

Catfish Production



National
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Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Foodsize Inventory Up 17 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 139 million foodsize fish on hand on April 1, 1995, up 17 percent from April 1, 1994. Live weight totaled 163 million pounds for all foodsize fish, 18 percent above April 1 a year ago. The breakout of foodsize fish on April 1, 1995, with percent changes from the previous year are: large foodsize, at 2.43 million, up 32 percent; medium foodsize, at 24.6 million, up 6 percent; and small foodsize, at 112 million, up 20 percent.

The four major States also had 1.15 million broodfish on hand on April 1, 1995, down 3 percent from last year's 1.18 million. Live weight totaled 5.47 million pounds for broodfish, 1 percent below April 1, 1994.

The number of stockers on hand on April 1, 1995, totaled 503 million fish, up 3 percent from the 490 million fish on hand a year ago. Of the total number of stockers on hand, 249 million were large stockers, up 4 percent from the previous year. The remaining 254 million were small stockers, up 1 percent. Live weight totaled 126 million pounds for all stockers, 2 percent above April 1 last year.

Producers had 590 million fingerlings on hand on April 1, 1995, up 12 percent from the 526 million fingerlings on hand April 1, 1994. Live weight, however, at 18.2 million pounds, fell 3 percent from the 18.7 million pounds a year ago.

During the January - March quarter, 239 million catfish were stocked into growout ponds, up 20 percent from the 200 million stocked during the same period a year ago. These 239 million fish consisted of 27.3 million large stockers, 64.9 million small stockers, and 147 million fingerlings.

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Broodfish
by State, April 1, 1994-95

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
	1,000		1,000 Pounds	
AL	152	106	840	588
AR	180	134	767	653
LA	100	86	450	435
MS	745	820	3,498	3,798
Total	1,177	1,146	5,555	5,474

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Foodsize Fish
by Size, State, and Total, April 1, 1994-95

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
	1,000		1,000 Pounds	
			Large 1/	
AL	301	610	979	2,147
AR	580	560	2,024	1,843
LA	90	135	335	440
MS	877	1,127	2,934	3,956
Total	1,848	2,432	6,272	8,386
			Medium 2/	
AL	2,891	3,843	5,028	7,498
AR	3,862	3,695	7,336	6,756
LA	1,080	3,210	1,930	6,600
MS	15,467	13,880	27,130	25,626
Total	23,300	24,628	41,424	46,480
			Small 3/	
AL	13,919	18,297	12,003	17,508
AR	11,649	14,893	11,196	13,728
LA	6,000	12,850	5,500	12,450
MS	61,794	65,810	61,865	64,334
Total	93,362	111,850	90,564	108,020
			Total	
AL	17,111	22,750	18,010	27,153
AR	16,091	19,148	20,556	22,327
LA	7,170	16,195	7,765	19,490
MS	78,138	80,817	91,929	93,916
Total	118,510	138,910	138,260	162,886

- 1/ Over 3 lbs/fish.
2/ Over 1 1/2 lbs to 3 lbs/fish.
3/ Over 3/4 lbs to 1 1/2 lbs/fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Stockers
by Size, State, and Total, April 1, 1994-95

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
	1,000		1,000 Pounds	
	Large 1/			
AL	14,148	18,746	6,163	6,860
AR	21,777	16,355	7,163	6,631
LA	14,150	7,800	6,850	2,650
MS	188,752	206,418	79,487	85,302
Total	238,827	249,319	99,663	101,443
	Small 2/			
AL	27,504	30,361	2,634	2,565
AR	18,091	30,260	1,794	2,899
LA	22,800	27,400	2,200	2,940
MS	182,285	165,752	17,351	15,801
Total	250,680	253,773	23,979	24,205
	Total			
AL	41,652	49,107	8,797	9,425
AR	39,868	46,615	8,957	9,530
LA	36,950	35,200	9,050	5,590
MS	371,037	372,170	96,838	101,103
Total	489,507	503,092	123,642	125,648

1/ Over 180 lbs to 750 lbs/1,000 fish.

2/ Over 60 lbs to 180 lbs/1,000 fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Fingerlings
by State, April 1, 1994-95 1/

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
	1,000		1,000 Pounds	
AL	36,284	30,391	1,215	1,006
AR	53,886	86,749	1,899	3,216
LA	40,200	41,400	1,900	1,860
MS	395,864	431,133	13,711	12,141
Total	526,234	589,673	18,725	18,223

1/ 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 1994-95

State	January		February		March	
	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995
			1,000			
			Large Stockers			
AL	*	*	*	*	*	*
AR	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	115	4,280	570	400	1,100	*
MS	673	3,006	*	7,575	1,960	6,167
Total	2,330	8,333	6,043	10,661	3,702	8,260
			Small Stockers			
AL	2,030	5,165	3,989	5,329	*	3,346
AR	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	2,900	*	*	*	2,500	*
MS	*	7,162	6,767	11,048	17,173	15,788
Total	6,366	23,340	12,972	20,455	28,276	21,109
			Fingerlings			
AL	*	6,758	*	7,805	*	9,624
AR	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	5,600	*	8,300	*	17,100	*
MS	5,362	1,700	22,342	33,270	62,016	49,815
Total	13,402	28,564	36,023	43,658	90,867	74,990

* Not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish: Round Weight Processed by Month,
United States, 1988-Current

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1,000 Pounds							
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	39,920	37,030	35,496	
1994	36,714	35,035	40,446	34,494	34,163	34,595	
1995	38,807	38,515	42,200				
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1,000 Pounds							
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
1993	37,086	37,706	37,072	39,472	36,557	34,549	459,013
1994	35,901	39,813	38,716	39,072	36,054	34,266	439,269

Catfish: Prices Paid To Producers by Month,
United States, 1988-Current 1/

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Cents per Pounds							
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	71.0	72.0	72.0	
1994	74.0	77.0	79.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	
1995	78.0	79.0	79.0				
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	:Ann. Avg.
Cents per Pounds							
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
1993	72.0	73.0	73.0	73.0	73.0	73.0	70.9
1994	80.0	80.0	80.0	77.0	77.0	77.0	78.4

1/ Price of fish delivered to processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, but does not include any adjustments based on year-end settlements.

Catfish Production Estimates

Survey Procedures: About 900 operators were contacted during the first half of April by mail, telephone, and personal face-to-face interview, and 84 percent provided a usable report. An attempt was made to contact all known catfish producers during this time. States use every available source of producer names to make their list as complete as possible. Great care is exercised to ensure that all operations are accounted for in the estimates.

Estimation Procedures: 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 estimated based on similar operations or historical data.

Reliability: Catfish production estimates are based on a census of all known active producers 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: Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late or corrected data.

Definitions Used for Catfish Production:

Broodfish - Fish kept for egg production, including males. Broodfish produce the fertilized eggs which go to hatcheries. The most desirable size is 3 to 10 pounds or 4 to 6 years of age.

Large Foodsize - Fish weighing over 3 pounds.

Medium Foodsize - Fish weighing over one and one-half pounds to 3 pounds.

Small Foodsize - Fish weighing over three-fourths pound to one and one-half pounds.

Large Stockers - Fish weighing over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Small Stockers - Fish weighing over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Fingerlings/Fry - Fish weighing 60 pounds per 1,000 fish and less.

