

Catfish Production



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released October 28, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to October 1, 1991, and October 1, 1992.

Foodsize Inventory Down 8 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 255 million foodsize fish on hand on October 1, 1992, down 8 percent from a year ago. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 5.99 million were large foodsize (over 3 pounds per fish), 75.2 million were medium foodsize (1 1/2 to 3 pounds per fish), and 174 million were small foodsize fish (3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per fish).

The four States also had 1.01 million broodfish on hand on October 1, 1992, down 11 percent from October 1, 1991. The number of stockers on hand on October 1, 1992, totaled 452 million fish, down 13 percent from last year. Of the total number of stockers, 236 million were large stockers (over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish) and 216 million were small stockers (over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish). Operators had 784 million fingerlings and fry (60 pounds per 1,000 and less) on hand on October 1, 1992, down 20 percent from October 1, 1991.

During the July - September quarter, 95.3 million catfish were stocked into grow out ponds. These 95.3 fish consisted of 12.2 million large stockers, down 18 percent from the same period in 1991, 26.1 million small stockers, up 27 percent from the previous year, and 57.1 million fingerlings, up 20 percent compared to a year ago.

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

Aq 2 (10-92)

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Broodfish, October 1

| State | Total Number of Fish | | Total Live Weight of Fish | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| | 1991 | 1992 | 1991 | 1992 |
| | 1,000 | | | |
| AL | 193 | 167 | 1,042 | 1,089 |
| AR | 188 | 177 | 814 | 849 |
| LA | 57 | 40 | 310 | 205 |
| MS | 694 | 625 | 3,476 | 3,170 |
| Total | 1,132 | 1,009 | 5,642 | 5,313 |

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Foodsize, October 1 1/

| State | Total Number of Fish | | Total Live Weight of Fish | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|------------------------------|--------|
| | 1991 | 1992 | 1991 | 1992 |
| | 1,000 | | | |
| AL | 614 | 630 | 2,344 | 2,319 |
| AR | 766 | 728 | 2,660 | 2,641 |
| LA | 405 | 590 | 1,454 | 2,065 |
| MS | 5,402 | 4,037 | 18,750 | 14,350 |
| Total | 7,187 | 5,985 | 25,208 | 21,375 |

1/ Large Foodsize: Over 3 lbs/fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Medium Foodsize, October 1 1/

| State | Total Number of Fish | | Total Live Weight of Fish | |
|-------|-------------------------|--------|------------------------------|---------|
| | 1991 | 1992 | 1991 | 1992 |
| | 1,000 | | | |
| AL | 5,912 | 5,002 | 10,920 | 9,851 |
| AR | 10,254 | 9,310 | 19,374 | 18,041 |
| LA | 4,150 | 5,530 | 8,342 | 10,510 |
| MS | 60,628 | 55,374 | 108,703 | 99,173 |
| Total | 80,944 | 75,216 | 147,339 | 137,575 |

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Foodsize, October 1 1/

| State | Total | | Total | |
|-------|----------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| | Number of Fish | | Live Weight of Fish | |
| | 1991 | 1992 | 1991 | 1992 |
| | 1,000 | | | |
| AL | 32,343 | 26,174 | 30,673 | 25,148 |
| AR | 23,161 | 23,388 | 22,035 | 23,918 |
| LA | 10,600 | 8,710 | 10,600 | 8,710 |
| MS | 124,228 | 115,893 | 124,750 | 117,357 |
| Total | 190,332 | 174,165 | 188,058 | 175,133 |

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Stockers, October 1 1/

| State | Total | | Total | |
|-------|----------------|---------|---------------------|---------|
| | Number of Fish | | Live Weight of Fish | |
| | 1991 | 1992 | 1991 | 1992 |
| | 1,000 | | | |
| AL | 19,520 | 17,361 | 7,056 | 8,478 |
| AR | 30,467 | 27,566 | 10,343 | 10,738 |
| LA | 10,300 | 12,460 | 4,573 | 6,280 |
| MS | 197,851 | 178,495 | 80,801 | 82,554 |
| Total | 258,138 | 235,882 | 102,773 | 108,050 |

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Stockers, October 1 1/

| State | Total | | Total | |
|-------|----------------|---------|---------------------|--------|
| | Number of Fish | | Live Weight of Fish | |
| | 1991 | 1992 | 1991 | 1992 |
| | 1,000 | | | |
| AL | 18,441 | 18,541 | 1,617 | 1,865 |
| AR | 57,371 | 51,043 | 5,939 | 5,477 |
| LA | 20,000 | 6,500 | 2,120 | 580 |
| MS | 164,022 | 139,805 | 15,933 | 16,873 |
| Total | 259,834 | 215,889 | 25,609 | 24,795 |

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Fingerling and Fry, October 1 1/

| State | Total | | | | Total | | | |
|-------|----------------|--|---------|--|---------------------|--|--------|--|
| | Number of Fish | | | | Live Weight of Fish | | | |
| | 1991 | | 1992 | | 1991 | | 1992 | |
| | 1,000 | | | | | | | |
| AL | 115,318 | | 64,237 | | 2,929 | | 1,308 | |
| AR | 153,511 | | 161,752 | | 3,420 | | 3,743 | |
| LA | 36,900 | | 14,070 | | 1,417 | | 495 | |
| MS | 675,631 | | 543,563 | | 15,522 | | 15,218 | |
| Total | 981,360 | | 783,622 | | 23,288 | | 20,764 | |

1/ Fingerling and fry include fish 60 lbs/1,000 fish and less.

Catfish: Number Stocked in Growout Ponds During Previous Qtr, by Size Group

| State | Jul | | Aug | | Sep | |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1991 | 1992 | 1991 | 1992 | 1991 | 1992 |
| | | Large Stockers 1,000 | | | | |
| AL | 839 | 599 | 1,167 | 687 | * | 335 |
| AR | 529 | * | * | * | * | * |
| LA | 2,773 | * | * | * | * | * |
| MS | 3,828 | 2,716 | 1,792 | 4,854 | 2,869 | 1,910 |
| Total | 7,969 | 3,829 | 3,587 | 5,637 | 3,370 | 2,719 |
| | Small Stockers 1,000 | | | | | |
| AL | 1,683 | 1,988 | * | 1,856 | * | * |
| AR | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| LA | * | * | 1,900 | * | 178 | 1,685 |
| MS | 8,550 | 6,663 | 2,484 | 4,339 | 3,229 | 5,254 |
| Total | 10,723 | 10,132 | 5,565 | 6,725 | 4,247 | 9,227 |
| | Fingerlings 1,000 | | | | | |
| AL | 391 | * | * | 850 | * | * |
| AR | 7,462 | * | 2,416 | * | * | * |
| LA | 150 | 4,445 | * | * | 2,477 | 1,465 |
| MS | 11,972 | 13,783 | 7,886 | 7,079 | 12,217 | 10,927 |
| Total | 19,975 | 21,363 | 10,911 | 15,351 | 16,632 | 20,352 |

* Not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, 1987-Current

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 1,000 Pounds | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 1,000 Pounds | | | | | | | |
| | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
| 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 | | | | |

Prices Paid to Producers for Farm-Raised Catfish, 1987-Current

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| Cents per Pound | | | | | | | |
| 1987 | .60 | .57 | .59 | .65 | .69 | .64 | |
| 1988 | .68 | .72 | .75 | .75 | .75 | .78 | |
| 1989 | .78 | .78 | .77 | .76 | .76 | .75 | |
| 1990 | .72 | .74 | .78 | .78 | .78 | .78 | |
| 1991 | .69 | .69 | .69 | .69 | .66 | .65 | |
| 1992 | .53 | .56 | .60 | .63 | .63 | .61 | |
| Cents per Pound | | | | | | | |
| | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Ann. Avg. |
| 1987 | .61 | .60 | .60 | .61 | .62 | .64 | .62 |
| 1988 | .80 | .80 | .79 | .79 | .78 | .78 | .76 |
| 1989 | .71 | .68 | .65 | .64 | .64 | .68 | .72 |
| 1990 | .76 | .76 | .76 | .76 | .75 | .72 | .76 |
| 1991 | .63 | .60 | .59 | .58 | .57 | .53 | .63 |
| 1992 | .59 | .58 | .59 | | | | |

Survey Procedures: Data for catfish production are collected from approximately 960 current and previous 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 960 producers begins around October 1, 1992. 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 inaccessible operations are accounted for through the expansion of 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 in February 1993.

