

# Catfish



National  
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Statistics  
Service

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Department of  
Agriculture

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Released April 22, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Estimates refer to March 1992 and February 1992.

## Catfish Processing Up 25 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during March totaled 45.0 million pounds round weight, up 25 percent from March 1991.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during March totaled 22.4 million pounds, an increase of 28 percent from the comparable month in 1991. Sales of whole fish represented 30 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 49 percent. The remaining 21 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 46 percent of the total amount sold.

The March average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.33 per pound for ice pack and \$1.54 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during February totaled 201 thousand pounds, considerably below the previous year. No exports were reported for February. Import and export data were compiled by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

America's Catch	Kueter's Lake
Amite River Industries	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Arkansas Prime	La Louision
Cargill Fisheries Products	Limestone Fish Processors
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	Low Country Aquaculture
Corbin Fish Farm	NAIAD Inc.
Country Skillet (ConAgra)	Pisces
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.	Seabrook Seafood Inc.
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Simmons Farm-Raised
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	Southfresh Farms
Harvest Select	Southern Pride

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

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Farm - Raised Catfish  
Quantity Processed and Prices Paid to Producers,  
Reported by Major Processors; and U.S. Imports, 1991-92

Month	Round Weight Processed				Average Price		Imports	
	Monthly		Cumulative		Paid to		of	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	1,000 Pounds				Dollars Per Pound		(000) Pounds	
Jan	32,206	36,200	32,206	36,200	.69	.53	355	237
Feb	33,036	39,228	65,242	75,428	.69	.56	344	201
Mar	35,951	45,048	101,193	120,476	.69	.60	93	
Apr	31,205		132,398		.69		641	
May	31,322		163,720		.66		184	
Jun	31,588		195,308		.65		484	
Jul	32,720		228,028		.63		723	
Aug	32,912		260,940		.60		621	
Sep	33,244		294,184		.59		80	
Oct	35,400		329,584		.58		974	
Nov	31,114		360,698		.57		93	
Dec	30,172		390,870		.53		594	

1/ Price for fish delivered to Processing Plant door. 2/ Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Catfish Processors' Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending Inventory,  
March 1991-92

Item	Whole Fish 1/		Fillets 2/		Other 3/		Total	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
<b>Fresh</b>								
Quantity (000) lb	3,430	4,928	3,283	4,316	818	978	7,531	10,222
Price (\$ / lb)	1.54	1.33	2.66	2.48	1.80	1.77	2.06	1.86
Inventory (000) lb	308	627	393	631	102	155	803	1,413
<b>Frozen</b>								
Quantity (000) lb	1,701	1,833	5,316	6,615	2,988	3,755	10,005	12,203
Price (\$ / lb)	1.62	1.54	2.63	2.45	1.96	1.97	2.26	2.16
Inventory (000) lb	2,018	2,665	4,079	3,244	2,359	1,700	8,456	7,609

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 May 21, 1992.