

Catfish Production



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released July 30, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to July 1, 1991, January 1, 1992, and July 1, 1992.

Foodsize Inventory Down 11 Percent

Commercial catfish operations had 201 million foodsize fish on hand July 1, 1992, down 11 percent from the July 1, 1991, total of 227 million. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 5.62 million were large foodsize (over 3 pounds per fish), 46.9 million were medium foodsize (1 1/2 to 3 pounds per fish), and 149 million were small foodsize fish (3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per fish). Catfish producers had 1.39 million broodfish on hand July 1, 1992, down 9 percent from the 1.53 million on hand July 1, 1991. The number of stockers on hand July 1, 1992, totaled 655 million fish, up 2 percent from the 642 million on hand July 1, 1991. Of the total number of stockers, 312.7 million were large stockers (over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish) and 342.7 million were small stockers (over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish). Operators had 1.27 billion fingerlings and fry on hand July 1, 1992, down 18 percent from the 1.56 billion on hand July 1, 1991.

Water Acres

The water surface acres being used for catfish production totaled 158,440 acres, down 2 percent from the January 1, 1992, total of 161,220 acres. Of the total acres, 3,570 acres are to be renovated during the period from July 1, 1992, to December 31, 1992. Acres used to hold broodfish for breeding amounted to 6,910. An additional 1,600 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by January 1, 1993. During the January 1, 1992, through July 1, 1992, period, 2,420 acres were taken out of production.

Number of Operations Down 2 Percent

The total number of operations on July 1, 1992, in the 16 selected States was 1,807, down 2 percent from the January 1, 1992, total of 1,851.

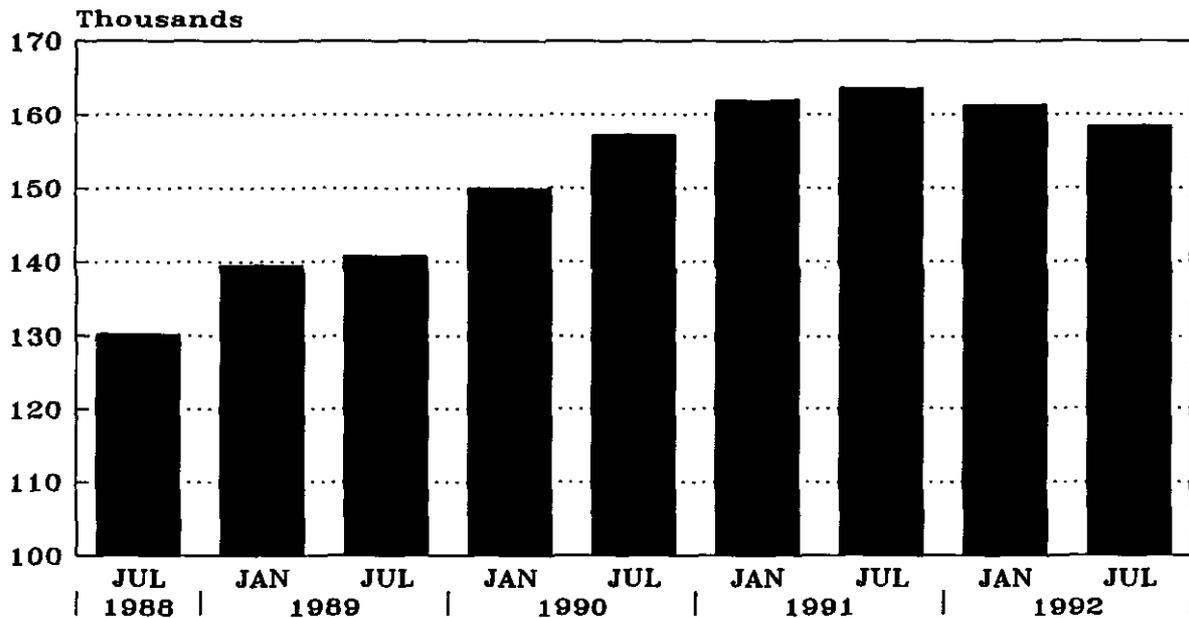
For information, call Robert Little at (202) 720-6147. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Catfish: Number of Operations, by State,
January 1 and July 1, 1992

State	Number of Operations	
	Jan 1 1992	Jul 1 1992
AL	370	320
AR	205	195
CA	*	51
FL	61	60
IL	34	35
KY	50	45
LA	175	150
MS	297	304
MO	125	115
NC	54	52
OK	80	80
SC	36	81
TN	30	45
TX	169	176
Oth 1/	165	98
Total	1,851	1,807

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
1/ Includes GA, and KS.

U.S. WATER SURFACE ACRES July 1988 - July 1992



Catfish: Water Surface Acres; Acres Being Renovated; New Ponds
Under Construction; Acres Out of Production;
and Acres used for Broodfish; July 1

State	Water Surface Acres		Acres Being Renovated	New Acres Under Constrctn	Acres Out of Production	Acres Used For Broodfish
	Jan 1 1992 <u>1/</u>	Jul 1 1992				
AL	19,000	18,000	420	260	500	670
AR	20,500	20,000	760	380	330	930
CA	*	1,920	120	20	70	160
FL	860	760	50	40	170	60
KY	460	450	20	*	30	80
LA	10,000	10,000	400	80	500	380
MS	95,000	95,000	1,400	400	400	3,600
MO	2,700	2,700	90	80	70	140
NC	1,300	1,300	20	40	0	60
OK	1,100	1,100	10	40	30	60
SC	1,700	1,600	60	30	100	60
TN	390	560	20	10	0	20
TX	3,300	2,900	140	60	150	340
Oth <u>2/</u>	4,910	2,150	60	160	70	350
Total	161,220	158,440	3,570	1,600	2,420	6,910

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

1/ Water surface acres for Jan 1, 1992, are revised.

2/ Includes GA, IL, and KS.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Broodfish, by State,
July 1, 1991-92

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
1,000				
AL	195	136	905	721
AR	285	181	1,216	853
CA	*	13	*	84
FL	11	16	51	80
KY	1	7	6	28
LA	40	60	223	280
MS	819	827	3,701	3,648
MO	34	17	101	81
NC	18	38	83	200
OK	9	13	40	60
SC	19	10	114	50
TX	24	33	119	178
Oth <u>1/</u>	77	43	371	218
Total	1,532	1,394	6,930	6,481

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

1/ Includes GA, IL, KS, and TN.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Foodsize, by State,
July 1, 1991-92 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	422	691	1,504	2,669
AR	575	756	2,019	2,567
CA	*	68	*	230
FL	24	100	112	336
KY	*	59	*	242
LA	214	470	811	1,540
MS	2,247	3,127	7,624	11,145
MO	66	69	230	238
NC	134	59	460	220
OK	60	23	225	94
SC	24	4	95	14
TN	40	33	160	117
TX	120	93	473	347
Oth <u>2/</u>	139	66	502	250
Total	4,065	5,618	14,215	20,009

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
1/ Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs/fish. 2/ Includes GA, IL, and KS.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Medium Foodsize, by State,
July 1, 1991-92 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	4,231	4,275	8,197	8,175
AR	6,135	6,911	11,084	12,457
CA	*	574	*	1,094
FL	105	230	207	460
KY	138	109	252	197
LA	4,257	3,700	9,067	7,200
MS	30,743	28,929	56,145	51,964
MO	538	554	1,024	1,029
NC	343	277	638	575
OK	95	86	180	151
SC	220	136	430	270
TN	79	141	135	280
TX	420	336	740	643
Oth <u>2/</u>	919	649	1,767	1,204
Total	48,223	46,907	89,866	85,699

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
1/ Medium foodsize: Over 1 1/2 lbs to 3 lbs/fish.
2/ Includes GA, IL, and KS.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Foodsize, by State,
July 1, 1991-92 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	15,163	16,443	14,837	16,805
AR	22,993	16,756	21,894	16,875
CA	*	1,361	*	1,302
FL	710	370	827	410
KY	143	112	134	109
LA	12,215	6,500	12,948	6,500
MS	111,834	102,251	107,895	99,359
MO	1,122	864	1,104	764
NC	912	1,268	926	1,297
OK	165	93	155	96
SC	1,600	360	1,650	400
Oth <u>2/</u>	7,834	2,236	7,802	2,242
Total	174,691	148,614	170,172	146,159

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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

2/ Includes GA, IL, KS, TN, and TX.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of All Large Stockers, by State,
July 1, 1991-92 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	22,144	18,277	9,637	9,089
AR	26,357	26,529	10,969	9,505
CA	*	1,172	*	326
FL	630	50	265	20
KY	*	201	*	50
LA	6,886	14,810	2,065	6,470
MS	208,157	241,588	78,581	99,365
MO	1,916	1,455	839	587
NC	663	791	287	341
OK	400	564	135	110
SC	945	1,350	463	700
Oth <u>2/</u>	4,603	5,870	1,642	2,422
Total	272,701	312,657	104,883	128,985

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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

2/ Includes GA, IL, KS, TN, and TX.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Stockers, by State,
July 1, 1991-92 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	28,197	19,216	3,473	1,973
AR	41,287	43,835	3,967	4,022
CA	*	3,013	*	322
FL	360	40	39	4
KY	*	241	*	25
LA	22,733	9,560	2,114	1,030
MS	258,321	244,787	25,315	25,822
MO	2,214	3,451	256	321
NC	1,340	961	139	112
OK	780	614	54	63
SC	2,380	278	272	33
Oth <u>2/</u>	12,052	16,705	1,301	1,676
Total	369,666	342,701	36,930	35,403

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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

2/ Includes GA, IL, KS, TN, and TX.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Fingerling and Fry, by State,
July 1, 1991-92 1/

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	146,912	114,780	1,265	834
AR	182,570	172,119	2,402	2,587
CA	*	11,470	*	75
FL	8,074	4,500	120	63
KY	3,261	1,640	47	36
LA	129,426	39,390	2,313	420
MS	957,505	837,773	10,294	11,472
MO	22,524	21,555	289	169
NC	11,074	8,318	68	66
OK	6,700	9,692	53	53
SC	50,000	4,500	400	45
Oth <u>2/</u>	41,071	47,204	396	412
Total	1,559,117	1,272,941	17,647	16,232

* Included in other states to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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

2/ Includes GA, IL, KS, TN, and TX.

Catfish: Number Stocked in Growout Ponds During Previous Quarter,
by Size Group and State, April-June 1991-92

State	Apr		May		Jun	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
Large Stockers 1,000						
AL	1,982	760	777	*	400	*
AR	1,281	2,391	1,391	*	*	*
LA	516	700	128	*	*	860
MS	4,870	4,833	5,000	4,381	5,754	2,915
Total	8,649	8,684	7,296	5,077	6,295	4,313
Small Stockers 1,000						
AL	1,718	3,583	2,891	787	486	636
AR	6,302	2,651	1,819	*	888	*
LA	11,231	2,810	8,400	*	8,184	*
MS	10,502	14,204	13,654	17,035	11,456	12,231
Total	29,753	23,248	26,764	19,456	21,014	13,539
Fingerlings 1,000						
AL	3,121	3,273	3,077	2,853	14,746	1,594
AR	6,392	2,481	10,793	23,702	9,823	14,856
LA	4,493	3,380	7,318	620	13,171	840
MS	33,613	35,439	38,383	32,751	41,682	38,813
Total	47,619	44,573	59,571	59,926	79,422	56,103

* Not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, by Month, United States, 1977-92

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1,000 Pounds							
1977	1,344	2,278	1,901	1,749	1,810	1,901	
1978	1,598	2,361	2,951	2,510	2,729	2,189	
1979	3,032	3,929	4,010	3,025	3,716	3,081	
1980	3,530	4,892	4,060	3,829	4,045	3,596	
1981	3,836	4,844	4,490	6,057	5,385	4,356	
1982	5,448	7,848	8,845	7,937	7,974	8,156	
1983	8,713	11,972	13,104	12,518	11,615	12,068	
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	
1,000 Pounds							
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1977	1,965	2,192	1,986	1,766	1,661	1,573	22,126
1978	2,310	3,186	2,607	2,647	2,935	2,154	30,177
1979	3,138	3,978	3,417	3,531	3,000	2,779	40,636
1980	3,092	4,116	3,817	4,310	3,631	3,546	46,464
1981	5,379	5,176	5,711	5,154	4,757	5,495	60,640
1982	7,269	8,398	9,883	9,209	8,609	9,829	99,405
1983	10,347	11,998	11,250	11,138	11,754	10,773	137,250
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

Farm-Raised Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers, 1977-92

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Cents per Pound							
1977	52.9	55.5	59.6	60.9	60.7	61.0	
1978	56.1	56.0	56.1	55.8	55.6	55.8	
1979	52.3	55.0	58.5	60.0	60.4	62.8	
1980	65.0	69.0	69.0	69.0	69.0	68.0	
1981	64.0	64.0	67.0	69.0	70.0	69.0	
1982	57.0	59.0	57.0	54.0	53.0	53.0	
1983	56.0	55.0	56.0	59.0	62.0	65.0	
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	
Cents per Pound							
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. Avg.
1977	61.1	58.0	56.4	56.6	56.2	56.1	58.0
1978	55.9	55.7	53.3	51.6	51.3	51.6	54.5
1979	64.9	64.8	64.6	64.7	64.9	64.8	61.4
1980	69.0	68.0	67.0	66.0	67.0	65.0	67.6
1981	65.0	63.0	60.0	60.0	58.0	56.0	63.7
1982	53.0	53.0	54.0	55.0	56.0	56.0	54.9
1983	65.0	65.0	64.0	63.0	62.0	61.0	61.1
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

Farm-Raised Catfish: Imports of Catfish, 1977-92

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1,000 Pounds							
1977	797	2,626	1,319	1,751	1,716	1,380	
1978	1,845	752	1,936	2,188	2,534	1,046	
1979	995	1,683	639	2,522	2,014	946	
1980	1,309	1,511	1,170	1,045	1,108	2,225	
1981	1,003	1,119	1,044	1,434	982	521	
1982	564	377	474	231	744	492	
1983	434	210	283	375	283	101	
1984	401	479	661	861	436	656	
1985	589	425	976	602	214	928	
1986	383	947	610	954	646	787	
1987	583	1,241	256	1,012	688	301	
1988	451	508	577	217	1,015	26	
1989	588	117	795	417	952	584	
1990	115	553	322	48	618	342	
1991	355	344	93	641	184	484	
1992	237	201	243	233	392	1/	
1,000 Pounds							
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1977	1,206	1,472	1,254	1,594	1,194	1,676	17,983
1978	863	968	1,524	815	2,728	1,173	18,372
1979	2,273	759	889	1,298	1,361	1,610	16,989
1980	1,110	2,430	1,425	284	863	443	14,922
1981	630	1,011	570	597	471	239	9,621
1982	499	542	906	569	348	148	5,894
1983	445	434	468	631	523	87	4,274
1984	384	515	54	599	696	422	6,164
1985	871	423	832	96	603	501	7,060
1986	543	669	486	800	1,142	199	8,166
1987	624	570	622	642	76	464	7,079
1988	724	414	669	674	388	182	5,845
1989	689	422	756	414	66	1,024	6,824
1990	406	362	619	33	381	226	4,025
1991	723	621	80	974	93	594	5,186

1/ Data not available until August 20, 1992.

Survey Procedures: Data for catfish production are collected from approximately 1,800 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 2,500 producers begins on July 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.

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