

# CATFISH

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MAY 1980

## CATFISH PROCESSING UP 9 PERCENT

The domestic production of farm-raised catfish processed during May 1980 totaled 4.05 million pounds roundweight (live weight), up 9 percent from May 1979. The accumulated January - May 1980 production totaled 20.4 million pounds, a 15 percent increase from the corresponding period of 1979.

Net pounds sold during May 1980 was 2.49 million, 7 percent more than the 2.32 million pounds sold during May 1979. Ice pack sales of 1.40 million pounds was 56 percent of the total amount sold during May.

Freshwater catfish imports during April 1980 totaled 1.05 million pounds, of which 84 percent was received from Brazil. April imports decreased 59 percent from April 1979, and 11 percent from March 1980. Import data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Operation Price Watch retail price index for fish, meat, and poultry in May were all lower than in the previous month. The fish price index declined 0.3 percent from April 1980, but was 7.7 percent higher than a year earlier. Of the 17 frozen and canned products included in the fish price index, 10 increased, while 7 declined. Prices for fillets of turbot and whiting and most canned fish (tuna, salmon, and sardines) were substantially higher than in April. Declines in prices of king crabmeat; halibut steaks; fillets of flounder, haddock, and ocean perch; and fish sticks and portions offset the increases.

Production data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

ConAgra  
Corbin Fish Farm  
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.  
Fish Breeders of Idaho  
King Kat, Inc.

Seminole Brand  
Welfed Catfish, Inc.  
Wilkinson, Friday & Kyser  
Processing Co.

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, PRODUCTION, INVENTORY, AND QUANTITY SOLD

MONTH	ROUND WEIGHT PROCESSED 1/		CUMULATIVE PRODUCTION 1/		1980 2/				
	1979	1980	1979	1980	ENDING INVENTORY	CHANGE IN INVENTORY	QUANTITY SOLD		
							ICE PACK	FROZEN	TOTAL
THOUSAND POUNDS									
JAN	3,032	3,530	3,032	3,530	969.6	56.9-	1,265	933	2,198
FEB	3,929	4,892	6,961	8,422	1,065.0	95.4+	1,680	1,134	2,814
MAR	4,010	4,060	10,971	12,482	1,070.9	5.9+	1,550	985	2,535
APR	3,025	3,829	13,996	16,311	907.3	163.6-	1,424	1,083	2,507
MAY	3,716	4,045	17,712	20,356	858.3	49.0-	1,398	1,089	2,487
JUN	3,081		20,793						
JUL	3,138		23,931						
AUG	3,978		27,909						
SEP	3,417		31,326						
OCT	3,531		34,857						
NOV	3,000		37,857						
DEC	2,779		40,636						

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, PRICE

MONTH	1980			
	WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE		PRICES PAID 3/	
	F.O.B. PLANT		RANGE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
ICE PACK	FROZEN			
DOLLARS PER POUND				
JAN	1.53	1.61	.60-.78	.65
FEB	1.56	1.69	.60-.80	.69
MAR	1.61	1.73	.65-.80	.69
APR	1.61	1.74	.65-.92	.69
MAY	1.63	1.76	.65-.92	.69
JUN				
JUL				
AUG				
SEP				
OCT				
NOV				
DEC				

1/ TOTAL LIVE WEIGHT OF FISH DELIVERED FOR PROCESSING. 2/ DRESSED WEIGHT. 3/ PRICES PAID TO FARMERS, HARVESTED, AT PLANT SITE.