

Catfish Production



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Washington, D.C.

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Foodsize Inventory Totals 167 Million Catfish

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 167 million foodsize fish on hand on April 1, 1992. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 3.35 million were large foodsize (over 3 pounds per fish), 39.8 million were medium foodsize (1 1/2 to 3 pounds per fish), and 124 million were small foodsize fish (3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per fish).

The four States also had 1.36 million broodfish on hand on April 1, 1992. The number of stockers on hand on April 1, 1992, totaled 551 million fish. Of the total number of stockers, 259 million were large stockers (over 180 pounds per 1,000 fish) and 292 million were small stockers (over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish). Operators had 603 million fingerlings on hand April 1, 1992.

During the January - March quarter, 129 million catfish were stocked into growout ponds. These 129 million fish consisted of 15.5 million large stockers, 27.4 million small stockers, and 85.8 fingerlings.

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

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Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Broodfish, April 1

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	258	170	1,138	763
AR	245	194	1,013	824
LA	150	70	840	380
MS	970	930	4,638	4,450
Total	1,623	1,364	7,629	6,417

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Foodsize, * April 1

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	452	333	1,749	1,214
AR	339	673	1,209	2,397
LA	510	720	1,790	2,700
MS	1,243	1,625	4,271	5,607
Total	2,544	3,351	9,019	11,918

* Large Foodsize: Over 3 lbs/fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Medium Foodsize, * April 1

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	4,622	4,760	8,838	8,577
AR	3,420	6,448	6,434	11,783
LA	3,550	3,100	6,923	5,700
MS	14,270	25,504	26,115	45,188
Total	25,862	39,812	48,310	71,248

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Foodsize, * April 1

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	17,276	17,810	16,613	17,086
AR	11,439	19,537	10,763	17,250
LA	7,500	3,800	7,950	3,800
MS	77,880	82,667	76,108	78,007
Total	114,095	123,814	111,434	116,143

* Small Foodsize: Over $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs/fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Stockers, * April 1

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	12,898	10,241	4,893	4,244
AR	31,940	27,366	13,608	11,029
LA	3,218	9,300	1,152	4,050
MS	210,000	212,335	90,657	80,245
Total	258,056	259,242	110,310	99,568

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Stockers, * April 1

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	29,279	26,535	2,301	2,559
AR	70,383	44,732	7,315	4,240
LA	44,950	20,000	4,360	2,300
MS	180,000	200,977	17,778	19,179
Total	324,612	292,244	31,754	28,278

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Fingerling, * April 1

State	Total Number of Fish		Total Live Weight of Fish	
	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000			
AL	114,000	84,527	3,675	3,191
AR	160,000	80,695	5,219	3,047
LA	115,000	25,000	4,140	1,050
MS	430,000	412,567	13,995	13,193
Total	819,000	602,789	27,029	20,481

* Fingerling: Over 2 lbs to 60 lbs/1,000 fish.

Catfish: Number Stocked in Growout Ponds During Previous Qtr, by Size Group

State	Jan		Feb		Mar	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	Large Stockers 1,000					
AL	442	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	1,311	2,434
AR	<u>1/</u>	251	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	1,087
LA	<u>1/</u>	1,950	<u>1/</u>	10	<u>1/</u>	40
MS	1,568	<u>1/</u>	1,868	1,313	7,166	4,189
Oth	434	2,083	1,168	2,102	2,169	
Total	2,444	4,284	3,036	3,425	10,646	7,750
	Small Stockers 1,000					
AL	1,654	603	3,548	<u>1/</u>	5,977	4,123
AR	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	<u>1/</u>	2,365
LA	<u>1/</u>	35	<u>1/</u>	2,400	<u>1/</u>	800
MS	1,529	<u>1/</u>	3,536	4,469	14,884	10,629
Oth	1,398	747	1,158	1,187	4,942	
Total	4,581	1,385	8,242	8,056	25,803	17,917
	Fingerlings 1,000					
AL	565	<u>1/</u>	3,636	4,031	4,156	6,644
AR	3,070	111	1,901	550	10,343	12,000
LA	2,607	150	2,030	165	10,772	1,550
MS	6,623	<u>1/</u>	13,559	16,100	57,053	39,614
Oth		4,912				
Total	12,865	5,173	21,126	20,846	82,324	59,808

1/ Included with others to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, 1986-Current

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1,000 Pounds							
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				
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1,000 Pounds							
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

Prices Paid to Producers For Farm-Raised Catfish, 1986-Current

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Cents Per Pound							
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				
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann. Avg.
Cents Per Pound							
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

Survey Procedures: Data for catfish production are collected from approximately 1,150 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 approximately 1,150 producers begins on April 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 missing operations are represented statistically from 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 and are generally within one-half percent.

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