

# Catfish Production



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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## Foodsize Inventory Down 21 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 132 million foodsize fish on hand on April 1, 1993, down 21 percent from April 1, 1992. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 2.73 million were large food size (over 3 pounds per fish), 38.8 million were medium food size (1 1/2 to 3 pounds per fish), and 90.7 million were small food size fish (3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per fish).

The four States also had 1.31 million broodfish on hand on April 1, 1993, down 4 percent from last year's 1.36 million. The number of stockers on hand on April 1, 1993, totaled 445 million fish, down 18 percent from the 542 million fish on hand a year ago. Of the total number of stockers, 228 million were large stockers (over 180 lbs. to 750 lbs./1000 fish) and 217 million were small stockers (over 60 lbs. to 180 lbs./1,000 fish). Producers had 447 million fingerlings on hand on April 1, 1993, down 20 percent from the 561 million fingerlings on hand April 1, 1992.

During the January - March quarter, 145.6 million catfish were stocked into grow out ponds, up 13 percent from the 128.6 stocked a year ago. These 145.6 million fish consisted of 17.9 million large stockers, 28.7 million small stockers, and 99.0 million fingerlings.

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For information call Robert E. Little (202) 720-6147. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Broodfish, by State,  
April 1, 1992-93

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000			
AL	170	126	763	732
AR	194	217	824	976
LA	70	55	380	240
MS	930	910	4,450	4,295
Total	1,364	1,308	6,417	6,243

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Foodsize, by State,  
April 1, 1992-93 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000			
AL	333	306	1,214	1,034
AR	673	717	2,397	2,506
LA	720	140	2,700	440
MS	1,625	1,571	5,607	5,760
Total	3,351	2,734	11,918	9,740

1/ Large Foodsize: Over 3 lbs/fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Medium Foodsize, by State,  
April 1, 1992-93 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000			
AL	4,760	4,084	8,577	7,177
AR	6,448	5,720	11,783	11,034
LA	3,100	3,230	5,700	5,155
MS	25,504	25,744	45,188	46,776
Total	39,812	38,778	71,248	70,142

1/ Medium Foodsize: Over 1 1/2 lbs to 3 lbs/fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Food Size, by State.  
April 1, 1992-93 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000			
AL	17,810	14,762	17,086	13,489
AR	19,537	12,008	17,250	11,859
LA	3,800	8,090	3,800	7,470
MS	82,667	55,835	78,007	54,292
Total	123,814	90,695	116,143	87,110

1/ Small Foodsize: Over 3/4 lbs to 1 1/2 lbs/fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Stockers, by State.  
April 1, 1992-93 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000			
AL	10,241	13,596	4,244	5,922
AR	27,366	24,557	11,029	8,800
LA	9,300	7,970	4,050	3,020
MS	212,335	181,899	80,245	71,135
Total	259,242	228,022	99,568	88,877

1/ Large Stockers: Over 180 lbs to 750 lbs/1,000 fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Stockers, by State.  
April 1, 1992-93 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000			
AL	17,470	13,254	1,630	1,216
AR	44,732	30,609	4,240	2,855
LA	20,000	14,470	2,300	1,435
MS	200,977	158,459	19,179	17,587
Total	283,179	216,792	27,349	23,093

1/ Small Stockers: Over 60 lbs to 180 lbs/1,000 fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Fingerling, by State,  
April 1, 1992-93 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
	1,000			
AL	42,701	50,968	1,416	1,387
AR	80,695	62,032	3,047	2,236
LA	25,000	32,370	1,050	1,290
MS	412,567	301,959	13,193	10,844
Total	560,963	447,329	18,706	15,757

1/ Fingerling: Over 2 lbs to 60 lbs/1,000 fish.

Catfish: Number Stocked in Growout Ponds During Previous Quarter,  
by Size Group and State, January-March 1992-93

State	January		February		March	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	Large Stockers 1,000					
AL	*	*	*	*	2,434	*
AR	251	430	*	1,372	1,087	1,746
LA	1,950	*	10	*	40	*
MS	*	2,758	1,313	3,284	4,189	6,448
Total	4,284	3,867	3,425	4,993	7,750	9,077
	Small Stockers 1,000					
AL	603	*	*	4,114	4,123	2,197
AR	*	*	*	128	2,365	*
LA	35	*	2,400	830	800	*
MS	*	2,853	4,469	5,520	10,629	9,618
Total	1,385	5,929	8,056	10,592	17,917	12,146
	Fingerlings 1,000					
AL	*	*	4,031	*	6,644	*
AR	111	*	550	*	12,000	8,122
LA	150	2,760	165	4,790	1,550	*
MS	*	*	16,100	23,320	39,614	33,364
Total	5,173	5,066	20,846	33,940	59,808	59,979

\* Not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, 1986-Current

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1,000 Pounds							
1986	19,761	19,083	18,664	16,354	16,013	15,951	
1987	20,988	22,163	27,583	26,781	21,623	19,581	
1988	26,018	27,786	28,179	20,805	20,351	22,839	
1989	26,948	28,559	29,458	27,310	28,892	27,598	
1990	33,066	31,884	33,120	30,980	31,542	28,967	
1991	32,206	33,036	35,951	31,205	31,322	31,588	
1992	36,200	39,228	45,048	41,177	39,111	36,813	
1993	40,327	40,277	43,521				
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1,000 Pounds							
1986	17,036	18,663	18,859	20,453	17,107	15,812	213,756
1987	21,638	24,403	26,577	27,920	20,684	20,555	280,496
1988	23,687	26,941	24,611	26,221	25,037	22,634	295,109
1989	27,827	28,371	30,366	31,670	29,096	25,805	341,900
1990	29,540	31,108	27,566	29,211	27,913	25,538	360,435
1991	32,720	32,912	33,244	35,400	31,114	30,172	390,870
1992	36,128	37,958	37,857	39,212	35,073	33,562	457,367

Prices Paid to Producers for Farm-raised Catfish, 1986-Current

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Cents Per Pound							
1986	70.0	70.0	72.0	74.0	72.0	68.0	
1987	60.0	57.0	59.0	65.0	69.0	64.0	
1988	68.0	72.0	75.0	75.0	75.0	78.0	
1989	78.0	78.0	77.0	76.0	76.0	75.0	
1990	72.0	74.0	78.0	78.0	78.0	78.0	
1991	69.0	69.0	69.0	69.0	66.0	65.0	
1992	53.0	56.0	60.0	63.0	63.0	61.0	
1993	63.0	67.0	70.0				
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. Avg.
Cents Per Pound							
1986	66.0	63.0	63.0	62.0	61.0	61.0	66.8
1987	61.0	60.0	60.0	61.0	62.0	64.0	61.7
1988	80.0	80.0	79.0	79.0	78.0	78.0	76.4
1989	71.0	68.0	65.0	64.0	64.0	68.0	71.5
1990	76.0	76.0	76.0	76.0	75.0	72.0	75.8
1991	63.0	60.0	59.0	58.0	57.0	53.0	63.1
1992	59.0	58.0	59.0	61.0	62.0	63.0	59.8

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**Survey Procedures:** Data for catfish production are collected from approximately 860 current producers. States use all known sources of producers to ensure that their lists are as complete as possible. Firms that are not on the list are not represented in the data. Data collection from the approximately 860 producers begins on April 1, 1993. All known catfish producers are contacted with either a mailed questionnaire or are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person. Great care is exercised to ensure that all operations are accounted for in the estimates.

**Reliability:** Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations are represented statistically from the reported data or by imputation based on individual historical data. Survey data are subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions and mistakes in reporting and in processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized by carefully reviewing all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late or corrected data.

The next "Catfish Production" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on July 29, 1993.



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