



# Catfish Production

ISSN: 1948-271X

---

Released January 28, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## **Catfish Value of Sales Down 20 Percent from 2011**

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 341 million dollars during 2012, down 20 percent from 423 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas) accounted for 95 percent of the United States total sales. The United States total foodsize sales of 319 million dollars decreased by 18 percent from the previous year. Sales of stockers totaled 10.8 million dollars in 2012, compared to 17.1 million dollars in 2011. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 10.9 million dollars, down 25 percent from 2011.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 96 percent of total foodsize fish sales, up 1 percent from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 93 percent of stocker sales compared with 73 percent in 2011.

## **Water Surface Acres Down 7 Percent from January 1, 2012**

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2013, totaled 83.0 thousand acres, down 7 percent from the 89.4 thousand acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 2.07 thousand are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2013. An additional 85 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2013. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2012, the area taken out of production totaled 5.29 thousand acres. As of January 1, 2013, foodsize fish were produced on 65.6 thousand acres, fingerling-producing acres totaled 12.7 thousand, and 2.18 thousand acres were being used for broodfish production.

## **Inventory Numbers**

Catfish producers had 540 thousand broodfish on hand January 1, 2013, down 4 percent from January 1, 2012. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 5.2 million on January 1, 2013, a 43 percent increase from a year ago. The number of medium foodsize fish decreased 10 percent to 58.0 million, while small foodsize fish numbers decreased 8 percent to 104 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2013, at 127 million fish, were down 23 percent from the previous year. Small stocker numbers decreased 29 percent to 212 million. There were 399 million fingerlings on hand January 1, 2013, down 12 percent from January 1, 2012.

**Number of Catfish Operations, Water Surface Acres Used for Production, and Total Sales – States and United States: 2011-2013**

State	Number of operations on January 1 <sup>1</sup>		Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2011	2012
	(number)	(number)	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama .....	(NA)	(NA)	18,500	18,200	132,782	110,581
Arkansas .....	(NA)	(NA)	9,700	8,200	33,452	22,006
California .....	(NA)	(NA)	1,600	1,300	8,535	6,629
Louisiana .....	(NA)	(NA)	890	320	2,610	1,081
Mississippi .....	(NA)	(NA)	51,200	48,600	215,134	175,366
North Carolina .....	(NA)	(NA)	1,600	1,500	5,539	5,701
Texas .....	(NA)	(NA)	2,800	2,200	19,896	14,433
Other States <sup>2</sup> .....	(NA)	(NA)	3,100	2,700	5,257	4,767
United States .....	718	624	89,390	83,020	423,205	340,564

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> State level number of operations will only be published every five years in conjunction with the Census of Agriculture.

<sup>2</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

**Catfish Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2011-2013**

State	Acres intended for utilization during January 1 - June 30										Acres taken out of production during July 1 - December 31	
	Foodsize		Fingerlings		Broodfish		Currently under or scheduled for:					
							Renovation		New construction			
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2011	2012
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama .....	17,800	17,700	430	420	130	55	510	175	(D)	-	200	650
Arkansas .....	7,200	6,200	1,900	1,600	200	270	320	120	-	-	1,200	1,100
California .....	1,100	950	240	180	85	80	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana .....	890	320	-	-	-	-	(D)	(D)	-	-	480	(D)
Mississippi .....	39,300	36,300	9,600	9,100	1,500	1,400	1,700	1,300	85	-	700	3,000
North Carolina .....	1,400	1,100	(D)	290	(D)	(D)	75	60	(D)	(D)	15	(D)
Texas .....	2,500	2,000	105	50	65	65	90	(D)	40	(D)	210	170
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,300	1,000	1,455	1,100	260	310	385	415	295	85	150	370
United States .....	71,490	65,570	13,730	12,740	2,240	2,180	3,080	2,070	420	85	2,955	5,290

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

### Catfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2012 (1,000)	2013 (1,000)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2013 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (pounds per fish)	2013 (pounds per fish)
<b>Large foodsize</b>						
Alabama .....	1,360	1,560	4,700	5,800	3.5	3.7
Arkansas .....	190	450	608	1,530	3.2	3.4
California .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana .....	(D)	20	(D)	69	(D)	3.5
Mississippi .....	1,210	2,450	4,100	8,400	3.4	3.4
North Carolina .....	135	(D)	487	(D)	3.6	(D)
Texas .....	290	270	993	970	3.4	3.6
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	410	405	1,477	1,319	3.6	3.3
United States .....	3,595	5,155	12,365	18,088	3.4	3.5
<b>Medium foodsize</b>						
Alabama .....	18,300	15,800	36,300	30,400	2.0	1.9
Arkansas .....	4,490	5,470	8,300	10,500	1.8	1.9
California .....	230	(D)	449	(D)	2.0	(D)
Louisiana .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi .....	33,400	31,800	61,000	60,700	1.8	1.9
North Carolina .....	1,080	1,470	1,990	2,650	1.8	1.8
Texas .....	5,780	2,550	11,000	5,200	1.9	2.0
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,460	925	2,530	1,820	1.7	2.0
United States .....	64,740	58,015	121,569	111,270	1.9	1.9
<b>Small foodsize</b>						
Alabama .....	31,800	27,800	32,200	27,800	1.0	1.0
Arkansas .....	8,410	7,080	8,150	7,450	1.0	1.1
California .....	(D)	1,650	(D)	1,460	(D)	0.9
Louisiana .....	1,560	(D)	1,130	(D)	0.7	(D)
Mississippi .....	65,700	62,200	65,900	61,800	1.0	1.0
North Carolina .....	2,150	(D)	2,050	(D)	1.0	(D)
Texas .....	1,140	2,380	1,290	2,900	1.1	1.2
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	2,210	2,410	2,030	2,523	0.9	1.0
United States .....	112,970	103,520	112,750	103,933	1.0	1.0
<b>Total foodsize</b>						
Alabama .....	51,460	45,160	73,200	64,000	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas .....	13,090	13,000	17,058	19,480	(NA)	(NA)
California .....	1,520	2,065	1,837	2,399	(NA)	(NA)
Louisiana .....	2,665	475	3,184	803	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi .....	100,310	96,450	131,000	130,900	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina .....	3,365	3,160	4,527	4,831	(NA)	(NA)
Texas .....	7,210	5,200	13,283	9,070	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,685	1,180	2,595	1,808	(NA)	(NA)
United States .....	181,305	166,690	246,684	233,291	(NA)	(NA)

See footnote(s) at end of table.

--continued

**Catfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013 (continued)**

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
	2012	2013	Total		Average	
			2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
<b>Large stockers</b>						
Alabama .....	49,600	33,200	17,300	13,200	349	398
Arkansas .....	11,000	14,100	4,100	5,450	373	387
California .....	(D)	1,110	(D)	361	(D)	325
Louisiana .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Mississippi .....	92,000	73,700	36,100	28,200	392	383
North Carolina .....	5,280	(D)	2,950	(D)	559	(D)
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	7,525	5,000	4,044	2,191	537	438
United States .....	165,405	127,110	64,494	49,402	390	389
<b>Small stockers</b>						
Alabama .....	126,000	38,100	12,100	3,500	96.0	91.9
Arkansas .....	42,100	31,900	3,700	3,100	87.9	97.2
California .....	(D)	1,490	(D)	139	(D)	93.3
Louisiana .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi .....	118,000	132,000	11,900	12,100	100.8	91.7
North Carolina .....	7,960	(D)	1,160	(D)	145.7	(D)
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	4,020	8,660	369	990	91.8	114.3
United States .....	298,080	212,150	29,229	19,829	98.1	93.5
<b>Total stockers</b>						
Alabama .....	175,600	71,300	29,400	16,700	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas .....	53,100	46,000	7,800	8,550	(NA)	(NA)
California .....	(D)	2,600	(D)	500	(NA)	(NA)
Louisiana .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi .....	210,000	205,700	48,000	40,300	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina .....	13,240	8,240	4,110	2,162	(NA)	(NA)
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	11,545	5,420	4,413	1,019	(NA)	(NA)
United States .....	463,485	339,260	93,723	69,231	(NA)	(NA)
<b>Fingerlings</b>						
Alabama .....	38,100	16,600	1,120	568	29.4	34.2
Arkansas .....	42,000	39,400	1,570	1,490	37.4	37.8
California .....	3,710	4,400	110	97	29.6	22.0
Louisiana .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi .....	332,000	299,000	10,400	7,350	31.3	24.6
North Carolina .....	7,090	8,350	197	182	27.8	21.8
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	28,200	30,760	644	716	22.8	23.3
United States .....	451,100	398,510	14,041	10,403	31.1	26.1

See footnote(s) at end of table.

--continued

**Catfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013 (continued)**

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2012 (1,000)	2013 (1,000)	2012 (1,000 pounds)	2013 (1,000 pounds)	2012 (pounds per fish)	2013 (pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama .....	15	10	52	47	3.5	4.7
Arkansas .....	70	40	266	206	3.8	5.2
California .....	15	10	95	69	6.3	6.9
Louisiana .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi .....	380	400	1,930	2,250	5.1	5.6
North Carolina .....	7	(D)	68	(D)	9.7	(D)
Texas .....	15	10	63	47	4.2	4.7
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	60	70	337	297	5.6	4.2
United States .....	562	540	2,811	2,916	5.0	5.4

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

### Catfish Sales by Size Category – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
<b>Foodsize</b>										
Alabama .....	62,300	64,700	119,200	122,600	1.9	1.9	132,312	110,340	1.11	0.90
Arkansas .....	14,800	11,300	25,500	20,000	1.7	1.8	26,775	17,400	1.05	0.87
California .....	1,360	1,260	2,850	2,150	2.1	1.7	8,379	6,472	2.94	3.01
Louisiana .....	1,810	570	2,250	756	1.2	1.3	2,610	1,081	1.16	1.43
Mississippi .....	107,000	117,000	173,900	174,800	1.6	1.5	193,029	160,816	1.11	0.92
North Carolina .....	2,970	2,940	5,200	5,200	1.8	1.8	5,408	5,668	1.04	1.09
Texas .....	10,400	7,700	16,900	12,700	1.6	1.6	19,266	14,224	1.14	1.12
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,240	1,160	2,200	1,960	1.8	1.7	2,970	2,783	1.35	1.42
United States .....	201,880	206,630	348,000	340,166	1.7	1.6	390,749	318,784	1.12	0.94
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
<b>Stockers</b>										
Alabama .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi .....	48,900	26,800	7,700	5,450	157	203	10,780	6,813	1.40	1.25
North Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas .....	25	40	6	7	240	175	12	11	1.95	1.59
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	27,760	25,675	4,069	2,938	147	114	6,312	3,926	1.55	1.34
United States .....	76,685	52,515	11,775	8,395	154	160	17,104	10,750	1.45	1.28
<b>Fingerlings and fry</b>										
Alabama .....	(D)	2,500	(D)	76	(D)	30.4	(D)	220	(D)	2.90
Arkansas .....	19,700	(D)	543	(D)	27.6	(D)	1,368	(D)	2.52	(D)
California .....	870	830	26	22	29.9	26.5	111	135	4.27	6.15
Louisiana .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi .....	216,000	217,000	8,800	6,200	40.7	28.6	11,000	7,688	1.25	1.24
North Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas .....	(D)	2,250	(D)	103	(D)	45.8	(D)	198	(D)	1.92
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	21,020	25,640	769	951	36.6	37.1	2,073	2,694	2.70	2.83
United States .....	257,590	248,220	10,138	7,352	39.4	29.6	14,552	10,935	1.44	1.49

See footnote(s) at end of table.

--continued

**Catfish Sales by Size Category – States and United States: 2011 and 2012 (continued)**

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
<b>Broodfish</b>										
Alabama .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Louisiana .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi .....	50	(D)	215	(D)	4.3	(D)	325	(D)	1.51	(D)
North Carolina .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas .....	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	105	15	348	77	3.3	5.1	475	95	1.36	1.23
United States .....	155	15	563	77	3.6	5.1	800	95	1.42	1.23

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

## Catfish, Foodsize and Stockers Percent Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2011 and 2012

[Point of First Sale by outlet may not add to 100 percent due to rounding]

Size category	Processors		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Retail outlets		Other outlets	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States .....	95.1	95.6	0.5	0.3	1.2	1.9	1.6	0.9	1.6	1.3
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Stocker	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States .....	73.2	93.0	3.0	1.6	17.7	5.4	6.0	-	-	0.1

- Represents zero.

### Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates

**Broodfish:** Fish kept for egg production, including males. Broodfish produce the fertilized eggs, which go to hatcheries. The most desirable size is 3 to 10 pounds or 4 to 6 years of age.

**Fingerlings:** Fish weighing 2 to 60 pounds per 1,000 fish or 2 to 6 inches in length.

**Foodsize (large):** Fish weighing over 3 pounds.

**Foodsize (medium):** Fish weighing over one and one-half pounds to 3 pounds.

**Foodsize (small):** Fish weighing over three-fourths of a pound to one and one-half pounds.

**Fry:** Fish weighing less than 2 pounds per 1,000 fish or less than 2 inches in length.

**Stocker (large):** Fish weighing over 180 pounds to 750 pounds per 1,000 fish.

**Stocker (small):** Fish weighing over 60 pounds to 180 pounds per 1,000 fish or over 6 inches in length.



## **Terms and Definitions Used to Describe Point of First Sale**

**Government Agencies:** Sales to Federal, State, or local government agencies for the purpose of stocking public waters.

**Live Hauler/Broker:** Sales made to an individual or company that generally purchases live fish from a producer and transports them in an oxygenated tank truck to other outlets.

**Other Outlets:** Sales to outlets not meeting one of the other defined outlets.

**Point of First Sale Outlet:** The first point at which money changes hands.

**Processors:** Sales made directly to a plant for processing.

**Recreational Stocking:** Only includes fish sold to individuals or private entities for the sole purpose of stocking recreational waters.

**Retail Outlets:** Fish sold directly to entities who buy fish to re-sell to consumers. Includes grocers, restaurants, and fish markets.

**Wholesale to Other Producers:** Fish sold to other producers for the intention of growing out for further sale at a later time.

## **Statistical Methodology**

**Survey Procedures:** Data for catfish production are collected from all known producers in the seven published states and a sample of producers from the remaining states. Individual NASS field offices maintain a list of all known catfish producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. Operators are mailed a questionnaire as close as possible to January 1 and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond by mail are telephoned or possibly enumerated in person during the middle of January.

**Estimation Procedures:** Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. NASS field offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

**Revision policy:** Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late or corrected data.

**Reliability:** In the seven published states, catfish production estimates are based on a census of all known active producers and therefore, have no sampling variability. However, since all operations in the other states category are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section .....	(202) 720-4447
Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised .....	(202) 690-3237
David Colwell – Cold Storage .....	(202) 720-8784
LaKeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Honey, Mink .....	(202) 720-0585
Dawn Keen – Egg Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs .....	(202) 690-8632
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery .....	(202) 720-3244

## Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.