

559 With 0304 tuna in all five markets from 2012 to 2019, 611  
 560 Vietnam always had the highest RCA index compared 612  
 561 to rival countries. For the Market Distribution fac- 613  
 562 tor, except for the ASEAN market, there was a pos- 614  
 563 itive growth in resource allocation when exporting 615  
 564 tuna 0304, reaching a positive value during 2015- 616  
 565 2019. While the ASEAN market decreased in 2 peri- 617  
 566 ods, the value of competitive impact increased slightly 618  
 567 in other markets. 619

For the prepared or preserved tuna product (1604), 568  
 its comparative advantage in the US, Japan, EU, and 569  
 Middle East markets was average and tended to de- 570  
 crease. Only in the ASEAN market did Vietnam have 571  
 a relatively high comparative advantage. This was 572  
 due to the fluctuating global demand for this indus- 573  
 try, and Vietnam tried to distribute canned tuna prod- 574  
 ucts more rationally, focusing on the ASEAN market 575  
 rather than other markets. 576

A comparison with critical competitors shows that 577  
 Vietnam's level of competitiveness is similar due to 578  
 the influence of resources, market demand, and tech- 579  
 nological capacity<sup>19,20</sup>. The RCA indicators of Thai- 580  
 land's tuna exports' competitiveness for 1996–2006 581  
 show that Thailand possesses significant advantages 582  
 in all key export markets, which have remained con- 583  
 sistent in the USA, the Middle East, and Japan<sup>29</sup>. The 584  
 relative revealed comparative trade advantage index 585  
 results indicate that Indonesia has a tremendous or 586  
 positive index value in all three main markets of In- 587  
 donesian tuna products, including Japan, the United 588  
 States, and Thailand, from 2001-2016. Specifically, 589  
 the RCA analysis revealed that three types of In- 590  
 donesian tuna commodities, HS 0302032, 0302033, 591  
 and 0302034, exhibited comparative competitiveness. 592  
 Each variety of tuna fish holds a nearly equal market 593  
 share, with Japan being the dominant consumer. 594

### Theoretical contributions

In this study, we assess the competitiveness of the 596  
 Tuna Vietnam fishery industry at the HS (harmo- 597  
 nized system) 06-digit levels, using RCA and CMS ap- 598  
 proaches, providing insightful results in critical mar- 599  
 kets against key competitors. Export competitive- 600  
 ness is essential to a country's global success<sup>3</sup>. Re- 601  
 searchers in this field have engaged in ongoing discus- 602  
 sions in scholarly publications<sup>2,5,6</sup>. The EC inspec- 603  
 tion covered economies as diverse as India, China, 604  
 and Indonesia. Additionally, it has been explored in 605  
 ASEAN countries and other countries such as Ghana, 606  
 the United States, Singapore, and Japan. It is im- 607  
 portant to note that most of these studies are con- 608  
 ducted in diverse industrial sectors, such as the cur- 609  
 rency markets, agricultural exports, chemicals, elec- 610  
 trical machinery, and transportation equipment. Be- 611  
 sides, previous studies tend to evaluate the industry's 612  
 overall competitiveness while ignoring the more spe- 613  
 cific picture of each sub-sector with its dominant re- 614  
 source requirements and different market attractive- 615  
 ness. The separate use of EC assessment scales can 616  
 lead to biased results, requiring simultaneous use of 617  
 scales for comprehensive assessment and critical com- 618  
 parison between results. Finally, the tuna industry 619

620 plays a vital role in the world fisheries value chain, and  
621 the EC will promote its sustainable development.

### 622 Policy implications

623 Vietnam holds a competitive edge in tuna exports to  
624 key markets. Strategic policy recommendations are  
625 necessary to maintain this position and ensure sus-  
626 tainable industry growth. As mentioned above, code  
627 0304 has a higher comparative advantage than code  
628 0302. Therefore, the Vietnamese government must  
629 advocate for appropriate policies for both industry  
630 codes to ensure sustainable development. For code  
631 0304, the government needs to encourage businesses  
632 to invest more in modern processing technologies and  
633 IoT applications in the processing process. These im-  
634 provements can enhance product quality, elevating  
635 code 0304 as Vietnam’s primary tuna export. The gov-  
636 ernment should also encourage businesses to adopt  
637 digital transformation in automated fish classification  
638 and utilize sensors and IoT to monitor storage condi-  
639 tions to maintain fish freshness. Vietnam’s Illegal, un-  
640 reported, and unregulated fishing (IUU) yellow card  
641 undermines the competitiveness of the seafood indus-  
642 try, especially in the EU. Immediate action is neces-  
643 sary to improve fishermen’s skills and knowledge of  
644 standard fishing practices. In addition, the Govern-  
645 ment of Vietnam will implement a system that aggre-  
646 gates data on fishermen’s fishing logs to provide accu-  
647 rate statistical data and timely policies to ensure bio-  
648 logical populations, especially tuna. Finally, the gov-  
649 ernment should have support for technological equip-  
650 ment as well as patrol teams to support fishermen in  
651 case of emergency to ensure supply. In addition, the  
652 Vietnamese government needs to implement mea-  
653 sures to ensure a reasonable and optimized allocation  
654 of export value among markets. To have a better un-  
655 derstanding of imported countries, Vietnam should  
656 collect and analyze data regularly so that they can up-  
657 date logistic trends in the world.

### 658 CONCLUSION, LIMITATIONS, AND 659 FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTION

660 Vietnam’s tuna industry has become essential to the  
661 global value chain. After analyzing RCA from 2007-  
662 2019, Vietnam needed a comparative advantage in  
663 the Japanese market. Meanwhile, Vietnam held cer-  
664 tain comparative advantages over time with the other  
665 four markets. However, these values showed a down-  
666 ward trend in all markets and the downturn of the  
667 four codes. Primarily, only tuna with code 0304  
668 was the product that became more precious. Then,  
669 based on CMS analysis for each detailed code and

670 the whole tuna industry in 3 periods, including 2007-  
671 2010, 2011-2014, and 2015-2019, it shows that Viet-  
672 nam had improved the quality of exported tuna (es-  
673 pecially code 0304) to meet the needs of markets  
674 and Vietnam tuna was more popular with consumers  
675 around the world, especially in codes 0304 and 1604.  
676 However, Vietnam needed to properly allocate the  
677 tuna industry and specific groups of tuna to each mar-  
678 ket. Finally, the study has recommended various mea-  
679 sures such as changing from exploitation, processing,  
680 preservation, and boosting product quality to distri-  
681 bution for each tuna industry code and the whole tuna  
682 industry.

683 Despite efforts to better the study, some limitations  
684 still exist. The first is a methodological limitation. Be-  
685 cause only two main models are used, RCA and CSM,  
686 the study has yet to provide an in-depth analysis of the  
687 root causes for the decline of Vietnam’s competitive  
688 advantage. Second, the study has yet to consider other  
689 sectors that use the same resources as tuna. In order to  
690 gain a deeper insight into the assessment of Vietnam’s  
691 fishery export industry, future studies can exploit the  
692 following recommendations. The first may be using  
693 different supportive models to analyze the factors af-  
694 fecting the RCA and CMS models, such as the FsQCA  
695 model. Besides, the research subject is focused on the  
696 tuna industry and can be extended to other industries  
697 that apply the same resources as tuna.

### 698 ABBREVIATIONS

699 CMS: Constant Market Share  
700 EC: Export competitiveness  
701 IUU: Unreported and unregulated fishing IUU  
702 RCA: Revealed Comparative Advantage

### 703 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

704 The authors declare that they have no conflicts of in-  
705 terest

### 706 AUTHORS’ CONTRIBUTIONS

707 All authors have contributed equally to the work.

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# Năng lực cạnh tranh xuất khẩu của ngành cá ngừ Việt Nam trên thị trường toàn cầu: Bằng chứng từ chỉ số lợi thế so sánh bộc lộ và thị phần không đổi đối với mã HS 6 chữ số

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## TÓM TẮT

Năng lực cạnh tranh xuất khẩu là yếu tố quan trọng đối với thành công trên thị trường toàn cầu của một quốc gia. Trong nghiên cứu này, chúng tôi đánh giá năng lực cạnh tranh của ngành cá ngừ Việt Nam so với các đối thủ cạnh tranh chính (Ecuador, Indonesia, Đài Bắc - Trung Quốc và Thái Lan) tại năm thị trường nhập khẩu cá ngừ lớn nhất (ASEAN, Nhật Bản, Trung Đông, EU và Hoa Kỳ) theo bốn mã ngành chi tiết, gồm cá ngừ tươi hoặc ướp lạnh (0302:31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39), cá ngừ đông lạnh (0303:41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49), phi lê (0304:87) và cá ngừ bảo quản (1604:14). Phân tích sử dụng dữ liệu thứ cấp từ cơ sở dữ liệu của Trung tâm Thương mại Quốc tế (Trade Map/COMTRADE) và cơ sở dữ liệu thống kê của Hội nghị Liên Hợp Quốc về Thương mại và Phát triển (UNCTAD) trong giai đoạn 2007-2019, sử dụng chỉ số lợi thế so sánh bộc lộ (RCA) và phân tích thị phần không đổi (CMS). Chỉ số RCA cho thấy năng lực cạnh tranh của Việt Nam trong xuất khẩu cá ngừ 0302 giảm đáng kể sau năm 2012, đặc biệt là tại thị trường Hoa Kỳ và Nhật Bản trong khi các đối thủ cạnh tranh như Ecuador và Đài Bắc (Trung Quốc) đã tận dụng thị trường này tốt hơn. Chỉ số CMS cho thấy mặc dù hiệu ứng cạnh tranh có giá trị khác nhau ở mỗi thị trường, nhưng có xu hướng được duy trì ổn định. Đối với cá ngừ 0303: Giá trị RCA giảm đáng kể trên tất cả các thị trường, đặc biệt ở Trung Đông, trong khi đó, các đối thủ cạnh tranh như Ecuador lại nắm giữ lợi thế đáng kể ở các thị trường trọng điểm như EU. Đối với cá ngừ 0304: chỉ số RCA cho thấy Việt Nam chiếm ưu thế trong xuất khẩu cá ngừ 0304 ở tất cả thị trường, với giá trị chỉ số RCA luôn duy trì ở mức cao. Giá trị hiệu ứng tăng trưởng thế giới chuẩn tăng đáng kể. Phân phối thị trường và hiệu ứng cạnh tranh của Việt Nam tăng trưởng tích cực ở các thị trường ngoại trừ ASEAN. Đối với sản phẩm cá ngừ chế biến hoặc bảo quản (1604), lợi thế so sánh của sản phẩm này ở thị trường Hoa Kỳ, Nhật Bản, EU và Trung Đông ở mức trung bình và có xu hướng giảm. Chỉ ở thị trường ASEAN, Việt Nam mới có lợi thế so sánh tương đối cao. Nhìn chung, khi so sánh với các đối thủ cạnh tranh quan trọng, mức độ cạnh tranh xuất khẩu cá ngừ của Việt Nam là tương đương dựa trên sự tương đồng về nguồn lực, năng lực công nghệ nhưng Việt Nam nắm giữ lợi thế cạnh tranh trong xuất khẩu cá ngừ ở các thị trường chính. Một số chính sách cần đầu tư để hỗ trợ ngư dân, bao gồm cả việc mua sắm các tàu mới, công suất lớn được trang bị hiện đại và cơ sở đánh bắt được thiết kế để nâng cao chất lượng bảo quản. Cùng với đó là tăng cường tiêu thụ cá và thúc đẩy sự hợp tác giữa ngành đánh bắt cá và ngư dân. Ngoài ra, cần cần tập trung vào việc tăng cường các dịch vụ hậu cần nghề cá để giảm chi phí trước khi xuất khẩu sang các thị trường toàn cầu.

**Từ khóa:** CMS, năng lực xuất khẩu, RCA, xuất khẩu cá ngừ, Việt Nam

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