

# Catfish Production



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Released October 30, 1991, by the Agricultural Statistics Board.

## Food Size Inventory Totals 278 Million Catfish

Commercial catfish operations in the four major producing States (Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) had 278 million food size fish on hand on October 1, 1991. Of the total number of food size fish, 7.19 million were large food size (over 3 pounds per fish), 80.9 million were medium food size (1 1/2 to 3 pounds per fish), and 190 million were small food size fish (3/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per fish).

The four States also had 1.13 million broodfish on hand on October 1, 1991. The number of stockers on hand on October 1, 1991, totaled 547 million fish. Of the total number of stockers, 258 million were large stockers (over 180 pounds per 1,000 fish) and 289 million were small stockers (over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish). Operators had 1.09 billion fingerlings and fry on hand on October 1, 1991.

During the July - September quarter, 83.0 million catfish were stocked into growout ponds. These 83.0 million fish consisted of 14.9 million large stockers, 20.5 million small stockers, and 47.5 fingerlings.

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\* Notice \*  
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\* This is the first issue of the Catfish Production report for October 1. \*  
\* This report contains inventory data for the four largest producing \*  
\* States. \*  
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The next "Catfish Production" report will be released on February 3, 1992 at 3:00 p.m. ET.

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight, October 1, 1991

State	Broodfish		Large Food Size <u>1/</u>	
	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
	Thousands			
AL	193	1,042	614	2,344
AR	188	814	766	2,660
LA	57	310	405	1,454
MS	694	3,476	5,402	18,750
Total	1,132	5,642	7,187	25,208

1/ Large Food Size: Over 3 lbs/fish.

Catfish: Number and Live Weight, October 1, 1991

State	Medium Food Size <u>1/</u>		Small Food Size <u>2/</u>	
	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
	Thousands			
AL	5,912	10,920	32,343	30,673
AR	10,254	19,374	23,161	22,035
LA	4,150	8,342	10,600	10,600
MS	60,628	108,703	124,228	124,750
Total	80,944	147,339	190,332	188,058

1/ Medium Food Size : Over 1 1/2 lbs. to 3 lbs/fish.

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

Catfish: Number and Live Weight, October 1, 1991

State	Large Stockers <u>1/</u>		Small Stockers <u>2/</u>		Fingerlings/Fry <u>3/</u>	
	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
	Thousands					
AL	19,520	7,056	47,778	3,989	223,548	6,542
AR	30,467	10,343	57,371	5,939	153,511	3,420
LA	10,300	4,573	20,000	2,120	36,900	1,417
MS	197,851	80,801	164,022	15,933	675,631	15,522
Total	258,138	102,773	289,171	27,981	1,089,590	26,901

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

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

3/ Fingerlings: Over 2 lbs to 60 lbs/1,000 fish.

Fry: 2 lbs/1,000 fish or less.

Catfish: Number Stocked in Growout Ponds During Previous Quarter,  
By Size Group

State	Jul	Aug	Sep
Large Stockers Thousands			
AL	839	1,167	1/
AR	529	1/	1/
LA	2,773	1/	1/
MS	3,828	1,792	2,869
Total	7,969	3,587	3,370
Small Stockers Thousands			
AL	1,683	1/	1/
AR	1/	1/	1/
LA	1/	1,900	178
MS	8,550	2,484	3,229
Total	10,723	5,565	4,247
Fingerlings Thousands			
AL	391	1/	1/
AR	7,462	2,416	1/
LA	150	1/	2,477
MS	11,972	7,886	12,217
Total	19,975	10,911	16,632

1/ Data not shown to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish: Round Weight Processed, 1986-Current

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Thousand 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	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Thousand 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				

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	<u>1/72.0</u>	<u>1/74.0</u>	<u>1/78.0</u>	<u>1/78.0</u>	<u>1/78.0</u>	<u>1/78.0</u>	
1991	<u>1/69.0</u>	<u>1/69.0</u>	69.0	69.0	66.0	65.0	
	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	<u>1/76.0</u>	<u>1/76.0</u>	<u>1/76.0</u>	<u>1/76.0</u>	<u>1/75.0</u>	<u>1/72.0</u>	<u>1/75.8</u>
1991	63.0	60.0	59.0				

1/ Revised.

## Reliability of October 1 Catfish Production Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** Data for catfish production are collected from approximately 1,120 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 1,120 producers begins on October 1, 1991. 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.



