Catfish Production

National Agricultural Statistics Service

United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released October 29, 1993, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to October 1992 and 1993.

Foodsize Inventory Down 15 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 217 million foodsize fish on hand on October 1, 1993, down 15 percent from October 1, 1992. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 5.47 million were large foodsize (over 3 pounds per fish), 55.0 million were medium foodsize (1 1/2 to 3 pounds per fish) and 157 million were small foodsize fish (3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per fish).

The four States also had 992,000 broodfish on hand on October 1, 1993, down 2 percent from last year's 1.01 million. The number of stockers on hand on October 1, 1993 totaled 472 million fish, up 5 percent from the 452 million fish on hand a year ago. Of the total number of stockers, 225 million were large stockers (over 180 lbs. to 750 lbs./1,000 fish) and 247 million were small stockers (over 60 lbs. to 180 lbs./1,000 fish). Producers had 738 million fingerlings and fry on hand on October 1, 1993, down 6 percent from the 784 million fingerlings and fry on hand October 1, 1992.

During the July - September quarter, 117 million catfish were stocked into grow out ponds, up 22 percent from the 95.3 million stocked a year ago. These 117 million fish consisted of 18.1 million large stockers up 49 percent from the same period in 1992, 29.7 million small stockers, up 14 percent from the previous year, and 68.8 million fingerlings, up 21 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 (10-93)

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

State	Total Number of Fish 1992	Total Number of Fish 1993	Total Live Weight of Fish 1992	Total Live Weight of Fish 1993
	1,000			
AL	167	184	1,089	874
AR	177	159	849	682
LA	40	65	205	290
MS	625	584	3,170	2,919
Total	1,009	992	5,313	4,765

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

State	Total Number of Fish 1992	Total Number of Fish 1993	Total Live Weight of Fish 1992	Total Live Weight of Fish 1993
	1,000			
AL	630	366	2,319	1,560
AR	728	1,240	2,641	4,245
LA	590	635	2,065	2,750
MS	4,037	3,227	14,350	11,041
Total	5,985	5,468	21,375	19,596

1/ Large Foodsize: Over 3 lbs/fish.

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

State	Total Number of Fish 1992	Total Number of Fish 1993	Total Live Weight of Fish 1992	Total Live Weight of Fish 1993
	1,000			
AL	5,002	6,652	9,851	11,491
AR	9,310	7,999	18,041	14,627
LA	5,530	4,350	10,510	8,250
MS	55,374	35,965	99,173	64,556
Total	75,216	54,966	137,575	98,924

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

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

State	Total Number of Fish 1992	Total Number of Fish 1993	Total Live Weight of Fish 1992	Total Live Weight of Fish 1993
	1,000			
AL	26,174	24,683	25,148	24,542
AR	23,388	17,012	23,918	16,350
LA	8,710	9,700	8,710	9,700
MS	115,893	105,352	117,357	108,501
Total	174,165	156,747	175,133	159,093

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

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

State	Total Number of Fish 1992	Total Number of Fish 1993	Total Live Weight of Fish 1992	Total Live Weight of Fish 1993
	1,000			
AL	17,361	14,481	8,478	6,193
AR	27,566	30,351	10,738	11,524
LA	12,460	8,550	6,280	3,100
MS	178,495	171,985	82,554	71,378
Total	235,882	225,367	108,050	92,195

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

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

State	Total Number of Fish 1992	Total Number of Fish 1993	Total Live Weight of Fish 1992	Total Live Weight of Fish 1993
	1,000			
AL	18,541	14,079	1,865	1,353
AR	51,043	57,737	5,477	6,306
LA	6,500	24,000	580	2,200
MS	139,805	150,947	16,873	16,312
Total	215,889	246,763	24,795	26,171

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

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

State	Total Number of Fish 1992	Total Number of Fish 1993	Total Live Weight of Fish 1992	Total Live Weight of Fish 1993
	1,000			
AL	64,237	71,233	1,308	2,021
AR	161,752	90,622	3,743	2,101
LA	14,070	67,000	495	2,300
MS	543,563	509,094	15,218	16,812
Total	783,622	737,949	20,764	23,234

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 and State, July-September 1992-93

State	July 1992	July 1993	August 1992	August 1993	September 1992	September 1993
	Large Stockers 1,000					
AL	599	639	687	1,251	335	1,434
AR	*	765	*	*	*	*
LA	*	1,800	*	*	*	*
MS	2,716	5,587	4,854	2,573	1,910	3,413
Total	3,829	8,791	5,637	4,381	2,719	4,949
	Small Stockers 1,000					
AL	1,988	*	1,856	1,381	*	*
AR	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	*	2,700	*	*	1,685	1,500
MS	6,663	10,876	4,339	3,520	5,254	4,069
Total	10,132	16,371	6,725	7,001	9,227	6,338
	Fingerlings 1,000					
AL	*	*	850	*	*	7,255
AR	*	*	*	*	*	1,008
LA	4,445	4,500	*	4,500	1,465	3,200
MS	13,783	7,847	7,079	11,905	10,927	19,985
Total	21,363	18,083	15,351	19,242	20,352	31,448

* Not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, by Month, United States, 1984-93

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	1,000 Pounds					
1984	13,265	14,585	14,658	13,349	12,856	11,130
1985	13,429	17,166	18,290	16,474	17,432	15,897
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	39,920	37,030	35,496

Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	1,000 Pounds						
1984	12,181	13,379	12,520	12,588	12,527	11,217	154,255
1985	14,311	17,130	16,638	16,861	14,625	13,363	191,616
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
1993	37,440	37,706	37,072				

Farm-Raised Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers, 1984-93

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
	Cents per Pound					
1984	61.0	66.0	72.0	74.0	73.0	74.0
1985	67.0	69.0	73.0	78.0	77.0	77.0
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	71.0	72.0	72.0

Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. Avg.
	Cents per Pound						
1984	74.0	72.0	69.0	67.0	65.0	65.0	69.2
1985	76.0	72.0	71.0	70.0	70.0	70.0	72.6
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
1993	72.0	73.0	73.0				

Survey Procedures: Data for catfish production are collected from approximately 800 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 list of approximately 800 producers begins on October 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 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.

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