



# Catfish Production

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## Catfish Value of Sales Up 6 percent from 2015

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 386 million dollars during 2016, up 6 percent from 364 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas) accounted for 96 percent of the United States total sales. The United States total foodsize sales of 363 million dollars increased by 5 percent from the previous year. Sales of stockers totaled 5.48 million dollars in 2016, compared to 8.88 million dollars in 2015. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 16.9 million dollars, up 9.10 million dollars from 2015.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94.2 percent of total foodsize fish sales, down 2 percent from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 78.0 percent of stocker sales compared to 82.9 percent in 2015.

## Water Surface Acres Down 4 Percent from January 1, 2016

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2017, totaled 60.8 thousand acres, down 4 percent from the 63.0 thousand acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 2.05 thousand are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2017. An additional 835 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2017. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2016, the area taken out of production totaled 2.73 thousand acres. As of January 1, 2017, foodsize fish were produced on 49.1 thousand acres, fingerling producing acres totaled 7.50 thousand, and 1.88 thousand acres were being used for broodfish production.

## Inventory Numbers

Catfish producers had 590 thousand broodfish on hand January 1, 2017, up 13 percent from January 1, 2016. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 3.56 million on January 1, 2017, up 1 percent from a year ago. The number of medium foodsize fish were up 12 percent to 51.5 million, while small foodsize fish numbers are down 31 percent to 69.6 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2017, at 96.4 million fish, were up 35 percent from the previous year. Small stocker numbers were up 45 percent to 196 million. There were 269 million fingerlings on hand January 1, 2017, down 14 percent from January 1, 2016.

**Catfish Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2015-2017**

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2016	2017	2015	2016
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama .....	15,000	15,000	108,866	119,989
Arkansas .....	5,000	5,000	18,456	19,086
California .....	1,400	1,300	5,774	5,230
Mississippi .....	36,100	34,400	201,450	213,372
North Carolina .....	1,300	1,200	3,878	4,164
Texas .....	2,000	1,900	18,123	17,722
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	2,240	1,990	7,063	6,422
United States .....	63,040	60,790	363,610	385,985

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

**Catfish Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2015-2017**

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:				2015	2016	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Renovation		New construction				
(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama .....	14,500	14,700	260	100	30	10	260	270	(D)	(D)	310	280	
Arkansas .....	3,300	3,300	1,400	1,200	230	180	270	180	20	(D)	175	400	
California .....	1,100	930	190	160	60	45	135	80	-	-	(D)	140	
Mississippi .....	26,700	26,300	6,200	5,400	1,300	1,400	2,300	1,400	65	600	710	1,300	
North Carolina .....	1,100	1,100	70	60	(D)	(D)	65	35	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	
Texas .....	1,800	1,700	80	65	100	65	140	50	(D)	(D)	690	320	
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,315	1,090	555	510	190	180	100	30	115	235	220	285	
United States .....	49,815	49,120	8,755	7,495	1,910	1,880	3,270	2,045	200	835	2,105	2,725	

- 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 Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017**

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2016 (1,000)	2017 (1,000)	2016 (1,000 pounds)	2017 (1,000 pounds)	2016 (pounds per fish)	2017 (pounds per fish)
<b>Large foodsize</b>						
Alabama .....	1,500	1,500	5,600	5,800	3.7	3.9
Arkansas .....	300	210	1,000	692	3.3	3.3
California .....	210	(D)	670	(D)	3.2	(D)
Mississippi .....	910	1,350	3,100	4,950	3.4	3.7
North Carolina .....	155	90	548	294	3.5	3.3
Texas .....	310	220	1,120	855	3.6	3.9
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	140	190	565	667	4.0	3.5
United States .....	3,525	3,560	12,603	13,258	3.6	3.7
<b>Medium foodsize</b>						
Alabama .....	13,100	13,400	25,300	27,200	1.9	2.0
Arkansas .....	2,660	2,570	4,850	4,700	1.8	1.8
California .....	770	590	2,100	1,060	2.7	1.8
Mississippi .....	23,100	28,700	41,700	50,700	1.8	1.8
North Carolina .....	860	710	1,650	1,200	1.9	1.7
Texas .....	4,910	5,240	9,600	10,700	2.0	2.0
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	505	300	990	594	2.0	2.0
United States .....	45,905	51,510	86,190	96,154	1.9	1.9
<b>Small foodsize</b>						
Alabama .....	24,900	22,500	25,300	23,700	1.0	1.1
Arkansas .....	4,380	3,620	4,300	3,500	1.0	1.0
California .....	1,540	(D)	1,380	(D)	0.9	(D)
Mississippi .....	65,400	38,300	64,800	39,400	1.0	1.0
North Carolina .....	1,950	1,640	2,350	1,590	1.2	1.0
Texas .....	1,850	1,100	1,690	1,040	0.9	0.9
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,100	2,450	1,080	2,243	1.0	0.9
United States .....	101,120	69,610	100,900	71,473	1.0	1.0
<b>Total foodsize</b>						
Alabama .....	39,500	37,400	56,200	56,700	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas .....	7,340	6,400	10,150	8,892	(NA)	(NA)
California .....	2,520	2,240	4,150	2,739	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi .....	89,410	68,350	109,600	95,050	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina .....	2,965	2,440	4,548	3,084	(NA)	(NA)
Texas .....	7,070	6,560	12,410	12,595	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,745	1,290	2,635	1,825	(NA)	(NA)
United States .....	150,550	124,680	199,693	180,885	(NA)	(NA)

(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, Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States:  
January 1, 2016 and 2017**

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(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 .....	22,000	34,400	11,100	11,900	505	346
Arkansas .....	7,500	7,280	2,400	2,600	320	357
California .....	(D)	360	(D)	117	(D)	325
Mississippi .....	37,100	48,200	11,700	19,800	315	411
North Carolina .....	1,980	4,100	1,090	2,300	551	561
Texas .....	510	510	181	256	355	502
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	2,415	1,585	845	523	350	330
United States .....	71,505	96,435	27,316	37,496	382	389
<b>Small stockers</b>						
Alabama .....	26,400	45,400	2,900	4,300	109.8	94.7
Arkansas .....	25,800	23,000	2,700	2,500	104.7	108.7
California .....	850	(D)	86	(D)	101.2	(D)
Mississippi .....	72,100	120,000	7,350	11,000	101.9	91.7
North Carolina .....	4,200	(D)	554	(D)	131.9	(D)
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	5,035	7,105	454	651	90.2	91.6
United States .....	134,385	195,505	14,044	18,451	104.5	94.4
<b>Total stockers</b>						
Alabama .....	48,400	79,800	14,000	16,200	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas .....	33,300	30,280	5,100	5,100	(NA)	(NA)
California .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi .....	109,200	168,200	19,050	30,800	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina .....	6,180	(D)	1,644	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	8,810	13,660	1,566	3,847	(NA)	(NA)
United States .....	205,890	291,940	41,360	55,947	(NA)	(NA)
<b>Fingerlings</b>						
Alabama .....	48,200	35,200	1,680	1,670	34.9	47.4
Arkansas .....	24,600	27,400	741	1,090	30.1	39.8
California .....	2,620	1,990	53	41	20.2	20.6
Mississippi .....	220,000	188,000	7,050	5,050	32.0	26.9
North Carolina .....	4,250	1,550	166	58	39.1	37.4
Texas .....	(D)	380	(D)	9	(D)	23.7
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	13,900	14,900	448	595	32.2	39.9
United States .....	313,570	269,420	10,138	8,513	32.3	31.6

(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, Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama .....	10	15	24	27	2.4	1.8
Arkansas .....	55	60	232	244	4.2	4.1
California .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi .....	380	450	1,960	2,400	5.2	5.3
North Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	75	65	382	301	5.1	4.6
United States .....	520	590	2,598	2,972	5.0	5.0

(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 Sales – States and United States: 2015 and 2016

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(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 .....	63,000	62,300	107,500	109,000	1.7	1.7	108,575	119,900	1.01	1.10
Arkansas .....	9,560	10,300	14,500	16,300	1.5	1.6	15,225	16,952	1.05	1.04
California .....	1,050	1,150	2,200	1,640	2.1	1.4	5,632	5,051	2.56	3.08
Mississippi .....	110,000	105,000	171,700	172,000	1.6	1.6	190,587	196,080	1.11	1.14
North Carolina .....	2,120	1,930	3,250	3,500	1.5	1.8	3,803	4,060	1.17	1.16
Texas .....	7,880	8,020	15,600	15,400	2.0	1.9	17,940	17,402	1.15	1.13
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	1,900	1,880	2,694	2,334	1.4	1.2	4,618	3,953	1.71	1.69
United States .....	195,510	190,580	317,444	320,174	1.6	1.7	346,380	363,398	1.09	1.14
	(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)
Mississippi .....	33,400	(D)	3,650	(D)	109	(D)	4,709	(D)	1.29	(D)
North Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	28,145	30,795	3,015	3,444	107	112	4,167	5,477	1.38	1.59
United States .....	61,545	30,795	6,665	3,444	108	112	8,876	5,477	1.33	1.59
<b>Fingerlings and fry</b>										
Alabama .....	690	400	15	16	21.7	40.0	115	86	7.65	5.35
Arkansas .....	9,870	15,800	262	472	26.5	29.9	383	1,416	1.46	3.00
California .....	670	780	9	11	13.4	14.1	63	103	6.95	9.35
Mississippi .....	101,000	165,000	3,600	6,650	35.6	40.3	5,724	13,766	1.59	2.07
North Carolina .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	18,840	12,550	648	460	34.4	36.7	1,532	1,542	2.36	3.35
United States .....	131,070	194,530	4,534	7,609	34.6	39.1	7,817	16,913	1.72	2.22

(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, Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2015 and 2016

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Broodfish										
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)
Mississippi .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	65	30	342	143	5.3	4.8	537	197	1.57	1.38
United States .....	65	30	342	143	5.3	4.8	537	197	1.57	1.38

- 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: 2015 and 2016

[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	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States .....	95.7	94.2	0.5	0.3	1.8	2.5	0.9	0.7	1.1	2.2
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Stocker	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States .....	82.9	78.0	10.0	11.1	3.6	6.7	0.8	2.2	2.6	2.0

### 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 six published states and a sample of producers from the remaining states. NASS Regional 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 Regional 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 six 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)

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Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section .....	(202) 720-4447
Aaron Cosgrove – Catfish Production, Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Trout Production, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised .....	(202) 690-3237
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage .....	(202) 720-4751
Tom Kruchten – Census of Aquaculture .....	(202) 690-4870
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs .....	(202) 690-8632
Joshua O’Rear – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies .....	(202) 690-3676
Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Mink .....	(202) 720-3244

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