

# Catfish Production



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service  
Fact Finding  
for Agriculture

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Statistics  
Board

Washington, D.C.

RELEASED: September 20, 1988  
3:00 P.M. ET

## CATFISH PROCESSING UP 10 PERCENT

Farm-raised catfish processed during August totaled 26.9 million pounds round weight, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board, up 10 percent from August 1987.

*The August average price paid to growers was 80 cents per pound, 20 cents above the same month last year.*

Net pounds of processed fish sold during August totaled 12.5 million pounds, 4 percent below the comparable month in 1987. Sales of whole fish represented 33 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 46 percent. The remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 39 percent of the total amount sold.

The August average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.79 per pound for ice pack and \$1.86 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during July totaled 724 thousand pounds, 94 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were 16 percent above the amount imported a year earlier. Import data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

Aquaculture Products	King Catfish
Amite River Industries	King Kat, Inc.
Blue Channel Farms	Kueter's Lake
Corbin Fish Farm	Limestone Fish Processors
Country Skillet (Con Agra)	Louisiana Catfish, Inc.
Crawford Catfish Acres	Mid-Atlantic
Delta Catfish Processors	Pisces
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.	Pond Fresh
Franklin Catfish	Pride of the Pond
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Prime Line Catfish Co.
Georgia's King Catfish	Simmons Farm-Raised
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	South Fresh Farms
Gulf South Processors, Inc.	Southern Pride Catfish
Humphreys Co. Catfish	U.S. Fish Corp.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* NOTICE \*  
\* \*  
\* Requests for a subscription order form covering all available reports \*  
\* should be directed to Agricultural Statistics Board Publications, Room \*  
\* 5829-South Building, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. (202) 447-4021. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, 1987-88  
 QUANTITY PROCESSED AND PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS,  
 REPORTED BY MAJOR PROCESSORS; AND U.S. IMPORTS

MONTH	ROUND WEIGHT PROCESSED				AVERAGE PRICE PAID TO PRODUCERS 1/		IMPORTS OF CATFISH 2/	
	MONTHLY		CUMULATIVE		1987	1988	1987	1988
	1987	1988	1987	1988				
	THOUSAND POUNDS				DOLLARS PER POUND		THOUSAND POUNDS	
JAN	20,988	26,018	20,988	26,018	.60	.68	583	451
FEB	22,163	27,786	43,151	53,804	.57	.72	1,241	508
MAR	27,583	28,179	70,734	81,983	.59	.75	256	577
APR	26,781	20,805	97,515	102,788	.65	.75	1,012	217
MAY	21,623	20,351	119,138	123,139	.69	.75	688	1,015
JUN	19,581	22,839	138,719	145,978	.64	.78	301	26
JUL	21,638	23,687	160,357	169,665	.61	.80	624	724
AUG	24,403	26,941	184,760	196,606	.60	.80	570	
SEP	26,577		211,337		.60		622	
OCT	27,920		239,257		.61		642	
NOV	20,684		259,941		.62		76	
DEC	20,555		280,496		.64		464	

CATFISH PROCESSORS' SALES VOLUME, AVERAGE PRICE, AND ENDING INVENTORY,  
 AUGUST

ITEM	WHOLE FISH 3/		FILLETS 4/		OTHER 5/		TOTAL	
	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988
FRESH								
QUANTITY (000) LB:	3,781	2,555	1,787	1,903	455	380	6,023	4,838
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.46	1.79	2.56	2.89	1.56	1.83	1.79	2.23
INVENTORY(000) LB:	269	251	129	268	59	75	450	594
FROZEN								
QUANTITY(000) LB:	1,578	1,602	3,359	3,849	2,061	2,164	6,998	7,615
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.55	1.86	2.51	2.86	1.95	2.15	2.13	2.45
INVENTORY(000) LB:	676	647	1,299	1,730	1,082	2,471	3,081	4,848

1/ PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS FOR FISH DELIVERED TO PROCESSING PLANT. 2/ DATA FURNISHED BY U.S. BUREAU OF CENSUS. 3/ DRESSED WEIGHT, (HEAD, VISERA, AND SKIN REMOVED). 4/ INCLUDES REGULAR, SHANK, AND STRIP FILLETS; EXCLUDES ANY BREADED PRODUCT. 5/ INCLUDES ALL PRODUCTS NOT ALREADY REPORTED, INCLUDING WEIGHT OF BREADING AND ADDED INGREDIENTS.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* This report and other statistical, economic, marketing and news reports\*  
 \* are available electronically as soon as possible following release \*  
 \* through USDA's EDI SERVICE. For more information, call or write: \*  
 \* Russell Forte, (202) 447-5505, OPGA, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. \*  
 \* \*  
 \* The next issue of this report will be published October 20, 1988 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*