Catfish

National Agricultural Statistics Service
Fact Finding for Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Statistics Board

Washington, D.C.

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CATFISH PROCESSING UP 3 PERCENT

Farm-raised catfish processed during February totaled 28.6 million pounds round weight, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board, up 3 percent from February 1988.

The February average price paid to growers was 78 cents per pound, 6 cents above the same month last year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during February totaled 15.2 million pounds, 6 percent above the comparable month in 1988. Sales of whole fish represented 35 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 44 percent. The remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 45 percent of the total amount sold.

The February average prices received by processors for whole fish were $1.61 per pound for ice pack and $1.73 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during January totaled 588 thousand pounds, 88 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were 30 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:

America's Catch
Amite River Industries
Aquaculture Products
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.
Cole Foods, Inc.
Corbin Fish Farm
Country Fresh Catch
Country Skillet (Con Agra)
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.
Dillons Fresh Catfish
Dorey Fish Co.
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.
Franklin Catfish
Freshwater Farms, Inc.
Fish Breeders of Idaho
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.
Gulf South Processors, Inc.
King Catfish
King Kat, Inc.
Kueter's Lake
Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Limestone Fish Processors
Louisiana Catfish, Inc.
Pisces
Pond Fresh
Pride of the Pond
Prime Line Catfish Co.
Red-Ark (Aqua Farms)
Simmons Farm-Raised
Southfresh Farms
Southern Pride Catfish
U. S. Fish Corp.

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FARM - RAISED CATFISH, 1988-89
QUANTITY PROCESSED AND PRICES PAID TO PRODUCERS,
REPORTED BY MAJOR PROCESSORS; AND U.S. IMPORTS

MONTH	ROUND WEIGHT PROCESSED: MONTHLY 1988	MONTHLY 1989	CUMULATIVE 1988	CUMULATIVE 1989	AVERAGE PRICE PAID TO PRODUCERS 1/ 1988	1989	IMPORTS OF CATFISH 2/ 1988	1989
	THOUSAND POUNDS				DOLLARS PER POUND		THOUSAND POUNDS	
JAN	26,018	26,948	26,018	26,948	.68	.78	451	588
FEB	27,786	28,559	53,804	55,507	.72	.78	508	
MAR	28,179		81,983		.75		577	
APR	20,805		102,788		.75		217	
MAY	20,351		123,139		.75		1,015	
JUN	22,839		145,978		.78		26	
JUL	23,687		169,665		.80		724	
AUG	26,941		196,606		.80		414	
SEP	24,611		221,217		.79		669	
OCT	26,221		247,438		.79		674	
NOV	25,037		272,475		.78		388	
DEC	22,634		295,109		.78		182	

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

ITEM	WHOLE FISH 3/ 1988	1989	FILLETS 4/ 1988	1989	OTHER 5/ 1988	1989	TOTAL 1988	1989
FRESH								
QUANTITY (000) LB	4,417	3,673	2,132	2,514	486	660	7,035	6,847
PRICE ($ / LB)	1.55	1.61	2.61	2.74	1.70	1.58	1.88	2.03
INVENTORY(000) LB	362	318	175	464	30	176	567	958
FROZEN								
QUANTITY(000) LB	1,694	1,624	3,455	4,103	2,159	2,584	7,308	8,311
PRICE ($ / LB)	1.55	1.73	2.64	2.73	2.09	2.01	2.22	2.31
INVENTORY(000) LB	1,643	1,879	1,895	4,526	1,755	853	5,293	7,258

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.

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