

Catfish



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Washington, D.C.

Released May 21, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to April 1992 and March 1992.

Catfish Processing Up 32 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during April totaled 41.2 million pounds round weight, up 32 percent from April 1991.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during April totaled 19.9 million pounds, an increase of 25 percent from the comparable month in 1991. Sales of whole fish represented 32 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 47 percent. The remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 42 percent of the total amount sold.

The April average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.36 per pound for ice pack and \$1.62 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during April totaled 243 thousand pounds, 64 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were considerably above the previous year. Exports totaled 2.43 thousand pounds for March, all which were to Mexico. 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.
Confish Inc.	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 Joel Moore (202) 720-3244. 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	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	
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,
April 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
	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year
Fresh								
Quantity (000) lb	3,236	4,156	2,979	3,426	703	877	6,918	8,459
Price (\$ / lb)	1.53	1.36	2.68	2.50	1.85	2.01	2.06	1.89
Inventory(000) lb	309	479	275	543	57	107	641	1,129
Frozen								
Quantity(000) lb	1,704	2,303	4,490	5,916	2,802	3,245	8,996	11,464
Price (\$ / lb)	1.62	1.62	2.63	2.50	2.01	2.05	2.24	2.19
Inventory(000) lb	2,022	3,067	3,906	3,544	2,353	2,365	8,281	8,976

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 June 22, 1992.