

Catfish Processing



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released February 23, 1994, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to January 1993 and 1994, and 1993 revised monthly summary.

Catfish Processing Down 9 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during January totaled 36.7 million pounds round weight, down 9 percent from January 1993. The average price paid to producers was 74 cents per pound for January 1994, 11 cents above a year ago and 1 cent above the previous month.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during January totaled 18.8 million pounds, a decrease of 7 percent from the comparable month in 1993. Sales of fresh fish, at 7.73 million pounds, were down 15 percent from January 1993 and represented 41 percent of total sales. Frozen fish sales, at 11.0 million pounds, were down 1 percent from a year ago and accounted for the remaining 59 percent of total fish sales. Sales of whole fish represented 27 percent of the total, fillets accounted for 51 percent, and the remaining 22 percent were mostly, steaks, nuggets, and value added products.

Freshwater catfish imports during December 1993 totaled 373 thousand pounds, compared with 491 thousand imported the previous year. Eighty percent of the imports were from Brazil and 19 percent were from Mexico. There were no exports reported for December 1993. Import and export data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Census.

1993 Catfish Processing Up Slightly

Farm-raised catfish processed during 1993 totaled 459 million pounds, up slightly from the 457 million pounds processed in 1992. The average price paid to producers for 1993 was 70.9 cents per pound, 19 percent above the 1992 average price of 59.8 cents per pound.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during 1993 totaled 233 million pounds, an increase of 1 percent from the amount sold during 1992. Sales of fresh fish, at 93.8 million pounds, represented 40 percent of total sales and were down 6 percent from 1992. Frozen fish sales, at 140 million pounds, were up 6 percent and accounted for the remaining 60 percent of total sales.

The 1993 average price received by processors for total fresh fish was \$2.03 per pound, up 10 percent from the \$1.84 average in 1992. Total frozen fish averaged \$2.29 per pound for 1993, 8 percent above the 1992 average of \$2.13.

For information call Joel Moore at (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
by Major Processors, and United States Imports, 1993-94**

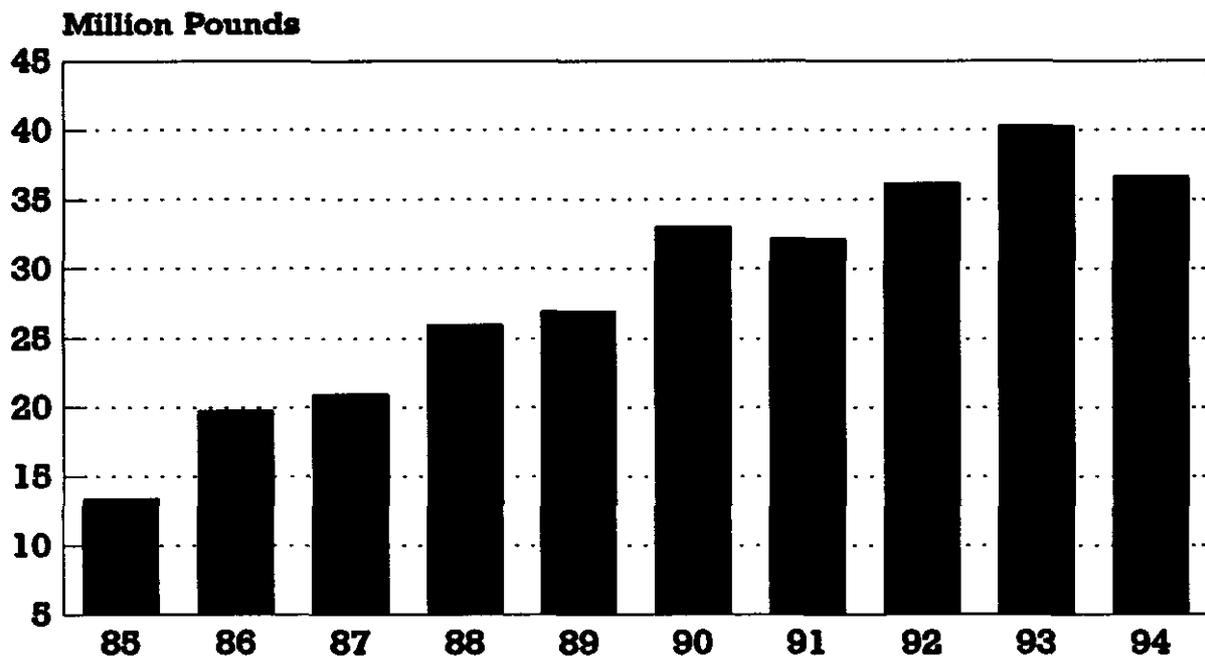
Month	Round Weight Processed				Average Price Paid to Producers <u>1/</u>		Imports of Catfish <u>2/</u>	
	Monthly		Cumulative		1993	1994	1992	1993
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1992	1993
	1,000 Pounds				Dollars per Pound		(000) Pounds	
Jan	40,327	36,714	40,327	36,714	.63	.74	237	118
Feb	40,277		80,604		.67		201	183
Mar	43,521		124,125		.70		243	127
Apr	39,920		164,045		.71		233	328
May	37,030		201,075		.72		392	204
Jun	35,496		236,571		.72		100	253
Jul	*37,086		273,657		.72		344	277
Aug	37,706		311,363		.73		169	444
Sep	37,072		348,435		.73		307	426
Oct	39,472		387,907		.73		187	596
Nov	36,557		424,464		.73		23	781
Dec	*34,549		459,013		.73		491	373

* Revised.

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 - January United States, 1985-94 Round Weight



Catfish Processors: Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending
Inventory, United States, January 1993-94

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	1,000 Pounds		Dollars per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
Fresh						
Whole Fish						
Round & Gutted Only	961	922	.95	1.04	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Whole Dressed	3,402	2,742	1.46	1.69	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>
Total	4,363	3,664	1.35	1.54	381	270
Other						
Steaks	159	132	1.76	1.89	3	<u>1/</u>
Nuggets	NA	537	NA	1.32	NA	<u>1/</u>
Other <u>2/</u>	806	298	1.69	3.02	90	<u>1/</u>
Total	965	967	1.70	1.92	93	148
Fillets <u>3/</u>	3,743	3,101	2.48	2.69	411	379
Total Fresh	9,071	7,732	1.85	2.05	885	797
Frozen						
Whole Fish						
Round & Gutted Only						
Whole Dressed	1,751	1,483	1.62	1.84	1,589	1,356
Total	1,751	1,483	1.62	1.84	1,589	1,356
Other						
Steaks	121	168	1.66	1.61	248	81
Nuggets	NA	1,290	NA	1.15	NA	764
Other <u>2/</u>	2,962	1,674	1.85	2.44	3,655	1,904
Total	3,083	3,132	1.84	1.87	3,903	2,749
Fillets <u>3/</u>	6,368	6,425	2.49	2.68	5,270	4,189
Total Frozen	11,202	11,040	2.17	2.33	10,762	8,294
Total Fresh & Frozen	20,273	18,772	2.03	2.22	11,647	9,091

NA = Not Available

1/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

2/ Includes all products not already reported, including weight of breading and added ingredients. Includes nuggets for 1993.

3/ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded product.

Catfish Processors: Fresh and Frozen Annual Sales Volume
by Month, United States, 1993

Month	Whole Fish			Other			Filletts 2/	Total Sales
	Rnd & Gutted Only	Whole Dressed	Total	Steaks	Other 1/	Total		
1,000 Pounds								
Fresh								
Jan	961	3,402	4,363	159	806	965	3,743	9,071
Feb	1,114	3,271	4,385	*137	*778	*915	*3,732	9,032
Mar	791	3,282	4,073	163	905	1,068	3,893	9,034
Apr	729	3,001	3,730	133	691	824	3,535	8,089
May	672	2,727	3,399	137	624	761	3,362	7,522
Jun	653	2,625	3,278	146	588	734	3,200	7,212
Jul	*666	*2,615	*3,281	*143	*608	*751	*3,194	*7,226
Aug	778	2,646	3,424	145	562	707	3,290	7,421
Sep	865	2,592	3,457	139	685	824	3,311	7,592
Oct	737	2,568	3,305	116	726	842	3,291	7,438
Nov	898	2,326	3,224	110	661	771	2,996	6,991
Dec	882	*2,395	*3,277	*115	*688	*803	*3,050	*7,130
Total	9,746	33,450	43,196	1,643	8,322	9,965	40,597	93,758
Frozen								
Jan		1,751	1,751	121	2,962	3,083	6,368	11,202
Feb		1,737	1,737	107	3,418	3,525	6,480	11,742
Mar		1,713	1,713	160	3,478	3,638	6,924	12,275
Apr		1,682	1,682	120	2,889	3,009	6,597	11,288
May		1,831	1,831	132	2,781	2,913	6,945	11,689
Jun		1,733	1,733	219	2,671	2,890	7,268	11,891
Jul		*1,803	*1,803	*175	*3,695	*3,870	*7,187	*12,860
Aug		1,488	1,488	142	3,378	3,520	7,329	12,337
Sep		1,579	1,579	135	3,119	3,254	6,737	11,570
Oct		1,617	1,617	133	3,348	3,481	6,835	11,933
Nov		1,480	1,480	122	2,828	2,950	6,288	10,718
Dec		*1,335	*1,335	*133	*2,643	*2,776	*6,101	*10,212
Total		19,749	19,749	1,699	37,210	38,909	81,059	139,717
Fresh & Frozen	9,746	53,199	62,945	3,342	45,532	48,874	121,656	233,475

* Revised.

1/ Includes all products not already reported, such as nuggets, including weight of breading and added ingredients.

2/ Includes regular, shank, and strip filletts; excludes any breaded product.

Catfish Processors: Fresh and Frozen Average Sales Price
by Month, United States, 1993

Month	Whole Fish			Other			Fillets 2/	Wtd Avg Price
	Rnd & Gutted Only	Whole Dressed	Total	Steaks	Other 1/	Total		
Dollars per Pound								
Fresh								
Jan	0.95	1.46	1.35	1.76	1.69	1.70	2.48	1.85
Feb	0.97	1.53	1.41	*1.78	1.80	*1.80	*2.56	1.92
Mar	0.99	1.62	1.51	1.81	1.95	1.93	2.62	2.04
Apr	0.99	1.63	1.52	1.84	1.95	1.94	2.64	2.05
May	1.00	1.66	1.54	1.82	1.94	1.92	2.65	2.08
Jun	1.01	1.66	1.54	1.83	1.92	1.90	2.65	2.07
Jul	1.04	1.67	*1.56	1.84	*1.90	*1.89	2.65	2.08
Aug	1.05	1.66	1.54	1.83	1.93	1.91	2.63	2.06
Sep	1.04	1.66	1.52	1.82	1.96	1.94	2.65	2.06
Oct	1.05	1.68	1.55	1.85	1.91	1.90	2.67	2.08
Nov	1.04	1.68	1.52	1.86	1.93	1.92	2.67	2.06
Dec	1.04	*1.68	1.53	1.84	*2.02	*2.00	*2.66	*2.07
Avg	1.01	1.63	1.50	1.82	1.90	1.89	2.62	2.03
Frozen								
Jan		1.62	1.62	1.66	1.85	1.84	2.49	2.17
Feb		1.65	1.65	1.70	2.02	2.01	2.55	2.26
Mar		1.71	1.71	1.51	2.06	2.04	2.60	2.31
Apr		1.76	1.76	1.74	2.07	2.06	2.64	2.35
May		1.71	1.71	1.72	2.04	2.03	2.62	2.33
Jun		1.73	1.73	1.64	1.96	1.94	2.58	2.30
Jul		*1.76	*1.76	*1.65	1.81	1.80	2.60	2.24
Aug		1.74	1.74	1.73	1.81	1.81	2.62	2.28
Sep		1.77	1.77	1.68	1.89	1.88	2.63	2.30
Oct		1.79	1.79	1.72	1.98	1.97	2.62	2.32
Nov		1.79	1.79	1.75	1.90	1.89	2.65	2.32
Dec		*1.81	*1.81	1.70	*1.82	*1.82	*2.64	*2.31
Avg		1.73	1.73	1.68	1.93	1.92	2.60	2.29
Fresh & Frozen	1.01	1.67	1.57	1.75	1.93	1.92	2.61	2.19

* Revised.

1/ Includes all products not already reported, such as nuggets, including weight of breading and added ingredients.

2/ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded product.

Catfish Processors: Fresh and Frozen End-of-Month Inventory
by Month, United States, 1993

Month	Whole Fish			Other			Filletlets	Total EOM Inv
	Rnd & Gutted Only	Whole Dressed	Total	Steaks	Other	Total		
1,000 Pounds								
Fresh								
Jan	3/	3/	381	3	90	93	411	885
Feb	3/	3/	307	3/	3/	*227	*711	1,245
Mar	3/	3/	454	2	105	107	381	942
Apr	3/	3/	314	3/	3/	74	368	756
May	3/	3/	296	3/	3/	108	376	780
Jun	3/	3/	313	2	108	110	383	806
Jul	3/	3/	247	1	72	73	279	599
Aug	3/	3/	340	2	104	106	336	782
Sep	3/	3/	375	8	98	106	357	838
Oct	3/	3/	240	3/	3/	155	510	905
Nov	3/	3/	225	7	100	107	416	748
Dec	3/	3/	287	3/	3/	99	342	728
Frozen								
Jan		1,589	1,589	248	3,655	3,903	5,270	10,762
Feb		1,805	1,805	196	3,361	3,557	4,567	9,929
Mar		2,004	2,004	203	3,166	3,369	4,936	10,309
Apr		1,644	1,644	208	3,225	3,433	5,661	10,688
May		1,203	1,203	187	3,538	3,725	4,842	9,770
Jun		1,050	1,050	94	3,511	3,605	3,752	8,407
Jul		925	925	163	2,815	2,978	3,695	7,598
Aug		955	955	133	2,338	2,471	3,476	6,902
Sep		865	865	182	2,460	2,642	3,365	6,872
Oct		966	966	190	2,661	2,851	3,935	7,752
Nov		1,082	1,082	142	2,872	3,014	5,058	9,154
Dec		*1,208	*1,208	128	2,349	2,477	5,089	*8,774

* Revised.

1/ Includes all products not already reported, such as nuggets, including weight of breading and added ingredients.

2/ Includes regular, shank, and strip filletts; excludes any breaded product.

3/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish Processing Estimates

Survey Procedures: Survey data for catfish processing are collected from approximately 30 processors. All participating processors must meet the minimum criteria of having a capacity to process at least 2,000 pounds live weight of catfish per 8-hour shift. The survey is conducted entirely by NASS Headquarter's staff in Washington, D.C. NASS field offices, however, are responsible for keeping Headquarters informed of any new processing operations in their State to ensure that the survey coverage is as complete as possible. Processors are contacted either by mail or telephone. Diligent effort is made to ensure that all operations are accounted for in the estimate.

Estimation Procedures: The "Catfish Processing" report refers strictly to farm-raised fish and excludes wild capture fish. Prior to summarization, questionnaires are compared with the previous month's reports for comparable placement of data, reasonable price levels, and reasonable inventory carryover given the sales and processing totals reported. Estimates are made for those processors whose reports are not available in time to be included in the release. These plants are identified by an asterisk on page 5 of this release. Estimates are normally based on the processor's previous report and current conditions. Published totals are a straight summation of the individual reports and estimated data. Price items are weighted by the associated volumes to compute weighted average prices. The published price for total whole fish, however, reflects an adjustment to the round and gutted only price to bring it to an equivalent dressed weight price.

If a plant uses a fiscal accounting system, proration is used to convert reported data to a calendar month basis. Only national level estimates are published due to the limited number of plants involved. Generally, individual items are not published if there are less than three plants reporting, or if any one plant has 60 percent or more of the total.

One unique feature of the "Catfish Processing" report is the listing of cooperating processors by name on each month's release. This feature originally was used to solicit industry cooperation in maintaining coverage, but it has continued because of the processors' overall acceptance of this policy.

Import and export data for frozen catfish fillets, which are compiled by the Department of Commerce, are also included in this report.

Reliability: Catfish processing estimates are based on a census of all known active processors and, therefore, have no sampling variability. However, estimates may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of the data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions may be necessary following a review of late reports received from plants. Revisions of less than 2 percent of the existing published levels of any category will normally not be made.

Definitions Used For Catfish Processing:

Filletts - Boned sides of the fish, cut lengthwise away from the backbone.

Fresh Fish - Fish intended for immediate consumption. Also referred to as ice-packed.

Frozen Fish - Fish which are individually quick frozen and glazed (IQF) or individually bagged and bulk frozen.

Nuggets - Small filletts cut from below the rib section of the fish. Usually includes breading or added ingredients.

Round & Guttred Only - Fish with no processing done or viscera only removed.

Round Weight - A term for fish live weight.

Steaks - Cross-section cuts from larger dressed fish.

Strips - Finger size pieces of fish cut from filletts. Usually includes breading or added ingredients.

Whole Dressed - Weight of whole fish with only head, viscera, and skin removed. Generally, 60 percent of the live weight remains as dressed fish.

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
Arkansas Fresh Catfish	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	Limestone Fish Processors
Confish, Inc.	Pride of the Pond
Corbin Fish Farm	Prime Line Catfish Co.
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.	Saul's Fish Processors
Dorey Fish Co.	Seabrook Seafood, Inc.
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.	Simmons Farm-Raised
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Southern Farm Fish Processors
Franklin Catfish	Southern Pride
Freshwater Farms, Inc.	Southfresh Farms
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	

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