

Catfish Production



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released October 28, 1994, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to October 1993 and 1994.

Foodsize Inventory Up 11 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 242 million foodsize fish on hand on October 1, 1994, up 11 percent from October 1, 1993. These foodsize fish weighed 310 million pounds, up 12 percent from last year's 278 million. Of the total number of foodsize fish, 5.59 million were large foodsize (over 3 pounds per fish), 63.2 million were medium foodsize (1 1/2 to 3 pounds per fish), and 173 million were small foodsize fish (3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per fish). Medium foodsize fish showed the largest increase from the previous year, climbing 15 percent.

These four States had 1.18 million broodfish on hand on October 1, 1994, up 19 percent from last year's 992 thousand. The number of stockers on hand on October 1, 1994, totaled 638 million fish, up 35 percent from the 472 million fish on hand a year ago. Of the total number of stockers, 297 million were large stockers (over 180 lbs. to 750 lbs./1,000 fish) and 341 million were small stockers (over 60 lbs. to 180 lbs./ 1,000 fish). Producers had 845 million fingerlings on hand on October 1, 1994, up 15 percent from the 738 million fingerlings on hand October 1, 1993.

During the July - September quarter, 143 million catfish were stocked into growout ponds, up 23 percent from the 117 million stocked a year ago. These 143 million fish consisted of 24.9 million large stockers, 36.9 million small stockers, and 81.6 million fingerlings. Large stockers showed the largest increase for the 3 months compared to the same period last year, jumping 37 percent.

For information call Joel Moore at (202) 720-3244. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Broodfish by State.
October 1, 1993-94

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----	
AL	184	209	874	1,086
AR	159	177	682	884
LA	65	90	290	370
MS	584	706	2,919	3,269
Total	992	1,182	4,765	5,609

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Foodsize by State.
October 1, 1993-94

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----	
AL	366	*	1,560	*
AR	1,240	949	4,245	3,343
LA	635	*	2,750	*
MS	3,227	3,101	11,041	10,700
Total	5,468	5,593	19,596	19,547

* Not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Medium Foodsize by State.
October 1, 1993-94

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----	
AL	6,652	7,772	11,491	13,704
AR	7,999	8,675	14,627	15,067
LA	4,350	6,600	8,250	11,000
MS	35,965	40,166	64,556	74,877
Total	54,966	63,213	98,924	114,648

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Foodsize by State,
October 1, 1993-94

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
	----- 1,000 -----		----- 1,000 Pounds -----	
AL	24,683	29,146	24,542	29,165
AR	17,012	15,192	16,350	15,235
LA	9,700	17,100	9,700	16,500
MS	105,352	111,771	108,501	114,667
Total	156,747	173,209	159,093	175,567

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Large Stockers by State,
October 1, 1993-94

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
	----- 1,000 -----		----- 1,000 Pounds -----	
AL	14,481	21,227	6,193	8,702
AR	30,351	30,232	11,524	12,460
LA	8,550	23,800	3,100	10,600
MS	171,985	221,812	71,378	88,575
Total	225,367	297,071	92,195	120,337

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Small Stockers by State,
October 1, 1993-94

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
	----- 1,000 -----		----- 1,000 Pounds -----	
AL	14,079	18,000	1,353	1,798
AR	57,737	52,339	6,306	4,888
LA	24,000	56,500	2,200	5,250
MS	150,947	214,272	16,312	21,089
Total	246,763	341,111	26,171	33,025

Catfish: Number and Live Weight of Fingerlings and Fry by State,
October 1, 1993-94

State	Number of Fish		Live Weight of Fish	
	1993	1994	1993	1994
	----- 1,000 -----		---- 1,000 Pounds ----	
AL	71,233	57,448	2,021	1,483
AR	90,622	131,203	2,101	3,523
LA	67,000	59,000	2,300	2,350
MS	509,094	597,609	16,812	16,934
Total	737,949	845,260	23,234	24,290

Catfish: Number Stocked in Growout Ponds, Previous Quarter
by Size Group and State, July-September 1993-94

State	July		August		September	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	Large Stockers - 1,000					
AL	639	1,141	1,251	*	1,434	*
AR	765	*	*	*	*	*
LA	1,800	*	*	*	*	*
MS	5,587	4,761	2,573	8,259	3,413	7,084
Total	8,791	8,400	4,381	9,157	4,949	7,340
	Small Stockers - 1,000					
AL	*	2,097	1,381	1,431	*	1,279
AR	*	*	*	*	*	*
LA	2,700	*	*	*	1,500	*
MS	10,876	12,104	3,520	11,554	4,069	7,276
Total	16,371	14,880	7,001	13,137	6,338	8,892
	Fingerlings - 1,000					
AL	*	*	*	*	7,255	*
AR	*	*	*	7,849	1,008	4,063
LA	4,500	6,500	4,500	*	3,200	*
MS	7,847	16,449	11,905	15,604	19,985	19,553
Total	18,083	28,984	19,242	26,815	31,448	25,812

* Not published separately to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Farm-raised Catfish: Round Weight Processed by Month,
United States, 1988-Current

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1,000 Pounds							
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	
1994	36,714	35,035	40,446	34,494	34,163	34,595	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1,000 Pounds							
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	37,086	37,706	37,072	39,472	36,557	34,549	459,013
1994	35,901	39,813	38,716				

Farm-raised Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Month,
United States, 1988-Current ^{1/}

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Cents Per Pound							
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	
1994	74.0	77.0	79.0	80.0	80.0	80.0	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Cents per Pound							
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	73.0	73.0	73.0	70.9
1994	80.0	80.0	80.0				

^{1/} Refers to the price of fish delivered to the processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include any adjustments based on year-end settlements.

Catfish Production Estimates

Survey Procedures: About 840 operators in the four major States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) were contacted during the first half of October by mail, telephone, and personal face-to-face interviews. An attempt was made to contact all known catfish producers during this time. States use every available source of producer names to make their list as complete as possible. Great care is exercised to ensure that all operations are 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.
