



Catfish Production

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Catfish Value of Sales Down 2 percent from 2016

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 380 million dollars during 2017, down 2 percent from 386 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas) accounted for 96 percent of the United States total sales. The United States total foodsize sales of 355 million dollars decreased by 2 percent from the previous year. Sales of stockers totaled 4.50 million dollars in 2017, compared to 5.48 million dollars in 2016. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 18.7 million dollars, up 1.80 million dollars from 2016.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 96.4 percent of total foodsize fish sales, up 2 percent from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 62.5 percent of stocker sales compared to 78.0 percent in 2016.

Water Surface Acres Up 2 Percent from January 1, 2017

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2018, totaled 61.9 thousand acres, up 2 percent from the 60.8 thousand acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 3.62 thousand are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2018. An additional 390 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2018. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2017, the area taken out of production totaled 890 acres. As of January 1, 2018, foodsize fish were produced on 48.8 thousand acres, fingerling producing acres totaled 8.40 thousand, and 1.94 thousand acres were being used for broodfish production.

Inventory Numbers

Catfish producers had 670 thousand broodfish on hand January 1, 2018, up 13 percent from January 1, 2017. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 4.43 million on January 1, 2018, up 18 percent from a year ago. The number of medium foodsize fish were down 2 percent to 53.2 million, while small foodsize fish numbers are up 27 percent to 93.8 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2018, at 115 million fish, were up 13 percent from the previous year. Small stocker numbers were up 17 percent to 242 million. There were 212 million fingerlings on hand January 1, 2018, down 21 percent from January 1, 2017.

Catfish Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2016-2018

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2017	2018	2016	2017
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	15,000	14,800	119,989	114,596
Arkansas	5,000	4,800	19,086	20,607
California	1,300	1,300	5,230	5,051
Mississippi	34,400	36,100	213,372	214,596
North Carolina	1,200	1,100	4,164	3,126
Texas	1,900	1,700	17,722	15,636
Other States ¹	1,990	2,060	6,422	6,101
United States	60,790	61,860	385,985	379,713

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2016-2018

State	Acres intended for utilization during January 1 - June 30										Acres taken out of production during July 1 - December 31		
	Foodsize		Fingerlings		Broodfish		Currently under or scheduled for:				2016	2017	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Renovation		New construction				
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	14,700	14,300	100	290	35	60	270	570	(D)	170	280	270	
Arkansas	3,300	3,000	1,200	1,300	180	195	180	390	(D)	(D)	400	(D)	
California	930	1,000	160	150	45	70	80	95	-	(D)	140	25	
Mississippi	26,300	26,900	5,400	5,900	1,400	1,400	1,400	2,100	600	100	1,300	45	
North Carolina	1,100	1,000	60	60	(D)	(D)	35	100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	
Texas	1,700	1,600	65	40	65	40	50	240	(D)	(D)	320	350	
Other States ¹	1,090	960	510	660	180	175	30	120	235	120	285	200	
United States	49,120	48,760	7,495	8,400	1,905	1,940	2,045	3,615	835	390	2,725	890	

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish, Foodsize Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	1,610	1,530	6,200	5,700	3.9	3.7
Arkansas	210	440	692	1,520	3.3	3.5
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	1,450	1,840	5,300	6,850	3.7	3.7
North Carolina	90	140	294	478	3.3	3.4
Texas	220	230	855	973	3.9	4.2
Other States ¹	190	250	667	811	3.5	3.2
United States	3,770	4,430	14,008	16,332	3.7	3.7
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	14,300	13,900	29,000	27,300	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	2,570	3,370	4,700	6,400	1.8	1.9
California	590	680	1,060	1,190	1.8	1.8
Mississippi	30,700	27,900	54,200	52,300	1.8	1.9
North Carolina	710	620	1,200	1,140	1.7	1.8
Texas	5,240	6,270	10,700	12,300	2.0	2.0
Other States ¹	300	485	594	849	2.0	1.8
United States	54,410	53,225	101,454	101,479	1.9	1.9
Small foodsize						
Alabama	24,100	21,400	25,300	22,300	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	3,620	6,510	3,500	6,550	1.0	1.0
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	41,000	61,500	42,200	65,100	1.0	1.1
North Carolina	1,640	920	1,590	912	1.0	1.0
Texas	1,100	1,080	1,040	1,080	0.9	1.0
Other States ¹	2,450	2,425	2,243	2,097	0.9	0.9
United States	73,910	93,835	75,873	98,039	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	40,010	36,830	60,500	55,300	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	6,400	10,320	8,892	14,470	(NA)	(NA)
California	2,240	2,665	2,739	3,234	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	73,150	91,240	101,700	124,250	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	2,440	1,680	3,084	2,530	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	6,560	7,580	12,595	14,353	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	1,290	1,175	1,825	1,713	(NA)	(NA)
United States	132,090	151,490	191,335	215,850	(NA)	(NA)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish, Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States:
January 1, 2017 and 2018**

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
	2017 (1,000)	2018 (1,000)	Total		Average	
			2017 (1,000 pounds)	2018 (1,000 pounds)	2017 (pounds per 1,000 fish)	2018 (pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	36,800	52,200	12,800	19,300	348	370
Arkansas	7,280	5,190	2,600	1,490	357	287
California	360	330	117	97	325	294
Mississippi	51,600	53,800	21,200	21,500	411	400
North Carolina	4,100	2,870	2,300	1,810	561	631
Texas	510	(D)	256	(D)	502	(D)
Other States ¹	1,585	1,020	523	401	330	393
United States	102,235	115,410	39,796	44,598	389	386
Small stockers						
Alabama	48,600	61,200	4,600	5,400	94.7	88.2
Arkansas	23,000	23,500	2,500	2,350	108.7	100.0
California	(D)	900	(D)	80	(D)	88.9
Mississippi	128,000	143,000	11,700	13,100	91.4	91.6
North Carolina	(D)	11,200	(D)	1,460	(D)	130.4
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	7,105	2,460	651	223	91.6	90.7
United States	206,705	242,260	19,451	22,613	94.1	93.3
Total stockers						
Alabama	85,400	113,400	17,400	24,700	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	30,280	28,690	5,100	3,840	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	1,230	(D)	177	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	179,600	196,800	32,900	34,600	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	14,070	(D)	3,270	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	13,660	3,480	3,847	624	(NA)	(NA)
United States	308,940	357,670	59,247	67,211	(NA)	(NA)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	35,200	15,900	1,670	790	47.4	49.7
Arkansas	27,400	29,900	1,090	1,240	39.8	41.5
California	1,990	2,000	41	48	20.6	24.0
Mississippi	188,000	145,000	5,050	5,350	26.9	36.9
North Carolina	1,550	3,200	58	85	37.4	26.6
Texas	380	310	9	14	23.7	45.2
Other States ¹	14,900	15,500	595	574	39.9	37.0
United States	269,420	211,810	8,513	8,101	31.6	38.2

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish, Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama	20	(D)	51	(D)	2.6	(D)
Arkansas	60	50	244	198	4.1	4.0
California	(D)	10	(D)	58	(D)	5.8
Mississippi	450	550	2,400	3,050	5.3	5.5
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	5	(D)	25	(D)	5.0
Other States ¹	65	55	301	255	4.6	4.6
United States	595	670	2,996	3,586	5.0	5.4

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¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish Sales – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Foodsize										
Alabama	62,300	66,300	109,000	112,900	1.7	1.7	119,900	114,029	1.10	1.01
Arkansas	10,300	11,100	16,300	16,800	1.6	1.5	16,952	18,144	1.04	1.08
California	1,150	910	1,640	1,580	1.4	1.7	5,051	4,945	3.08	3.13
Mississippi	105,000	112,000	172,000	180,500	1.6	1.6	196,080	196,745	1.14	1.09
North Carolina	1,930	1,380	3,500	2,600	1.8	1.9	4,060	3,068	1.16	1.18
Texas	8,020	6,740	15,400	14,000	1.9	2.1	17,402	15,540	1.13	1.11
Other States ¹	1,880	1,400	2,334	2,048	1.2	1.5	3,953	2,961	1.69	1.45
United States	190,580	199,830	320,174	330,428	1.7	1.7	363,398	355,432	1.14	1.08
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Stockers										
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	30,795	24,960	3,444	2,856	112	114	5,477	4,501	1.59	1.58
United States	30,795	24,960	3,444	2,856	112	114	5,477	4,501	1.59	1.58
Fingerlings and fry										
Alabama	400	390	16	9	40.0	23.1	86	82	5.35	9.15
Arkansas	15,800	(D)	472	(D)	29.9	(D)	1,416	(D)	3.00	(D)
California	780	220	11	5	14.1	22.7	103	56	9.35	11.20
Mississippi	165,000	162,000	6,650	6,900	40.3	42.6	13,766	15,456	2.07	2.24
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	470	(D)	21	(D)	44.7	(D)	59	(D)	2.81
Other States ¹	12,550	31,875	460	1,138	36.7	35.7	1,542	3,064	3.35	2.69
United States	194,530	194,955	7,609	8,073	39.1	41.4	16,913	18,717	2.22	2.32

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¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish, Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Broodfish										
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	30	210	143	884	4.8	4.2	197	1,063	1.38	1.20
United States	30	210	143	884	4.8	4.2	197	1,063	1.38	1.20

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish, Foodsize and Stockers Percent Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2016 and 2017

[Point of First Sale by outlet may not add to 100 percent due to rounding]

Size category	Processors		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Retail outlets		Other outlets	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	94.2	96.4	0.3	0.3	2.5	1.6	0.7	0.6	2.2	1.2
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Stocker	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	78.0	62.5	11.1	18.8	6.7	10.3	2.2	7.0	2.0	1.4

Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates

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.

Fingerlings: Fish weighing 2 to 60 pounds per 1,000 fish or 2 to 6 inches in length.

Foodsize (large): Fish weighing over 3 pounds.

Foodsize (medium): Fish weighing over one and one-half pounds to 3 pounds.

Foodsize (small): Fish weighing over three-fourths of a pound to one and one-half pounds.

Fry: Fish weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish or less than 2 inches in length.

Stocker (large): Fish weighing over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Stocker (small): Fish weighing over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish or over 6 inches in length.

Terms and Definitions Used to Describe Point of First Sale

Government Agencies: Sales to Federal, State, or local government agencies for the purpose of stocking public waters.

Live Hauler/Broker: Sales made to an individual or company that generally purchases live fish from a producer and transports them in an oxygenated tank truck to other outlets.

Other Outlets: Sales to outlets not meeting one of the other defined outlets.

Point of First Sale Outlet: The first point at which money changes hands.

Processors: Sales made directly to a plant for processing.

Recreational Stocking: Only includes fish sold to individuals or private entities for the sole purpose of stocking recreational waters.

Retail Outlets: Fish sold directly to entities who buy fish to re-sell to consumers. Includes grocers, restaurants, and fish markets.

Wholesale to Other Producers: Fish sold to other producers for the intention of growing out for further sale at a later time.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for catfish production are collected from all known producers in the six published states and a sample of producers from the remaining states. NASS Regional Field Offices maintain a list of all known catfish producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. Operators are mailed a questionnaire as close as possible to January 1 and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond by mail are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person during the middle of January.

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 were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS Regional Field Offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for 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.

Reliability: In the six published states, catfish production estimates are based on a census of all known active producers and therefore, have no sampling variability. However, since all operations in the other states category are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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Aaron Cosgrove – Catfish Production, Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Trout Production	
Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3237
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses	(202) 720-4751
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Mink	(202) 720-3244
Vacant – Census of Agriculture, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 690-4870
Vacant – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-3676

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