

Catfish



National
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Catfish Processing Up 14 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during September totaled 37.9 million pounds round weight, up 14 percent from September 1991.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during September totaled 19.5 million pounds, an increase of 17 percent from the comparable month in 1991. Sales of whole fish represented 30 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 50 percent. The remaining 20 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 44 percent of the total amount sold.

The September average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.30 per pound for ice pack and \$1.49 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during August totaled 169 thousand pounds, compared with 621 thousand pounds the previous year. Seventy-six percent of the imports were from Brazil and 16 percent were from Mexico. Exports totaled 46.9 thousand pounds for August, of which 41 percent were to Germany, 36 percent to Japan, and 23 percent to the United Kingdom. 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 Louisiana
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 (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		Imports	
	Monthly		Cumulative		Paid to		of	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	Producers 1/	1991	1992	Catfish 2/
	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	
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,
September 1991-92

Item	Whole Fish 1/		Fillets 2/		Other 3/		Total	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
Fresh								
Quantity (000) lb	3,577	4,164	3,036	3,507	667	850	7,280	8,521
Price (\$ / lb)	1.39	1.30	2.52	2.44	1.80	1.75	1.90	1.81
Inventory(000) lb	444	347	336	398	65	106	845	851
Frozen								
Quantity(000) lb	1,589	1,728	4,982	6,185	2,846	3,066	9,417	10,979
Price (\$ / lb)	1.59	1.49	2.49	2.43	1.84	1.82	2.14	2.11
Inventory(000) lb	1,750	1,496	3,788	3,838	2,452	2,736	7,990	8,070

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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