

Catfish



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

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Catfish Processing Up 13 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during November totaled 35.1 million pounds round weight, up 13 percent from November 1991. The January through November 1992 cumulative total of round weight processed, at 424 million pounds, was up 17 percent from the same period the previous year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during November totaled 16.8 million pounds, an increase of 9 percent from the comparable month in 1991. Sales of whole fish represented 29 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 50 percent. The remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 43 percent of the total amount sold.

The November average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.33 per pound for ice pack and \$1.60 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during October totaled 187 thousand pounds, compared with 974 thousand pounds the previous year. Seventy-nine percent of the imports were from Brazil and 18 percent were from Mexico. Exports totaled 23.3 thousand pounds for October, of which 87 percent 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	Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.
Amite River Industries	Harvest Select
Aqua Farm Catfish Inc.	Kueter's Lake
Arkansas Prime	La Louision
Cargill Fisheries Products	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	*Limestone Fish Processors
Confish Inc.	*NAIAD Inc.
Corbin Fish Farm	Pisces
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.	Pride of the Pond
Dorey Fish Co.	Prime Line Catfish Co.
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.	Saul's Fish Processors
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Seabrook Seafood Inc.
Florida Aquaculture Processors	Simmons Farm-Raised
Franklin Catfish	Southern Pride
Freshwater Farms, Inc.	Southfresh Farms
*Estimated	

For information, call Joel Moore at (202) 720-3244. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

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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	201
Mar	35,951	45,048	101,193	120,476	.69	.60	93	243
Apr	31,205	41,177	132,398	161,653	.69	.63	641	233
May	31,322	39,111	163,720	200,764	.66	.63	184	392
Jun	31,588	36,813	195,308	237,577	.65	.61	484	100
Jul	32,720	36,128	228,028	273,705	.63	.59	723	344
Aug	32,912	37,958	260,940	311,663	.60	.58	621	169
Sep	33,244	37,857	294,184	349,520	.59	.59	80	307
Oct	35,400	39,212	329,584	388,732	.58	.61	974	187
Nov	31,114	35,073	360,698	423,805	.57	.62	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,
November 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	3,454	3,522	2,795	2,924	724	726	6,973	7,172
Price (\$ / lb)	1.29	1.33	2.46	2.48	1.74	1.83	1.81	1.85
Inventory(000) lb	285	352	406	398	78	90	769	840
Frozen								
Quantity(000) lb	1,465	1,402	4,525	5,398	2,523	2,842	8,513	9,642
Price (\$ / lb)	1.52	1.60	2.43	2.44	1.84	1.94	2.10	2.17
Inventory(000) lb	2,215	1,456	4,284	4,783	2,514	3,500	9,013	9,739

1/ Dressed weight, (head, viscera, 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 January 21, 1993.