

Catfish



**National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service**

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Washington, D.C.

Released November 18, 1991, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to October 1991.

Catfish Processing up 21 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during October totaled 35.4 million pounds round weight, up 21 percent from October 1990.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during October totaled 18.5 million pounds, an increase of 22 percent from the comparable month in 1990. 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 45 percent of the total amount sold.

The October average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.31 per pound for ice pack and \$1.55 for frozen fish.

Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

America's Catch	Kueter's Lake
American Freshwater Farms	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Amite River Industries	La Louision
Blue Waters Catfish Processors	Limestone Fish Processors
Cargill Fisheries Products	Low Country Aquaculture
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	NAIAD Inc.
Corbin Fish Farm	Pisces
Country Skillet (ConAgra)	Pond Fresh
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.	Simmons Farm-Raised
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Southfresh Farms
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	Southern Pride

For information, call Ron Sitzman (202) 720-3244. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

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Farm - Raised Catfish, 1990-91
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		1990	1991	1990	1991
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
	----- Thousand Pounds -----				Dollars Per Pound		(000) Pounds	
Jan	33,066	32,206	33,066	32,206	.72	.69	115	355
Feb	31,884	33,036	64,950	65,242	.74	.69	553	344
Mar	33,120	35,951	98,070	101,193	.78	.69	322	93
Apr	30,980	31,205	129,050	132,398	.78	.69	48	641
May	31,542	31,322	160,592	163,720	.78	.66	618	184
Jun	28,967	31,588	189,559	195,308	.78	.65	342	484
Jul	29,540	32,720	219,099	228,028	.76	.63	406	723
Aug	31,108	32,912	250,207	260,940	.76	.60	362	621
Sep	27,566	33,244	277,773	294,184	.76	.59	619	3/
Oct	29,211	35,400	306,984	329,584	.76	.58	33	
Nov	27,913		334,897		.75		381	
Dec	25,538		360,435		.72		226	

^{1/} Price for fish delivered to Processing Plant door. ^{2/} Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census. ^{3/} Data not available at publication time.

Catfish Processors' Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending Inventory,
October

Item	Whole Fish ^{1/}		Fillets ^{2/}		Other ^{3/}		Total	
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
Fresh								
Quantity (000) lb	3,106	4,155	2,941	3,358	642	830	6,689	8,343
Price (\$ / lb)	1.62	1.31	2.74	2.49	1.86	1.77	2.14	1.83
Inventory(000) lb	314	396	326	407	104	81	744	884
Frozen								
Quantity(000) lb	1,524	1,791	4,581	5,419	2,418	2,993	8,523	10,203
Price (\$ / lb)	1.68	1.55	2.70	2.44	2.00	1.94	2.32	2.14
Inventory(000) lb	1,908	1,862	3,138	3,717	2,171	2,408	7,217	7,987

^{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 December 19, 1991.