



Catfish Production

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Catfish Value of Sales Up 5 percent from 2018

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 379 million dollars during 2019, up 5 percent from 360 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas) accounted for 96 percent of the United States total sales. The United States total foodsize sales of 362 million dollars increased by 8 percent from the previous year. Sales of stockers totaled 5.18 million dollars in 2019, compared to 7.73 million dollars in 2018. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 11.5 million dollars, down 29 percent from 2018.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94.6 percent of total foodsize fish sales, up slightly from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 60.9 percent of stocker sales compared to 76.2 percent in 2018.

Water Surface Acres Down 3 Percent from January 1, 2019

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2020, totaled 61.2 thousand acres, down 3 percent from the 63.3 thousand acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 2.94 thousand are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2020. An additional 380 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2020. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2019, the area taken out of production totaled 2,500 acres. As of January 1, 2020, foodsize fish were produced on 49.4 thousand acres, fingerling producing acres totaled 6.42 thousand, and 1.78 thousand acres were being used for broodfish production.

Inventory Numbers

Catfish producers had 500 thousand broodfish on hand January 1, 2020, down 11 percent from January 1, 2019. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 4.83 million on January 1, 2020, down 31 percent from a year ago. The number of medium foodsize fish were up 4 percent to 56.3 million, while small foodsize fish numbers are down 12 percent to 86.3 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2020, at 111 million fish, were down 6 percent from the previous year. Small stocker numbers were down 13 percent to 159 million. There were 221 million fingerlings on hand January 1, 2020, down 36 percent from January 1, 2019.

Contents

Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2018-2020.....	3
Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2018-2020	3
Foodsize Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020.....	4
Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020	5
Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020.....	6
Sales – States and United States: 2018 and 2019.....	7
Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2018 and 2019.....	8
Foodsize and Stockers Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2018 and 2019.....	9
Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates	9
Terms and Definitions Used to Describe Point of First Sale.....	10
Statistical Methodology.....	10
Information Contacts.....	11

Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2018-2020

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2019	2020	2018	2019
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	16,800	15,900	91,128	97,714
Arkansas	4,300	4,000	21,624	21,671
California	1,100	(D)	9,109	(D)
Mississippi	35,700	35,300	207,543	226,194
North Carolina	1,300	(D)	2,932	(D)
Texas	1,900	1,800	20,889	17,969
Other States ¹	2,220	4,245	7,176	15,600
United States	63,320	61,245	360,401	379,148

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2018-2020

State	Acres intended for utilization during January 1 - June 30										Acres taken out of production during July 1 - December 31	
	Foodsize		Fingerlings		Broodfish		Currently under or scheduled for:				2018	2019
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	Renovation		New construction			
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	16,500	15,600	110	250	(D)	25	300	290	(D)	115	350	690
Arkansas	3,000	2,700	910	770	235	(D)	440	150	(D)	-	550	230
California	910	(D)	(D)	(D)	35	35	90	80	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	27,100	26,700	4,900	4,200	1,300	1,400	(D)	2,000	660	(D)	540	700
North Carolina	1,200	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,700	1,700	55	(D)	50	35	80	(D)	(D)	-	195	(D)
Other States ¹	1,220	2,650	1,010	1,200	210	285	4,575	415	120	265	255	880
United States	51,630	49,350	6,985	6,420	1,830	1,780	5,485	2,935	780	380	1,890	2,500

- Represents zero.

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¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Foodsize Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	3,690	2,980	13,700	10,900	3.7	3.7
Arkansas	(D)	230	(D)	808	(D)	3.5
California	(D)	100	(D)	370	(D)	3.7
Mississippi	1,770	1,340	6,700	4,450	3.8	3.3
North Carolina	200	(D)	647	(D)	3.2	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	1,310	175	4,861	659	3.7	3.8
United States	6,970	4,825	25,908	17,187	3.7	3.6
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	19,800	18,000	39,600	36,000	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	(D)	2,840	(D)	5,450	(D)	1.9
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	25,600	30,200	46,100	53,800	1.8	1.8
North Carolina	730	(D)	1,550	(D)	2.1	(D)
Texas	3,520	3,870	6,850	7,100	1.9	1.8
Other States ¹	4,625	1,380	8,409	2,497	1.8	1.8
United States	54,275	56,290	102,509	104,847	1.9	1.9
Small foodsize						
Alabama	27,600	24,800	27,600	25,200	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	6,370	3,960	6,150	3,950	1.0	1.0
California	(D)	720	(D)	760	(D)	1.1
Mississippi	56,600	52,600	56,600	52,800	1.0	1.0
North Carolina	1,770	(D)	1,810	(D)	1.0	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	6,150	4,205	6,722	3,887	1.1	0.9
United States	98,490	86,285	98,882	86,597	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	51,090	45,780	80,900	72,100	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	10,620	7,030	14,950	10,208	(NA)	(NA)
California	2,450	(D)	2,901	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	83,970	84,140	109,400	111,050	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	2,700	(D)	4,007	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	6,960	7,185	11,680	10,370	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	1,945	3,265	3,461	4,903	(NA)	(NA)
United States	159,735	147,400	227,299	208,631	(NA)	(NA)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States:
January 1, 2019 and 2020**

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
	2019	2020	Total		Average	
			2019	2020	2019	2020
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	38,200	31,600	15,700	13,000	411	411
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	67,400	68,600	24,500	25,500	364	372
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	11,970	10,370	4,424	3,278	370	316
United States	117,570	110,570	44,624	41,778	380	378
Small stockers						
Alabama	47,600	22,700	4,500	2,100	94.5	92.5
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	103,000	110,000	10,600	12,800	102.9	116.4
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	32,890	26,390	2,725	2,288	82.9	86.7
United States	183,490	159,090	17,825	17,188	97.1	108.0
Total stockers						
Alabama	85,800	54,300	20,200	15,100	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	36,650	30,590	4,850	3,990	(NA)	(NA)
California	840	1,310	123	554	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	170,400	178,600	35,100	38,300	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	1,910	(D)	1,236	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	1,340	(D)	222	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	4,120	4,860	718	1,022	(NA)	(NA)
United States	301,060	269,660	62,449	58,966	(NA)	(NA)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	36,700	19,600	1,350	977	36.8	49.8
Arkansas	13,300	19,300	521	712	39.2	36.9
California	2,890	(D)	92	(D)	31.8	(D)
Mississippi	264,000	170,000	6,800	5,800	25.8	34.1
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	26,985	11,735	621	258	23.0	22.0
United States	343,875	220,635	9,384	7,747	27.3	35.1

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama	(D)	10	(D)	40	(D)	4.0
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	10	10	60	44	6.0	4.4
Mississippi	300	420	1,540	2,000	5.1	4.8
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	5	5	30	30	6.0	6.0
Other States ¹	245	55	1,029	279	4.2	5.1
United States	560	500	2,659	2,393	4.7	4.8

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¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Sales – States and United States: 2018 and 2019

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Foodsize										
Alabama	63,600	60,300	104,600	102,500	1.6	1.7	91,002	97,375	0.87	0.95
Arkansas	10,900	10,700	18,300	18,600	1.7	1.7	18,666	19,716	1.02	1.06
California	1,600	1,210	2,850	2,400	1.8	2.0	9,063	7,632	3.18	3.18
Mississippi	121,000	113,000	192,000	203,500	1.6	1.8	188,160	213,675	0.98	1.05
North Carolina	1,400	(D)	2,500	(D)	1.8	(D)	2,900	(D)	1.16	(D)
Texas	8,520	(D)	20,200	(D)	2.4	(D)	20,806	(D)	1.03	(D)
Other States ¹	1,780	11,235	3,151	20,990	1.8	1.9	4,409	23,650	1.40	1.13
United States	208,800	196,445	343,601	347,990	1.6	1.8	335,006	362,048	0.97	1.04
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Stockers										
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	65,465	22,450	6,553	2,819	100	126	7,727	5,181	1.18	1.84
United States	65,465	22,450	6,553	2,819	100	126	7,727	5,181	1.18	1.84
Fingerlings and fry										
Alabama	(D)	310	(D)	9	(D)	29.0	(D)	68	(D)	7.60
Arkansas	12,400	(D)	472	(D)	38.1	(D)	939	(D)	1.99	(D)
California	190	(D)	5	(D)	26.3	(D)	42	(D)	8.30	(D)
Mississippi	168,000	146,000	5,950	3,850	35.4	26.4	14,340	8,971	2.41	2.33
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	9,865	23,240	315	794	31.9	34.2	956	2,464	3.03	3.10
United States	190,455	169,550	6,742	4,653	35.4	27.4	16,277	11,503	2.41	2.47

- Represents zero.

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¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2018 and 2019

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Broodfish										
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Mississippi	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)
Other States ¹	410	75	1,708	296	4.2	3.9	1,391	416	0.81	1.41
United States	410	75	1,708	296	4.2	3.9	1,391	416	0.81	1.41

- Represents zero.

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¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Foodsizes and Stockers Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2018 and 2019

[Point of First Sale by outlet may not add to 100 percent due to rounding]

Size category	Processors		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Retail outlets		Other outlets	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Foodsizes	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	94.3	94.6	0.6	0.7	2.4	2.6	1.2	0.9	1.5	1.2
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Stockers	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	76.2	60.9	6.1	12.7	14.2	20.7	3.6	4.6	-	1.1

- Represents zero.

Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates

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.

Fingerlings: Fish weighing 2 to 60 pounds per 1,000 fish or 2 to 6 inches in length.

Foodsizes (large): Fish weighing over 3 pounds.

Foodsizes (medium): Fish weighing over one and one-half pounds to 3 pounds.

Foodsizes (small): Fish weighing over three-fourths of a pound to one and one-half pounds.

Fry: Fish weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish or less than 2 inches in length.

Stockers (large): Fish weighing over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish.

Stockers (small): Fish weighing over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish or over 6 inches in length.

Terms and Definitions Used to Describe Point of First Sale

Government Agencies: Sales to Federal, State, or local government agencies for the purpose of stocking public waters.

Live Hauler/Broker: Sales made to an individual or company that generally purchases live fish from a producer and transports them in an oxygenated tank truck to other outlets.

Other Outlets: Sales to outlets not meeting one of the other defined outlets.

Point of First Sale Outlet: The first point at which money changes hands.

Processors: Sales made directly to a plant for processing.

Recreational Stocking: Only includes fish sold to individuals or private entities for the sole purpose of stocking recreational waters.

Retail Outlets: Fish sold directly to entities who buy fish to re-sell to consumers. Includes grocers, restaurants, and fish markets.

Wholesale to Other Producers: Fish sold to other producers for the intention of growing out for further sale at a later time.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for catfish production are collected from all known producers in the six published states and a sample of producers from the remaining states. NASS Regional Field Offices maintain a list of all known catfish producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. Operators are mailed a questionnaire as close as possible to January 1 and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond by mail are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person during the middle of January.

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 were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS Regional Field Offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for 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.

Reliability: In the six published states, catfish production estimates are based on a census of all known active producers and therefore, have no sampling variability. However, since all operations in the other states category are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Tony Dorn, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 690-3223
Holly Brenize – Poultry Slaughter.....	(202) 720-0585
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses	(202) 720-4751
Liana Cuffman – Catfish and Trout, Mink, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 720-8784
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3244
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs, Egg Products	(202) 690-3676
Adam Peters – Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-4870
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-6147

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov.

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For More Information, please contact the Forum Coordinator [Mirvat Sewadeh](#) at 202-720-5447