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# Catfish



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service  
Fact Finding  
for Agriculture

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
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Board

Washington, D.C.

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## CATFISH PROCESSING DOWN 7 PERCENT

Farm-raised catfish processed during September totaled 24.6 million pounds round weight, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board, down 7 percent from September 1987.

The September average price paid to growers was 79 cents per pound, 19 cents above the same month last year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during September totaled 12.3 million pounds, 9 percent below the comparable month in 1987. Sales of whole fish represented 35 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 43 percent. The remaining 22 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 42 percent of the total amount sold.

The September average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.70 per pound for ice pack and \$1.85 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during August totaled 414 thousand pounds, 97 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were 27 percent below 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:

|                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aquaculture Products            | Humphreys Co. Catfish     |
| Amite River Industries          | King Catfish              |
| Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc. | King Kat, Inc.            |
| Corbin Fish Farm                | Kueter's Lake             |
| Country Skillet (Con Agra)      | Limestone Fish Processors |
| Crawford Catfish Acres          | Louisiana Catfish, Inc.   |
| Delta Catfish Processors        | Pisces                    |
| Dorey Fish Co.                  | Pond Fresh                |
| Farm Fresh Catfish Co.          | Pride of the Pond         |
| Franklin Catfish                | Prime Line Catfish Co.    |
| Fish Breeders of Idaho          | Simmons Farm-Raised       |
| Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc. | Southfresh Farms          |
| Gulf South Processors, Inc.     | Southern Pride Catfish    |
| U.S. Fish Corp.                 |                           |

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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                   |       |
| OCT   | 27,920                 |        | 239,257    |         | .61                                |      | 642                   |       |
| NOV   | 20,684                 |        | 259,941    |         | .62                                |      | 76                    |       |
| DEC   | 20,555                 |        | 280,496    |         | .64                                |      | 464                   |       |

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

| ITEM               | WHOLE FISH 3/ |       | FILLET'S 4/ |       | OTHER 5/ |       | TOTAL |       |
|--------------------|---------------|-------|-------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|
|                    | 1987          | 1988  | 1987        | 1988  | 1987     | 1988  | 1987  | 1988  |
| FRESH              |               |       |             |       |          |       |       |       |
| QUANTITY (000) LB: | 3,995         | 2,886 | 1,862       | 1,890 | 430      | 357   | 6,287 | 5,133 |
| PRICE (\$ / LB)    | 1.42          | 1.70  | 2.50        | 2.87  | 1.57     | 1.76  | 1.75  | 2.13  |
| INVENTORY(000) LB: | 312           | 179   | 254         | 209   | 37       | 43    | 603   | 431   |
| FROZEN             |               |       |             |       |          |       |       |       |
| QUANTITY(000) LB:  | 1,553         | 1,370 | 3,187       | 3,447 | 2,467    | 2,359 | 7,207 | 7,176 |
| PRICE (\$ / LB)    | 1.54          | 1.85  | 2.49        | 2.84  | 1.97     | 1.97  | 2.11  | 2.36  |
| INVENTORY(000) LB: | 835           | 562   | 1,359       | 2,400 | 738      | 2,470 | 2,932 | 5,432 |

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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