



Catfish Production

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Catfish Value of Sales Up 5 Percent from 2021

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 447 million dollars during 2022, up 5 percent from 427 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 422 million dollars increased 5 percent from the previous year. Sales of Stockers totaled 10.6 million dollars in 2022, compared to 8.37 million dollars in 2021. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 12.1 million dollars, down 11 percent from 2021.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 93.7 percent of total Foodsize fish sales, up 1.6 percent from the previous year. Wholesale to other producers accounted for 79.5 percent of Stocker sales compared to 81.7 percent in 2021.

Water Surface Acres Down 4 Percent from January 1, 2022

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2023, totaled 55,855 acres, down 4 percent from the 58,300 acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 2,385 are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2023. An additional 135 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2023. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2022, the area taken out of production totaled 1,715 acres. As of January 1, 2023, Foodsize fish were produced on 45,435 acres, Fingerling producing acres totaled 7,510, and 2,230 acres were being used for Broodfish production.

Inventory

Catfish producers had 890 thousand Broodfish on hand January 1, 2023, up 22 percent from January 1, 2022. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 3.55 million on January 1, 2023, down 22 percent from a year ago. The inventory of Medium foodsize fish was down 2 percent to 45.9 million, while Small foodsize fish inventory was down 19 percent at 86.9 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2023, at 118 million fish, were down 7 percent from the previous year. Small stocker inventory was down 5 percent to 191 million. There were 281 million Fingerlings on hand January 1, 2023, down 1 percent from January 1, 2022.

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Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2021-2023

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2022	2023	2021	2022
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	14,900	14,100	105,704	103,969
Arkansas	3,800	3,400	24,795	26,671
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	34,100	33,100	260,169	277,944
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,600	1,500	20,171	21,724
Other States ¹	3,900	3,755	16,522	16,731
United States	58,300	55,855	427,361	447,039

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

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

Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2021-2023

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:				2021	2022
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Renovation		New construction			
							2022	2023	2022	2023	2021	2022
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	14,600	14,000	225	370	(D)	15	580	(D)	(D)	70	(D)	920
Arkansas	2,500	2,200	870	870	(D)	(D)	115	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	165	45	55	(D)	85	-	-	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	25,800	25,400	5,700	5,400	1,600	1,800	1,100	1,200	(D)	(D)	(D)	400
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	5	5	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,500	1,500	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	115	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	2,460	2,335	930	705	365	355	330	1,100	270	65	1,705	395
United States	46,860	45,435	7,725	7,510	2,015	2,230	2,240	2,385	270	135	1,705	1,715

- 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.

Foodsize Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	2,460	1,480	9,350	5,750	3.8	3.9
Arkansas	340	370	1,170	1,310	3.4	3.5
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	1,390	1,290	4,850	4,550	3.5	3.5
North Carolina	(D)	5	(D)	18	(D)	3.6
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	330	400	1,208	1,414	3.7	3.5
United States	4,520	3,545	16,578	13,042	3.7	3.7
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	15,800	13,100	31,500	26,800	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	3,560	3,450	6,900	6,950	1.9	2.0
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	21,500	23,600	38,800	42,200	1.8	1.8
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	4,500	4,610	8,350	8,550	1.9	1.9
Other States ¹	1,215	1,115	2,343	2,392	1.9	2.1
United States	46,575	45,875	87,893	86,892	1.9	1.9
Small foodsize						
Alabama	31,500	24,500	31,500	24,700	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	5,770	5,250	5,600	5,550	1.0	1.1
California	500	(D)	481	(D)	1.0	(D)
Mississippi	63,900	52,400	63,900	53,700	1.0	1.0
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	2,620	(D)	2,300	(D)	0.9
Other States ¹	5,090	2,100	4,770	2,125	0.9	1.0
United States	106,760	86,870	106,251	88,375	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	49,760	39,080	72,350	57,250	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	9,670	9,070	13,670	13,810	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	86,790	77,290	107,550	100,450	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	7,345	7,355	11,144	11,285	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	4,290	3,495	6,008	5,514	(NA)	(NA)
United States	157,855	136,290	210,722	188,309	(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.

**Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States:
January 1, 2022 and 2023**

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	39,700	46,100	14,600	14,300	368	310
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	(D)	52,000	(D)	16,800	(D)	323
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	86,350	19,410	37,671	7,041	436	363
United States	126,050	117,510	52,271	38,141	415	325
Small stockers						
Alabama	34,600	43,400	3,300	3,800	95.4	87.6
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	(D)	117,000	(D)	12,300	(D)	105.0
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	166,880	30,740	17,656	2,828	106.0	92.0
United States	201,480	191,140	20,956	18,928	104.0	99.0
Total stockers						
Alabama	74,300	89,500	17,900	18,100	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	205,400	169,000	45,700	29,100	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	47,830	50,150	9,627	9,869	(NA)	(NA)
United States	327,530	308,650	73,227	57,069	(NA)	(NA)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	23,200	18,400	934	739	40.3	40.2
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	232,000	243,000	7,400	8,850	31.9	36.4
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	370	350	8	7	21.6	20.0
Other States ¹	28,205	19,305	1,370	888	48.6	46.0
United States	283,775	281,055	9,712	10,484	34.2	37.3

(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.

Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama	5	5	18	18	3.6	3.6
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	630	(D)	3,300	(D)	5.2	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	95	885	459	4,730	4.8	5.3
United States	730	890	3,777	4,748	5.2	5.3

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

Sales – States and United States: 2021 and 2022

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
	(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	47,700	46,600	90,600	83,900	1.9	1.8	103,284	101,519	1.14	1.21
Arkansas	10,400	10,400	17,300	18,000	1.7	1.7	21,798	22,860	1.26	1.27
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	121,000	137,000	194,300	203,400	1.6	1.5	242,875	262,386	1.25	1.29
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	8,950	9,440	17,400	18,500	1.9	2.0	19,836	21,460	1.14	1.16
Other States ¹	3,250	2,555	5,823	5,096	1.8	2.0	14,602	13,350	2.51	2.62
United States	191,300	205,995	325,423	328,896	1.7	1.6	402,395	421,575	1.24	1.28
	(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)
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 ¹	50,605	59,715	5,004	5,964	99.0	100.0	8,371	10,620	1.67	1.78
United States	50,605	59,715	5,004	5,964	99.0	100.0	8,371	10,620	1.67	1.78
Fingerlings and fry										
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	163,000	142,000	5,250	4,100	32.2	28.9	11,918	9,799	2.27	2.39
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	3,130	(D)	105	(D)	33.5	(D)	100	(D)	0.95
Other States ¹	27,265	20,230	665	623	24.4	30.8	1,632	2,206	2.45	3.54
United States	190,265	165,360	5,915	4,828	31.1	29.2	13,550	12,105	2.29	2.51

- 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.

Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2021 and 2022

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
	(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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
California	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	(D)	55	(D)	239	(D)	4.3	(D)	315	(D)	1.32
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	1,075	965	2,424	1,960	2.3	2.0	3,045	2,424	1.26	1.24
United States	1,075	1,020	2,424	2,199	2.3	2.2	3,045	2,739	1.26	1.25

- 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.

Foodsize and Stockers Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2021 and 2022

[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	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	92.1	93.7	0.6	0.4	2.5	2.6	1.2	1.0	3.5	2.3
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Stockers	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	81.7	79.5	9.6	12.4	6.7	6.1	0.8	0.5	1.2	1.5

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@usda.gov

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Jean Porter, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 690-3223
Holly Brenize – Poultry Slaughter	(202) 720-0585
Liana Cuffman – Catfish and Trout, Mink, Census of Aquaculture	(202) 720-8784
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Chicken Hatchery, Egg Products	(202) 690-3237
Seth Riggins – Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-4870
Shulonda Shaw – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery	(202) 720-6147

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- Join Chief Economist Seth Meyer as he unveils USDA's initial forecast for the agricultural economy, commodity markets, and trade in 2023 and discuss U.S. farm income situation.
- Learn from more than 100 subject matter experts, executives and academics as they discuss some of the most pressing issues impacting agriculture and potential solutions.
- Get the latest on supply chain challenges and solutions, climate-smart agriculture and more!

For more information, see the [Forum's Program at a Glance](#)

Registration is required for both virtual and in-person attendance. There is no cost to attending virtually.

