
Catfish



National
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Statistics
Service

Fact Finding
for Agriculture

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Statistics
Board

Washington, D.C.

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CATFISH PROCESSING UP 10 PERCENT

Farm-raised catfish processed during December totaled 22.6 million pounds round weight, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board, up 10 percent from December 1987.

The December average price paid to growers was 78 cents per pound, 14 cents above the same month last year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during December totaled 10.5 million pounds, 1 percent above the comparable month in 1987. 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 45 percent of the total amount sold.

The December average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.59 per pound for ice pack and \$1.75 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during November totaled 388 thousand pounds, 87 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were sharply 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 Catfish
Aquaculture Products	King Kat, Inc.
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	Kueter's Lake
Cole Foods, Inc.	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Corbin Fish Farm	Limestone Fish Processors
Country Fresh Catch	Louisiana Catfish, Inc.
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 Catfish
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	U. S. Fish Corp.

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, 1987-88
 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		1987	1988	1987	1988
	1987	1988	1987	1988				
	THOUSAND POUNDS				DOLLARS PER POUND		THOUSAND POUNDS	
JAN	20,988	26,018	20,988	26,018	.60	.68	583	451
FEB	22,163	27,786	43,151	53,804	.57	.72	1,241	508
MAR	27,583	28,179	70,734	81,983	.59	.75	256	577
APR	26,781	20,805	97,515	102,788	.65	.75	1,012	217
MAY	21,623	20,351	119,138	123,139	.69	.75	688	1,015
JUN	19,581	22,839	138,719	145,978	.64	.78	301	26
JUL	21,638	23,687	160,357	169,665	.61	.80	624	724
AUG	24,403	26,941	184,760	196,606	.60	.80	570	414
SEP	26,577	24,611	211,337	221,217	.60	.79	622	669
OCT	27,920	26,221	239,257	247,438	.61	.79	642	674
NOV	20,684	25,037	259,941	272,475	.62	.78	76	388
DEC	20,555	22,634	280,496	295,109	.64	.78	464	

CATFISH PROCESSORS' SALES VOLUME, AVERAGE PRICE, AND ENDING INVENTORY,
 DECEMBER

ITEM	WHOLE FISH 3/		FILLET'S 4/		OTHER 5/		TOTAL	
	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988	1987	1988
	YEAR							
FRESH								
QUANTITY (000) LB:	3,142	2,546	1,539	1,776	342	371	5,023	4,693
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.41	1.59	2.56	2.73	1.57	1.56	1.77	2.02
INVENTORY(000) LB:	190	180	110	179	20	52	320	411
FROZEN								
QUANTITY(000) LB:	1,180	1,017	2,655	3,025	1,504	1,761	5,339	5,803
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.52	1.75	2.51	2.72	1.93	1.77	2.13	2.26
INVENTORY(000) LB:	1,330	1,666	2,112	4,706	1,526	2,065	4,970	8,437

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 FILLET'S; EXCLUDES ANY BREADED PRODUCT. 5/ INCLUDES ALL PRODUCTS NOT ALREADY REPORTED, INCLUDING WEIGHT OF BREADING AND ADDED INGREDIENTS.

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