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# Catfish



National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

Fact Finding  
for Agriculture  
Since 1863

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Statistics  
Board

Washington, D.C.

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

## CATFISH PROCESSING UP 17 PERCENT

Farm-raised catfish processed during July totaled 27.8 million pounds round weight, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board, up 17 percent from July 1988.

The July average price paid to growers was 71 cents per pound, 9 cents below the same month last year.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during July totaled 14.6 million pounds, 23 percent above the comparable month in 1988. Sales of whole fish represented 35 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 46 percent. The remaining 19 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 48 percent of the total amount sold.

The July average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.50 per pound for ice pack and \$1.68 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during June totaled 584 thousand pounds, 84 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were significantly 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 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.	

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\* The next issue of this report will be published \*  
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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	952
JUN	22,839	27,598	145,978	168,765	.78	.75	26	584
JUL	23,687	27,827	169,665	196,592	.80	.71	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,  
 JULY

ITEM	WHOLE FISH 3/		FILLETS 4/		OTHER 5/		TOTAL	
	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989	1988	1989
FRESH								
QUANTITY (000) LB:	2,682	3,546	1,754	2,749	427	698	4,863	6,993
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.73	1.50	2.87	2.63	1.80	1.83	2.15	1.97
INVENTORY (000) LB:	181	315	230	336	66	79	477	730
FROZEN								
QUANTITY (000) LB:	1,563	1,561	3,489	3,893	1,904	2,126	6,956	7,580
PRICE (\$ / LB)	1.84	1.68	2.83	2.61	2.13	2.04	2.41	2.26
INVENTORY (000) LB:	652	1,425	1,323	2,928	1,791	1,368	3,766	5,721

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