

# CATFISH



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## CATFISH PROCESSING UP 27 PERCENT

The domestic production of farm-raised catfish processed during April 1980 totaled 3.83 million pounds roundweight (live weight), up 27 percent from April 1979. The accumulated January - April 1980 production totaled 16.3 million pounds, a 17 percent increase from the corresponding period of 1979.

Net pounds sold during April 1980 was 2.51 million, 29 percent more than the 1.94 million pounds sold during April 1979. Ice pack sales of 1.42 million pounds was 57 percent of the total amount sold during April.

Freshwater catfish imports during March 1980 totaled 1.17 million pounds, of which 89 percent was received from Brazil. March imports increased 83 percent from March 1979, but declined 23 percent from February 1980. Import data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Operation Price Watch retail price index for fish in April 1980 declined slightly from the previous month. The fish price index declined just 0.1 percent from March, and was 10.4 percent above a year earlier. Of the 17 canned and frozen products included in the index, 11 increased, 5 declined, and one was unchanged. Prices for Norway sardines, king crabmeat, canned solid white tuna, flounder fillets, and halibut steaks were substantially higher than in March 1980. However, the decline in prices for fish portions, breaded shrimp, ocean perch fillets, canned chunk light tuna, and cod fillets offset the increase.

Production data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

ConAgra  
Corbin Fish Farm  
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.  
Fish Breeders of Idaho  
King Kat, Inc.

Seminole Brand  
Welfed Catfish, Inc.  
Wilkinson, Friday & Kyser  
Processing Co.

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, PRODUCTION, INVENTORY, AND QUANTITY SOLD

MONTH	ROUND WEIGHT PROCESSED 1/		CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION 1/		1980 2/		QUANTITY SOLD		
	1979	1980	1979	1980	ENDING INVENTORY	CHANGE IN INVENTORY	ICE PACK	FROZEN	TOTAL
	THOUSAND POUNDS								
JAN	3,032	3,530	3,032	3,530	969.6	56.9-	1,265	933	2,198
FEB	3,929	4,892	6,961	8,422	1,065.0	95.4+	1,680	1,134	2,814
MAR	4,010	4,060	10,971	12,482	1,070.9	5.9+	1,550	985	2,535
APR	3,025	3,829	13,996	16,311	907.3	163.6-	1,424	1,083	2,507
MAY	3,716		17,712						
JUN	3,081		20,793						
JUL	3,138		23,931						
AUG	3,978		27,909						
SEP	3,417		31,326						
OCT	3,531		34,857						
NOV	3,000		37,857						
DEC	2,779		40,636						

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, PRICE

MONTH	1980				WEIGHTED AVERAGE
	WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE		PRICES PAID 3/		
	F.O.B. PLANT		RANGE		
ICE PACK	FROZEN				
DOLLARS PER POUND					
JAN	1.53	1.61	.60-.78		.65
FEB	1.56	1.69	.60-.80		.69
MAR	1.61	1.73	.65-.80		.69
APR	1.61	1.74	.65-.92		.69
MAY					
JUN					
JUL					
AUG					
SEP					
OCT					
NOV					
DEC					

1/ TOTAL LIVE WEIGHT OF FISH DELIVERED FOR PROCESSING. 2/ DRESSED WEIGHT. 3/ PRICES PAID TO FARMERS, HARVESTED, AT PLANT SITE.