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# Catfish



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Fact Finding  
for Agriculture  
Since 1863

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Statistics  
Board

Washington, D.C.

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## RECORD LEVEL PROCESSING EXCEEDS 30 MILLION POUNDS

Farm-raised catfish processed during September totaled 30.4 million pounds round weight, up 23 percent from September 1988, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board.

The September average price paid to growers was 65 cents per pound, 14 cents below the same month last year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during September totaled 15.6 million pounds, 27 percent above the comparable month in 1988. Sales of whole fish represented 36 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 45 percent. The remaining 19 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 50 percent of the total amount sold.

The September average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.42 per pound for ice pack and \$1.56 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during August totaled 422 thousand pounds, 76 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were 2 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                 | Gulf South Processors, Inc.      |
| Amite River Industries          | King Kat, Inc.                   |
| Aquaculture Products            | Kueter's Lake                    |
| Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc. | Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc. |
| Cole Foods, Inc.                | Limestone Fish Processors        |
| Corbin Fish Farm                | Louisiana Catfish, Inc.          |
| Country Fresh Catch             | Low Country Aquaculture          |
| 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                   |
| 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                   | 795  |
| APR             | 20,805                 | 27,310            | 102,788    | 112,275         | .75                                | .76  | 217                   | 417  |
| MAY             | 20,351                 | 28,892            | 123,139    | 141,167         | .75                                | .76  | 1,015                 | 952  |
| JUN             | 22,839                 | 27,598            | 145,978    | 168,765         | .78                                | .75  | 26                    | 584  |
| JUL             | 23,687                 | 27,827            | 169,665    | 196,592         | .80                                | .71  | 724                   | 689  |
| AUG             | 26,941                 | 28,371            | 196,606    | 224,963         | .80                                | .68  | 414                   | 422  |
| SEP             | 24,611                 | 30,366            | 221,217    | 255,329         | .79                                | .65  | 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,  
 SEPTEMBER

| ITEM                | WHOLE FISH 3/ |       | FILLETS 4/ |       | OTHER 5/ |       | TOTAL |       |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
|                     | 1988          | 1989  | 1988       | 1989  | 1988     | 1989  | 1988  | 1989  |
| FRESH               |               |       |            |       |          |       |       |       |
| QUANTITY (000) LB:  | 2,886         | 4,056 | 1,890      | 2,966 | 357      | 711   | 5,133 | 7,733 |
| PRICE (\$ / LB)     | 1.70          | 1.42  | 2.87       | 2.49  | 1.76     | 1.83  | 2.13  | 1.87  |
| INVENTORY (000) LB: | 179           | 336   | 209        | 369   | 43       | 112   | 431   | 817   |
| FROZEN              |               |       |            |       |          |       |       |       |
| QUANTITY (000) LB:  | 1,370         | 1,565 | 3,447      | 4,099 | 2,359    | 2,210 | 7,176 | 7,874 |
| PRICE (\$ / LB)     | 1.85          | 1.56  | 2.84       | 2.54  | 1.97     | 2.00  | 2.36  | 2.19  |
| INVENTORY (000) LB: | 562           | 1,479 | 2,400      | 2,732 | 2,470    | 1,651 | 5,432 | 7,862 |

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.