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# Catfish



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service  
Fact Finding  
for Agriculture

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Statistics  
Board

Washington, D.C.

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RELEASED: June 21, 1989  
3:00 P.M. ET

## CATFISH PROCESSING UP 42 PERCENT

Farm-raised catfish processed during May totaled 28.9 million pounds round weight, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board, up 42 percent from May 1988.

The May average price paid to growers was 76 cents per pound, 1 cent above the same month last year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during May totaled 14.8 million pounds, 25 percent above the comparable month in 1988. Sales of whole fish represented 35 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 47 percent. The remaining 18 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 48 percent of the total amount sold.

The May average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.57 per pound for ice pack and \$1.72 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during April totaled 417 thousand pounds, 90 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were up significantly from 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 Kat, Inc.
Aquaculture Products	Kueter's Lake
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Cole Foods, Inc.	Limestone Fish Processors
Corbin Fish Farm	Louisiana Catfish, Inc.
Country Fresh Catch	Pisces
Country Skillet (Con Agra)	Pond Fresh
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.	Pride of the Pond
Dillons Fresh Catfish	Prime Line Catfish Co.
Dorey Fish Co.	Red-Ark (Aqua Farms)
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.	Simmons Farm-Raised
Franklin Catfish	Southfresh Farms
Freshwater Farms, Inc.	Southern Pride Catfish
Fish Breeders of Idaho	U. S Fish Corp.
Guidry Catfish Processors Inc.	

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, 1988-89  
 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		1988	1989	1988	1989
	1988	1989	1988	1989				
THOUSAND POUNDS				DOLLARS PER POUND		THOUSAND POUNDS		
JAN	26,018	26,948	26,018	26,948	.68	.78	451	588
FEB	27,786	28,559	53,804	55,507	.72	.78	508	117
MAR	28,179	29,458	81,983	84,965	.75	.77	577	795
APR	20,805	27,310	102,788	112,275	.75	.76	217	417
MAY	20,351	28,892	123,139	141,167	.75	.76	1,015	
JUN	22,839		145,978		.78		26	
JUL	23,687		169,665		.80		724	
AUG	26,941		196,606		.80		414	
SEP	24,611		221,217		.79		669	
OCT	26,221		247,438		.79		674	
NOV	25,037		272,475		.78		388	
DEC	22,634		295,109		.78		182	

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

ITEM	WHOLE FISH 3/		FILLET'S 4/		OTHER 5/		TOTAL	
	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989
FRESH								
QUANTITY (000) LB:	2,868	3,706	1,807	2,741	410	610	5,085	7,057
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.73	1.57	2.83	2.68	1.77	1.79	2.12	2.02
INVENTORY(000) LB:	210	321	145	301	49	78	404	700
FROZEN								
QUANTITY(000) LB:	1,416	1,508	3,276	4,162	2,063	2,065	6,755	7,735
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.75	1.72	2.79	2.65	2.14	2.06	2.29	2.31
INVENTORY(000) LB:	782	1,787	844	3,314	1,498	1,588	3,124	6,689

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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