



Catfish Production

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Catfish Value of Sales Down 5 percent from 2017

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 360 million dollars during 2018, down 5 percent from 380 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 335 million dollars decreased by 6 percent from the previous year. Sales of stockers totaled 7.73 million dollars in 2018, compared to 4.50 million dollars in 2017. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 16.3 million dollars, down 13 percent from 2017.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94.3 percent of total foodsize fish sales, down 2 percent from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 31.6 percent of stocker sales compared to 62.5 percent in 2017.

Water Surface Acres Down 1 Percent from January 1, 2018

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2019, totaled 63.3 thousand acres, down 1 percent from the 63.8 thousand acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 5.49 thousand are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2019. An additional 780 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2019. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2018, the area taken out of production totaled 1,890 acres. As of January 1, 2019, foodsize fish were produced on 51.6 thousand acres, fingerling producing acres totaled 6.99 thousand, and 1.83 thousand acres were being used for broodfish production.

Inventory Numbers

Catfish producers had 560 thousand broodfish on hand January 1, 2019, down 16 percent from January 1, 2018. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 6.41 million on January 1, 2019, up 36 percent from a year ago. The number of medium foodsize fish were down 12 percent from last year to 49.6 million, while small foodsize fish numbers are also down 11 percent from January 2018 to 88.9 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2019, at 106 million fish, were down 14 percent from the previous year. Small stocker numbers were down 35 percent from last year to 167 million. There were 344 million fingerlings on hand January 1, 2019, up 62 percent from January 1, 2018.

Catfish Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2017-2019

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2018	2019	2017	2018
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	16,600	16,800	114,596	91,128
Arkansas	4,800	4,300	20,607	21,624
California	1,300	1,100	5,051	9,109
Mississippi	36,200	35,700	214,596	207,543
North Carolina	1,100	1,300	3,126	2,932
Texas	1,700	1,900	15,636	20,889
Other States ¹	2,060	2,220	6,101	7,176
United States	63,760	63,320	379,713	360,401

¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2017-2019

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:				2017	2018	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	Renovation		New construction				
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	16,000	16,500	290	110	60	(D)	570	300	170	(D)	270	350	
Arkansas	3,000	3,000	1,300	910	195	235	390	440	(D)	(D)	(D)	550	
California	1,000	910	150	(D)	70	35	95	90	(D)	-	25	(D)	
Mississippi	27,000	27,100	5,900	4,900	1,400	1,300	2,100	(D)	100	660	45	540	
North Carolina	1,000	1,200	60	(D)	(D)	(D)	100	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	
Texas	1,600	1,700	40	55	40	50	240	80	(D)	(D)	350	195	
Other States ¹	960	1,220	660	1,010	175	210	120	4,575	120	120	200	255	
United States	50,560	51,630	8,400	6,985	1,940	1,830	3,615	5,485	390	780	890	1,890	

- Represents zero.

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

¹ 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, 2018 and 2019

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	1,650	3,300	6,150	12,200	3.7	3.7
Arkansas	440	(D)	1,520	(D)	3.5	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	1,990	1,600	7,400	6,000	3.7	3.8
North Carolina	140	200	478	647	3.4	3.2
Texas	230	(D)	973	(D)	4.2	(D)
Other States ¹	250	1,310	811	4,861	3.2	3.7
United States	4,700	6,410	17,332	23,708	3.7	3.7
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	15,000	18,000	29,500	35,400	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	3,370	(D)	6,400	(D)	1.9	(D)
California	680	(D)	1,190	(D)	1.8	(D)
Mississippi	30,100	22,700	56,500	41,200	1.9	1.8
North Carolina	620	730	1,140	1,550	1.8	2.1
Texas	6,270	3,520	12,300	6,850	2.0	1.9
Other States ¹	485	4,625	849	8,409	1.8	1.8
United States	56,525	49,575	107,879	93,409	1.9	1.9
Small foodsize						
Alabama	23,100	24,100	24,100	24,600	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	6,510	6,370	6,550	6,150	1.0	1.0
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	66,400	50,500	70,300	50,500	1.1	1.0
North Carolina	920	1,770	912	1,810	1.0	1.0
Texas	1,080	(D)	1,080	(D)	1.0	(D)
Other States ¹	2,425	6,150	2,097	6,722	0.9	1.1
United States	100,435	88,890	105,039	89,782	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	39,750	45,400	59,750	72,200	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	10,320	10,620	14,470	14,950	(NA)	(NA)
California	2,665	2,450	3,234	2,901	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	98,490	74,800	134,200	97,700	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	1,680	2,700	2,530	4,007	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	7,580	6,960	14,353	11,680	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	1,175	1,945	1,713	3,461	(NA)	(NA)
United States	161,660	144,875	230,250	206,899	(NA)	(NA)

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ 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, 2018 and 2019**

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
	2018 (1,000)	2019 (1,000)	Total		Average	
			2018 (1,000 pounds)	2019 (1,000 pounds)	2018 (pounds per 1,000 fish)	2019 (pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	56,400	34,100	20,800	14,000	369	411
Arkansas	5,190	(D)	1,490	(D)	287	(D)
California	330	(D)	97	(D)	294	(D)
Mississippi	58,100	60,100	23,200	21,900	399	364
North Carolina	2,870	(D)	1,810	(D)	631	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	1,020	11,970	401	4,424	393	370
United States	123,910	106,170	47,798	40,324	386	380
Small stockers						
Alabama	66,100	42,500	5,850	4,000	88.5	94.1
Arkansas	23,500	(D)	2,350	(D)	100.0	(D)
California	900	(D)	80	(D)	88.9	(D)
Mississippi	154,000	92,000	14,100	9,500	91.6	103.3
North Carolina	11,200	(D)	1,460	(D)	130.4	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	2,460	32,890	223	2,725	90.7	82.9
United States	258,160	167,390	24,063	16,225	93.2	96.9
Total stockers						
Alabama	122,500	76,600	26,650	18,000	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	28,690	36,650	3,840	4,850	(NA)	(NA)
California	1,230	840	177	123	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	212,100	152,100	37,300	31,400	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	14,070	1,910	3,270	1,236	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	470	1,340	117	222	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	3,010	4,120	507	718	(NA)	(NA)
United States	382,070	273,560	71,861	56,549	(NA)	(NA)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	15,900	36,700	790	1,350	49.7	36.8
Arkansas	29,900	13,300	1,240	521	41.5	39.2
California	2,000	2,890	48	92	24.0	31.8
Mississippi	145,000	264,000	5,350	6,800	36.9	25.8
North Carolina	3,200	(D)	85	(D)	26.6	(D)
Texas	310	(D)	14	(D)	45.2	(D)
Other States ¹	15,500	26,985	574	621	37.0	23.0
United States	211,810	343,875	8,101	9,384	38.2	27.3

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ 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, 2018 and 2019

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	50	(D)	198	(D)	4.0	(D)
California	10	10	58	60	5.8	6.0
Mississippi	550	300	3,050	1,540	5.5	5.1
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	5	5	25	30	5.0	6.0
Other States ¹	55	245	255	1,029	4.6	4.2
United States	670	560	3,586	2,659	5.4	4.7

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¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish Sales – States and United States: 2017 and 2018

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(dollars)	(dollars)
Foodsize										
Alabama	66,300	63,600	112,900	104,600	1.7	1.6	114,029	91,002	1.01	0.87
Arkansas	11,100	10,900	16,800	18,300	1.5	1.7	18,144	18,666	1.08	1.02
California	910	1,600	1,580	2,850	1.7	1.8	4,945	9,063	3.13	3.18
Mississippi	112,000	121,000	180,500	192,000	1.6	1.6	196,745	188,160	1.09	0.98
North Carolina	1,380	1,400	2,600	2,500	1.9	1.8	3,068	2,900	1.18	1.16
Texas	6,740	8,520	14,000	20,200	2.1	2.4	15,540	20,806	1.11	1.03
Other States ¹	1,400	1,780	2,048	3,151	1.5	1.8	2,961	4,409	1.45	1.40
United States	199,830	208,800	330,428	343,601	1.7	1.6	355,432	335,006	1.08	0.97
	(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)
Stockers										
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	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	24,960	65,465	2,856	6,553	114	100	4,501	7,727	1.58	1.18
United States	24,960	65,465	2,856	6,553	114	100	4,501	7,727	1.58	1.18
Fingerlings and fry										
Alabama	390	(D)	9	(D)	23.1	(D)	82	(D)	9.15	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	12,400	(D)	472	(D)	38.1	(D)	939	(D)	1.99
California	220	190	5	5	22.7	26.3	56	42	11.20	8.30
Mississippi	162,000	168,000	6,900	5,950	42.6	35.4	15,456	14,340	2.24	2.41
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	470	(D)	21	(D)	44.7	(D)	59	(D)	2.81	(D)
Other States ¹	31,875	54,685	1,138	315	35.7	5.8	3,064	956	2.69	3.03
United States	194,955	235,275	8,073	6,742	41.4	28.7	18,717	16,277	2.32	2.41

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¹ Other States include State estimates not shown and States suppressed due to disclosure.

Catfish, Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2017 and 2018

Size category and State	Number of fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(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	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Other States ¹	210	410	884	1,708	4.2	4.2	1,063	1,391	1.20	0.81
United States	210	410	884	1,708	4.2	4.2	1,063	1,391	1.20	0.81

- Represents zero.

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¹ 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: 2017 and 2018

[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	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	96.4	94.3	0.3	0.6	1.6	2.4	0.6	1.2	1.2	1.5
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Stocker	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	62.5	31.6	18.8	5.5	10.3	59.4	7.0	3.6	1.4	-

- 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 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

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Tony Dorn, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 690-3223
Holly Brenize – Poultry Slaughter.....	(202) 720-0585
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses	(202) 720-4751
Liana Cuffman – Catfish and Trout, Egg Products, Mink, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 720-8784
Adam Peters – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 690-3237
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Erica Sadler – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 720-6147

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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.

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