

Catfish



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

Released March 23 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to February 1992 and January 1992.

Catfish Processing Up 19 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during February totaled 39.2 million pounds round weight, up 19 percent from February 1991.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during February totaled 21.1 million pounds, an increase of 23 percent from the comparable month in 1991. Sales of whole fish represented 33 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 46 percent. The remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 44 percent of the total amount sold.

The February average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.31 per pound for ice pack and \$1.48 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during January totaled 237 thousand pounds, considerably below the previous year. Exports reported for January totaled 13.2 thousand pounds, all of which were to Germany. 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	1991	1992
	1991	1992	1991	1992				
	----- 1,000 Pounds -----				Dollars Per Pound		(000) Pounds	
Jan	32,206	36,200	32,206	36,200	.69	.53	355	237
Feb	33,036	39,228	65,242	75,428	.69	.56	344	
Mar	35,951		101,193		.69		93	
Apr	31,205		132,398		.69		641	
May	31,322		163,720		.66		184	
Jun	31,588		195,308		.65		484	
Jul	32,720		228,028		.63		723	
Aug	32,912		260,940		.60		621	
Sep	33,244		294,184		.59		80	
Oct	35,400		329,584		.58		974	
Nov	31,114		360,698		.57		93	
Dec	30,172		390,870		.53		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,
February 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
Fresh								
Quantity (000) lb	3,511	4,793	3,074	3,608	725	920	7,310	9,321
Price (\$ / lb)	1.56	1.31	2.67	2.42	1.81	1.69	2.06	1.78
Inventory(000) lb	380	335	365	510	110	123	855	968
Frozen								
Quantity(000) lb	1,707	2,121	4,795	6,053	3,301	3,605	9,803	11,779
Price (\$ / lb)	1.63	1.48	2.64	2.36	1.97	1.86	2.24	2.05
Inventory(000) lb	1,855	2,235	3,747	3,775	2,175	1,717	7,777	7,727

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 April 22, 1992.