

Catfish



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Catfish Processing Up 15 Percent

Farm-raised catfish processed during August totaled 38.0 million pounds round weight, up 15 percent from August 1991.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during August totaled 19.6 million pounds, an increase of 9 percent from the comparable month in 1991. Sales of whole fish represented 31 percent of the total and fillets accounted for 49 percent. The remaining 20 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products. Ice pack sales were 43 percent of the total amount sold.

The August average prices received by processors for whole fish were \$1.31 per pound for ice pack and \$1.52 for frozen fish.

Freshwater catfish imports during July totaled 344 thousand pounds, 77 percent of which were from Brazil. Imports were 52 percent below the previous year. Exports totaled 2.09 thousand pounds for July, all which were to Mexico. 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	Harvest Select
Amite River Industries	Kueter's Lake
Arkansas Prime	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc.
Aqua Farm Catfish Inc.	La Louision
Cargill Fisheries Products	Limestone Fish Processors
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	Low Country Aquaculture
*Corbin Fish Farm	NAIAD Inc.
Confish Inc.	Pisces
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc.	Pride of the Pond
Dorey Fish Co.	Prime Line Catfish Co.
Farm Fresh Catfish Co.	Sauls Fish Processors
Franklin Catfish	Seabrook Seafood Inc.
Freshwater Farms, Inc.	Simmons Farm-Raised
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Southfresh Farms
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	Southern Pride

* Estimated

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

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	Producers <u>1/</u>		Catfish <u>2/</u>	
	----- 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	243
Apr	31,205	41,177	132,398	161,653	.69	.63	641	233
May	31,322	39,111	163,720	200,764	.66	.63	184	392
Jun	31,588	36,813	195,308	237,577	.65	.61	484	100
Jul	32,720	36,128	228,028	273,705	.63	.59	723	344
Aug	32,912	37,958	260,940	311,663	.60	.58	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,
August 1991-92

Item	Whole Fish <u>1/</u>		Fillets <u>2/</u>		Other <u>3/</u>		Total	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
Fresh								
Quantity (000) lb	3,623	4,223	3,385	3,408	603	847	7,611	8,478
Price (\$ / lb)	1.44	1.31	2.51	2.46	1.90	1.77	1.95	1.82
Inventory(000) lb	328	274	395	677	38	173	761	1,124
Frozen								
Quantity(000) lb	1,879	1,751	5,797	6,217	2,606	3,113	10,282	11,081
Price (\$ / lb)	1.58	1.52	2.43	2.43	1.79	1.90	2.11	2.14
Inventory(000) lb	1,686	1,711	3,842	3,304	2,135	2,380	7,663	7,395

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 October 21, 1992.