

Catfish



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released February 24 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to January 1992 and December 1991.

Catfish Processing Up 12 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during January totaled 36.2 million pounds round weight, up 12 percent from January 1991.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during January totaled 18.7 million pounds, an increase of 18 percent from the comparable month in 1991. Sales of whole fish represented 34 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 46 percent. The remaining 20 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 47 percent of the total amount sold.

The January average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.23 per pound for ice pack and \$1.43 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during December totaled 594 thousand pounds, considerably above the previous year. No exports were reported for December. Import and export data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

America's Catch	Kueter's Lake
Amite River Industries	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Arkansas Prime	La Louision
Cargill Fisheries Products	Limestone Fish Processors
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	Low Country Aquaculture
Corbin Fish Farm	NAIAD Inc.
Country Skillet (ConAgra)	Pisces
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.	Pride of the Pond
Dorey Fish Co.	Prime Line Catfish Co.
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.	Red-Ark (Aqua Farms)
Franklin Catfish	Sauls Fish Processors
Freshwater Farms, Inc.	Seabrook Seafood Inc.
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Simmons Farm-Raised
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	Southfresh Farms
Harvest Select	Southern Pride

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

Farm - Raised Catfish
Quantity Processed and Prices Paid to Producers,
Reported by Major Processors; and U.S. Imports, 1991-92

Month	Round Weight Processed				Average Price Paid to Producers <u>1/</u>		Imports of Catfish <u>2/</u>	
	Monthly		Cumulative		1991	1992	1990	1991
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1990	1991
	----- Thousand Pounds -----				Dollars Per Pound		(000) Pounds	
Jan	32,206	36,200	32,206	36,200	.69	.53	115	355
Feb	33,036		65,242		.69		553	344
Mar	35,951		101,193		.69		322	93
Apr	31,205		132,398		.69		48	641
May	31,322		163,720		.66		618	184
Jun	31,588		195,308		.65		342	484
Jul	32,720		228,028		.63		406	723
Aug	32,912		260,940		.60		362	621
Sep	33,244		294,184		.59		619	80
Oct	35,400		329,584		.58		33	974
Nov	31,114		360,698		.57		381	93
Dec	30,172		390,870		.53		226	594

1/ Price for fish delivered to Processing Plant door. 2/ Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Catfish Processors' Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending Inventory,
January 1991-92

Item	Whole Fish <u>1/</u>		Fillets <u>2/</u>		Other <u>3/</u>		Total	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
Fresh								
Quantity (000) lb	3,288	4,462	2,857	3,410	693	839	6,838	8,711
Price (\$ / lb)	1.59	1.23	2.72	2.38	1.88	1.66	2.09	1.72
Inventory(000) lb	253	353	292	464	88	91	633	908
Frozen								
Quantity(000) lb	1,674	1,964	4,544	5,147	2,738	2,876	8,956	9,987
Price (\$ / lb)	1.63	1.43	2.64	2.35	1.94	1.72	2.31	1.99
Inventory(000) lb	2,050	2,314	3,880	4,060	2,716	2,300	8,646	8,674

1/ Dressed weight, (head, visera, and skin removed). 2/ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded product. 3/ Includes all products not already reported, including weight of breading and added ingredients.

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The next "Catfish" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on March 23, 1992.