

# Catfish Processing



**United States  
Department of  
Agriculture**

**Washington, D.C.**

---

Released January 21, 1993, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to December 1992 and December 1991.

## Catfish Processing Up 11 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during December totaled 33.6 million pounds round weight, up 11 percent from December 1991. The January through December 1992 cumulative total of round weight processed, at 457 million pounds, was up 17 percent from the same period the previous year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during December totaled 15.7 million pounds, an increase of 3 percent from the comparable month in 1991. Sales of whole fish represented 31 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 49 percent. The remaining 20 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 45 percent of the total amount sold.

The December average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.32 per pound for ice pack and \$1.61 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during November totaled 22.7 thousand pounds, compared with 92.6 thousand pounds the previous year. All of the imports were from Mexico. Exports totaled 19.2 thousand pounds for November, all of which were to Japan. Import and export data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| America's Catch                 | Harvest Select                   |
| Amite River Industries          | Kueter's Lake                    |
| Aqua Farm Catfish Inc.          | La Louision                      |
| Cargill Fisheries Products      | Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc. |
| Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc. | Limestone Fish Processors        |
| Confish Inc.                    | Pisces                           |
| Corbin Fish Farm                | Pride of the Pond                |
| Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.       | Prime Line Catfish Co.           |
| Dorey Fish Co.                  | Saul's Fish Processors           |
| Farm Fresh Catfish Co.          | Seabrook Seafood Inc.            |
| Fish Breeders of Idaho          | Simmons Farm-Raised              |
| Florida Aquaculture Processors  | Southern Farm Fish Processors    |
| Franklin Catfish                | Southern Pride                   |
| Freshwater Farms, Inc.          | Southfresh Farms                 |
| Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc. |                                  |

---

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

Farm - Raised Catfish  
Quantity Processed and Prices Paid to Producers,  
Reported by Major Processors; and U.S. Imports, 1991-92

| Month | Round Weight Processed   |        |            |         | Average Price       |     | Imports           |     |
|-------|--------------------------|--------|------------|---------|---------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
|       | Monthly                  |        | Cumulative |         | Paid to             |     | of                |     |
|       | 1991                     | 1992   | 1991       | 1992    | Producers <u>1/</u> |     | Catfish <u>2/</u> |     |
|       | ----- 1,000 Pounds ----- |        |            |         | Dollars Per Pound   |     | (000) Pounds      |     |
| Jan   | 32,206                   | 36,200 | 32,206     | 36,200  | .69                 | .53 | 355               | 237 |
| Feb   | 33,036                   | 39,228 | 65,242     | 75,428  | .69                 | .56 | 344               | 201 |
| Mar   | 35,951                   | 45,048 | 101,193    | 120,476 | .69                 | .60 | 93                | 243 |
| Apr   | 31,205                   | 41,177 | 132,398    | 161,653 | .69                 | .63 | 641               | 233 |
| May   | 31,322                   | 39,111 | 163,720    | 200,764 | .66                 | .63 | 184               | 392 |
| Jun   | 31,588                   | 36,813 | 195,308    | 237,577 | .65                 | .61 | 484               | 100 |
| Jul   | 32,720                   | 36,128 | 228,028    | 273,705 | .63                 | .59 | 723               | 344 |
| Aug   | 32,912                   | 37,958 | 260,940    | 311,663 | .60                 | .58 | 621               | 169 |
| Sep   | 33,244                   | 37,857 | 294,184    | 349,520 | .59                 | .59 | 80                | 307 |
| Oct   | 35,400                   | 39,212 | 329,584    | 388,732 | .58                 | .61 | 974               | 187 |
| Nov   | 31,114                   | 35,073 | 360,698    | 423,805 | .57                 | .62 | 93                | 23  |
| Dec   | 30,172                   | 33,562 | 390,870    | 457,367 | .53                 | .63 | 594               |     |

1/ Price for fish delivered to Processing Plant door. 2/ Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Catfish Processors' Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending Inventory,  
December 1991-92

| Item              | Whole Fish <u>1/</u> |       | Fillets <u>2/</u> |       | Other <u>3/</u> |       | Total |        |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|--------|
|                   | 1991                 | 1992  | 1991              | 1992  | 1991            | 1992  | 1991  | 1992   |
| <b>Fresh</b>      |                      |       |                   |       |                 |       |       |        |
| Quantity (000) lb | 3,850                | 3,570 | 2,853             | 2,788 | 721             | 693   | 7,424 | 7,051  |
| Price (\$ / lb)   | 1.23                 | 1.32  | 2.41              | 2.47  | 1.70            | 1.77  | 1.73  | 1.82   |
| Inventory(000) lb | 322                  | 296   | 299               | 252   | 77              | 77    | 698   | 625    |
| <b>Frozen</b>     |                      |       |                   |       |                 |       |       |        |
| Quantity(000) lb  | 1,259                | 1,265 | 4,287             | 4,957 | 2,283           | 2,425 | 7,829 | 8,647  |
| Price (\$ / lb)   | 1.45                 | 1.61  | 2.38              | 2.46  | 1.75            | 1.81  | 2.05  | 2.16   |
| Inventory(000) lb | 2,328                | 1,691 | 4,166             | 5,434 | 2,443           | 3,879 | 8,937 | 11,004 |

1/ Dressed weight, (head, viscera, and skin removed). 2/ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded product. 3/ Includes all products not already reported, including weight of breading and added ingredients.

**Subscription Information**

To subscribe to NASS reports or to order single copies, call toll free, 1-800-999-6779 (weekdays 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET). You may write: ERS/NASS, 314 Victory Drive, Herndon, VA 22070.

The next "Catfish Processing" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on February 22, 1993.