

CATFISH



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October 1980

CATFISH PROCESSING UP 22 PERCENT

The domestic production of farm-raised catfish processed during October 1980 totaled 4.31 million pounds roundweight (live weight), an increase of 22 percent from October 1979 and 13 percent above September 1980. The accumulated January - October 1980 production totaled 39.3 million pounds, a 13 percent increase for the same period a year ago.

Net pounds sold during October were 2.36 million, 15 percent above the 2.06 million pounds sold during October 1979. Ice pack sales of 1.22 million pounds were 51 percent of the monthly sales.

Freshwater catfish imports during September 1980 totaled 1.42 million pounds, of which 93 percent were received from Brazil and the remaining 7 percent from Greenland. September imports were 60 percent above September 1979, but 41 percent below August 1980. Import data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Operation Price Watch retail price index for fish declined 0.6 percent from September but was 5.2 percent above a year earlier. The primary explanation for the decline in fish prices was a 16-percent drop in halibut prices, otherwise the index would have increased slightly. Of the 17 frozen and canned products included in the index, 8 increased, 8 declined, and one was unchanged. Prices for whiting fillets, canned pink salmon, canned Maine sardines, haddock fillets, and fish portions were substantially higher in October compared with the previous month. Prices for halibut steaks, king crab meat, breaded shrimp, and ocean perch fillets recorded sizable declines in October.

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; 1979-80

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	3,596	20,793	23,952	917.2	58.9+	1,234	855	2,089
JUL	3,138	3,092	23,931	27,044	766.1	151.1-	1,110	1,144	2,254
AUG	3,978	4,116	27,909	31,160	741.4	24.7-	1,101	1,223	2,324
SEP	3,417	3,817	31,326	34,977	800.6	59.2+	1,093	1,090	2,183
OCT	3,531	4,310	34,857	39,287	1,060.1	259.5+	1,215	1,148	2,363
NOV	3,000		37,857						
DEC	2,779		40,636						

FARM - RAISED CATFISH, PRICE, 1979-80

MONTH	WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE				PRICES PAID 3/				
	F.O.B. PLANT				RANGE	WEIGHTED AVERAGE			
	ICE PACK		FROZEN			1979	1980		
DOLLARS PER POUND									
JAN	1.27	1.53	1.33	1.61	.60-.78	.52	.65		
FEB	1.31	1.56	1.39	1.69	.60-.80	.55	.69		
MAR	1.34	1.61	1.44	1.73	.65-.80	.58	.69		
APR	1.41	1.61	1.49	1.74	.65-.92	.60	.69		
MAY	1.47	1.63	1.50	1.76	.65-.92	.60	.69		
JUN	1.46	1.62	1.53	1.75	.65-.92	.63	.68		
JUL	1.51	1.63	1.62	1.76	.65-.92	.65	.69		
AUG	1.51	1.62	1.63	1.75	.65-.92	.65	.68		
SEP	1.48	1.58	1.59	1.71	.65-.92	.65	.67		
OCT	1.47	1.62	1.59	1.72	.65-.92	.65	.66		
NOV	1.50		1.60			.65			
DEC	1.50		1.60			.65			

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