
Catfish



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Statistics
Board

Washington, D.C.

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CATFISH PROCESSING UP 5 PERCENT

Farm-raised catfish processed during March totaled 29.5 million pounds round weight, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board, up 5 percent from March 1988.

The March average price paid to growers was 77 cents per pound, 2 cents above the same month last year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during March totaled 15.6 million pounds, 6 percent above the comparable month in 1988. Sales of whole fish represented 37 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 45 percent. The remaining 18 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 50 percent of the total amount sold.

The March average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.58 per pound for ice pack and \$1.74 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during February totaled 117 thousand pounds, 69 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were significantly below 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	Gulf South Processors, Inc.
Amite River Industries	King Catfish
Aquaculture Products	King Kat, Inc.
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	Kueter's Lake
Cole Foods, Inc.	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Corbin Fish Farm	Limestone Fish Processors
Country Fresh Catch	Louisiana Catfish, Inc.
Country Skillet (Con Agra)	Pisces
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.	Pond Fresh
Dillons Fresh Catfish	Pride of the Pond
Dorey Fish Co.	Prime Line Catfish Co.
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.	Red-Ark (Aqua Farms)
Franklin Catfish	Simmons Farm-Raised
Freshwater Farms, Inc.	Southfresh Farms
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Southern Pride Catfish
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	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				AVERAGE PRICE PAID TO PRODUCERS 1/		IMPORTS OF CATFISH 2/	
	MONTHLY		CUMULATIVE		1988	1989	1988	1989
	1988	1989	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	117
MAR	28,179	29,458	81,983	84,965	.75	.77	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,
 MARCH

ITEM	WHOLE FISH 3/		FILLETS 4/		OTHER 5/		TOTAL	
	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989
FRESH								
QUANTITY (000) LB:	4,060	4,141	2,389	2,972	534	691	6,983	7,804
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.62	1.58	2.74	2.74	1.71	1.79	2.01	2.04
INVENTORY(000) LB:	261	257	175	314	43	75	479	646
FROZEN								
QUANTITY(000) LB:	1,599	1,567	3,631	4,086	2,463	2,130	7,693	7,782
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.66	1.74	2.72	2.73	2.25	2.06	2.35	2.35
INVENTORY(000) LB:	1,437	1,774	1,901	3,935	1,927	1,468	5,265	7,177

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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