

Catfish Production



USDA
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Foodsize Inventory Up 6 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 184 million foodsize fish on hand on April 1, 1999, up 6 percent from April 1, 1998. Live weight totaled 219 million pounds for all foodsize fish, 4 percent above April 1 a year ago. The breakouts of the number of foodsize fish on April 1, 1999 with percent changes from the previous year are: large foodsize, at 3.33 million, down 11 percent; medium foodsize, at 42.5 million, up 13 percent; and small foodsize, at 138 million, up 5 percent.

The four major States had 1.16 million broodfish on hand on April 1, 1999, down 4 percent from last year's 1.21 million. Live weight totaled 5.41 million pounds for broodfish, 7 percent below April 1, 1998.

The number of stockers on hand on April 1, 1999 totaled 652 million fish, up 23 percent from the 532 million fish on hand a year ago. Of the total number of stockers on hand, 316 million were large stockers, up 16 percent from the previous year. The remaining 336 million were small stockers, up 30 percent. Live weight totaled 169 million pounds for all stockers, 20 percent above April 1 last year.

Producers had 806 million fingerlings on hand on April 1, 1999, down 7 percent from the 870 million fingerlings on hand April 1, 1998. Live weight, at 24.1 million pounds, increased 6 percent from the 22.8 million pounds a year ago.

**Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Broodfish
by State, April 1, 1998-99**

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	109	140	596	765
AR	260	170	1,215	810
LA	52	40	232	170
MS	785	805	3,741	3,660
Total	1,206	1,155	5,784	5,405

**Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Foodsize Fish
by Size, State, and Total, April 1, 1998-99**

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
Large ¹				
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	800	1,040	2,681	3,420
AR	925	630	3,239	2,120
LA	745	680	2,555	2,270
MS	1,265	980	4,451	3,400
Total	3,735	3,330	12,926	11,210
Medium ²				
AL	10,889	12,150	21,517	23,300
AR	6,045	8,600	10,840	15,200
LA	3,910	6,950	7,080	12,700
MS	16,758	14,750	30,086	26,500
Total	37,602	42,450	69,523	77,700
Small ³				
AL	21,813	27,800	22,755	27,600
AR	20,300	22,850	19,325	20,400
LA	11,350	15,000	11,790	13,900
MS	78,026	72,600	74,090	67,700
Total	131,489	138,250	127,960	129,600
Total				
AL	33,502	40,990	46,953	54,320
AR	27,270	32,080	33,404	37,720
LA	16,005	22,630	21,425	28,870
MS	96,049	88,330	108,627	97,600
Total	172,826	184,030	210,409	218,510

¹ Over three lbs.

² Over one and one-half lbs. to three lbs.

³ Over three-fourths lb. to one and one-half lbs.

**Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Stockers
by Size, State, and Total, April 1, 1998-99**

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
Large ¹				
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	21,223	30,900	9,694	14,450
AR	32,300	38,450	11,640	15,450
LA	11,620	17,500	4,690	9,500
MS	207,584	229,300	90,124	94,400
Total	272,727	316,150	116,148	133,800
Small ²				
AL	27,148	29,400	2,499	2,955
AR	43,700	37,730	3,772	3,955
LA	19,630	21,350	1,790	2,260
MS	169,037	247,800	16,702	25,900
Total	259,515	336,280	24,763	35,070
Total				
AL	48,371	60,300	12,193	17,405
AR	76,000	76,180	15,412	19,405
LA	31,250	38,850	6,480	11,760
MS	376,621	477,100	106,826	120,300
Total	532,242	652,430	140,911	168,870

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

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

**Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Fingerlings
by State, April 1, 1998-99 ¹**

State	Number		Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
AL	38,996	49,600	1,502	1,970
AR	120,700	125,800	3,540	3,690
LA	53,260	54,000	1,160	1,860
MS	656,895	576,300	16,560	16,600
Total	869,851	805,700	22,762	24,120

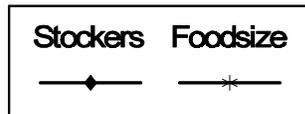
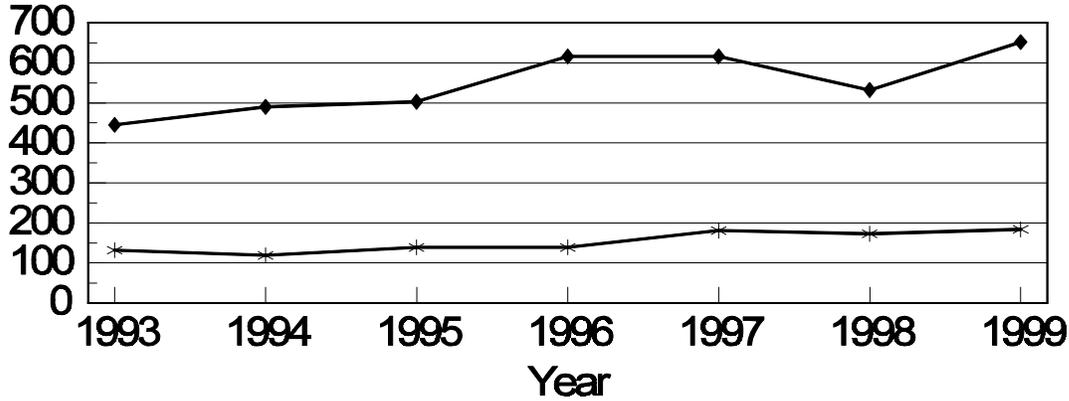
¹ Over 2 lbs/1,000 to 60 lbs/1,000.

Stockers and Foodsize Catfish

Four Major Producing States

April 1, 1993-99

Million Fish

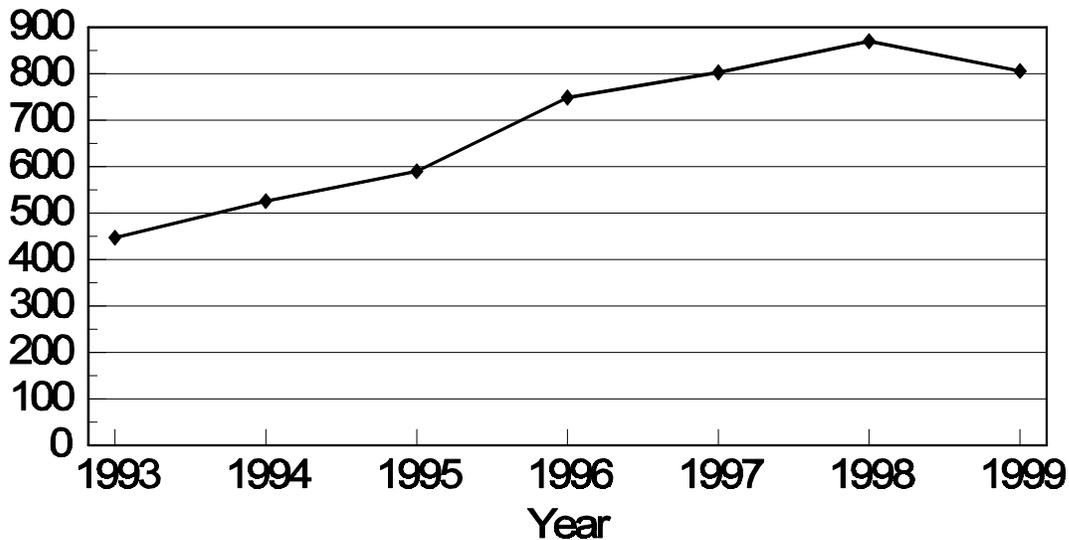


Fingerlings

Four Major Producing States

April 1, 1993-99

Million Fish



**Catfish: Round Weight Processed by Month,
United States, 1992-99**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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	36,588	37,030	36,047	
1996	38,475	38,004	46,376	38,557	39,517	36,752	
1997	42,409	45,067	48,431	45,721	43,409	42,282	
1998	46,723	47,606	53,761	49,393	45,218	46,244	
1999	48,723	48,891	56,310				
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>						
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
1995	35,800	38,827	37,634	39,456	34,119	31,863	446,886
1996	39,025	40,463	38,807	42,070	37,203	36,874	472,123
1997	43,376	44,154	43,472	46,275	40,137	40,216	524,949
1998	46,383	47,739	46,579	47,904	43,224	43,581	564,355

**Catfish: Prices Paid To Producers by Month,
United States, 1992-99 ¹**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
1992	0.53	0.56	0.60	0.63	0.63	0.61	
1993	0.63	0.67	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.72	
1994	0.74	0.77	0.79	0.80	0.80	0.80	
1995	0.78	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	
1996	0.77	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.79	0.79	
1997	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.72	
1998	0.69	0.73	0.78	0.79	0.79	0.78	
1999	0.703	0.714	0.732				
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. Avg.
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>						
1992	0.59	0.58	0.59	0.61	0.62	0.63	0.598
1993	0.72	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.709
1994	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.784
1995	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.786
1996	0.79	0.78	0.77	0.76	0.75	0.73	0.773
1997	0.71	0.70	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.712
1998	0.76	0.74	0.73	0.71	0.70	0.70	0.743

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 955 operators were contacted during the first half of April by mail, telephone, and personal interview, with 89 percent providing a usable report. An attempt was made to contact all known catfish producers during this time. States used every available source of producer names to make their list as complete as possible. Great care was exercised to ensure that all operations were 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.

The next "Catfish Production" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on July 30, 1999.

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