Catfish Processing

National Agricultural Statistics Service

United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Catfish Processing Down 3 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during April totaled 39.9 million pounds round weight, down 3 percent from April 1992. The January through April 1993 cumulative total of round weight processed, at 164.0 million pounds, was up 1 percent from the same period the previous year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during April totaled 19.4 million pounds, a decrease of 3 percent from the comparable month in 1992. Sales of fresh fish, at 8.09 million pounds, represented 42 percent of total sales and were down 4 percent from April 1992. Frozen fish sales, at 11.3 million pounds, accounted for the remaining 58 percent of total sales and were down 2 percent from the same month a year ago. Sales of whole fish represented 28 percent of the total, fillets accounted for 52 percent, and the remaining 20 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products.

The April 1993 average price received by processors for total fresh fish was $2.05 per pound, compared with $1.89 last year. Prices for fresh whole fish increased 16 cents per pound to $1.52, while prices for fresh fillets increased 14 cents to $2.64 per pound. Total frozen fish averaged $2.35 per pound, compared with $2.19 per pound in April 1992. Prices for both frozen whole fish and frozen fillets increased 14 cents per pound to $1.76 and $2.64 per pound, respectively.

Freshwater catfish imports during March 1993 totaled 127 thousand pounds, down 48 percent from the 243 thousand pounds imported the previous year. Ninety-one percent of the imports were from Brazil. Exports totaled 17.6 thousand pounds for March, 40 percent of which were to the Netherlands, 35 percent to the United Kingdom, and 25 percent to Singapore. Import and export data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

For information call Joel Moore (202) 720-3244. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

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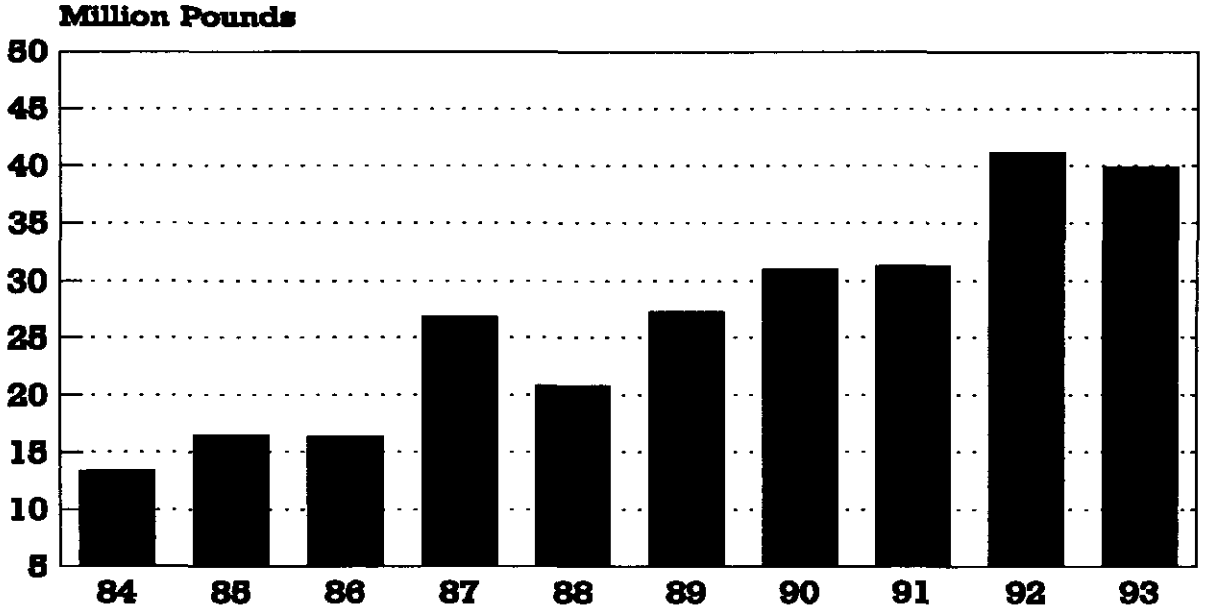
Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed and Prices Paid to Producers by Major Processors, and United States Imports, 1992-93

Month	Round Weight Processed: Monthly 1992	Monthly 1993	Cumulative 1992	Cumulative 1993	Average Price Paid to Producers 1/ 1992	1993	Imports of Catfish 2/ 1992	1993
	1,000 Pounds				Dollars Per Pound		(000) Pounds	
Jan	36,200	40,327	36,200	40,327	.53	.63	237	118
Feb	39,228	40,277	75,428	80,604	.56	.67	201	183
Mar	45,048	43,521	120,476	124,125	.60	.70	243	127
Apr	41,177	39,920	161,653	164,045	.63	.71	233	
May	39,111		200,764		.63		392	
Jun	36,813		237,577		.61		100	
Jul	36,128		273,705		.59		344	
Aug	37,958		311,663		.58		169	
Sep	37,857		349,520		.59		307	
Oct	39,212		388,732		.61		187	
Nov	35,073		423,805		.62		23	
Dec	33,562		457,367		.63		491	

1/ Price for fish delivered to processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling.
2/ Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Catfish Processed - April
United States, 1984-93
Round Weight



Catfish Processors: Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending Inventory, United States, April 1992-93

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000 Pounds		Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
Fresh						
Whole Fish						
Round & Gutted Only	1,067	729	0.88	0.99	1/	1/
Whole Dressed	3,089	3,001	1.53	1.63	1/	1/
Total	4,156	3,730	1.36	1.52	479	314
Other						
Steaks	142	133	1.76	1.84	6	1/
Other 2/	735	691	2.05	1.95	101	1/
Total	877	824	2.01	1.94	107	74
Fillets 3/	3,426	3,535	2.50	2.64	543	368
Total Fresh	8,459	8,089	1.89	2.05	1,129	756
Frozen						
Whole Fish						
Round & Gutted Only						
Whole Dressed	2,303	1,682	1.62	1.76	3,067	1,644
Total	2,303	1,682	1.62	1.76	3,067	1,644
Other						
Steaks	161	120	1.61	1.74	118	208
Other 2/	3,084	2,889	2.08	2.07	2,247	3,225
Total	3,245	3,009	2.05	2.06	2,365	3,433
Fillets 3/	5,916	6,597	2.50	2.64	3,544	5,611
Total Frozen	11,464	11,288	2.19	2.35	8,976	10,688
Total Fresh & Frozen	19,923	19,377	2.07	2.23	10,105	11,444

1/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
2/ Includes all products not already reported, such as nuggets, including weight of breading and added ingredients.
3/ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded product.

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