



Catfish Production

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Catfish Value of Sales Down 2 percent from 2019

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 371 million dollars during 2020, down 2 percent from 380 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and Arkansas) accounted for 97 percent of the United States total sales. The United States total foodsize sales of 351 million dollars decreased by 3 percent from the previous year. Sales of stockers totaled 3.41 million dollars in 2020, compared to 5.18 million dollars in 2019. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 15.7 million dollars, up 29 percent from 2019.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94.6 percent of total foodsize fish sales, unchanged from the previous year. Direct sales to other producers accounted for 65.6 percent of stocker sales compared to 60.9 percent in 2019.

Water Surface Acres Down 3 Percent from January 1, 2020

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2021, totaled 59,305 acres, down 3 percent from the 61,245 acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 2,745 are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2021. An additional 610 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2021. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2020, the area taken out of production totaled 1,900 acres. As of January 1, 2021, foodsize fish were produced on 46,360 acres, fingerling producing acres totaled 7,320, and 1,815 acres were being used for broodfish production.

Inventory

Catfish producers had 435 thousand broodfish on hand January 1, 2021, down 13 percent from January 1, 2020. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 4.84 million on January 1, 2021, down 6 percent from a year ago. The inventory of medium foodsize fish was down 32 percent to 40.7 million, while small foodsize fish inventory was up slightly at 93.1 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2021, at 99.4 million fish, were down 16 percent from the previous year. Small stocker inventory was up 4 percent to 178 million. There were 221 million fingerlings on hand January 1, 2021, down 1 percent from January 1, 2020.

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Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2019-2021

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2020	2021	2019	2020
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	15,900	15,600	97,714	98,763
Arkansas	4,000	3,600	21,671	18,451
California	(D)	1,200	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	35,300	34,700	226,194	223,972
North Carolina	(D)	550	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,800	1,800	18,682	18,724
Other States ¹	4,245	1,855	15,600	10,825
United States	61,245	59,305	379,861	370,735

(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: 2019-2021

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:				2019	2020
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	Renovation		New construction			
(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	15,600	15,300	250	225	25	(D)	290	490	115	215	580	320
Arkansas	2,700	2,400	770	860	(D)	100	150	135	-	(D)	230	(D)
California	(D)	1,000	(D)	(D)	35	40	80	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	26,700	24,600	4,200	5,500	1,400	1,500	2,000	1,700	(D)	260	700	740
North Carolina	(D)	460	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	5	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,700	1,700	(D)	35	30	45	(D)	185	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	2,650	900	1,205	700	285	130	415	235	265	130	880	840
United States	49,350	46,360	6,425	7,320	1,775	1,815	2,935	2,745	380	610	2,390	1,900

- 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, 2020 and 2021

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	3,180	3,000	11,800	10,900	3.7	3.6
Arkansas	230	290	808	1,030	3.5	3.6
California	100	(D)	370	(D)	3.7	(D)
Mississippi	1,460	1,250	4,800	4,400	3.3	3.5
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	175	300	667	1,080	3.8	3.6
United States	5,145	4,840	18,445	17,410	3.6	3.6
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	19,400	12,800	38,900	25,900	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	2,840	2,890	5,450	5,500	1.9	1.9
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	32,300	19,800	58,100	35,800	1.8	1.8
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	3,870	(D)	7,100	(D)	1.8	(D)
Other States ¹	1,380	5,175	2,497	9,568	1.8	1.8
United States	59,790	40,665	112,047	76,768	1.9	1.9
Small foodsize						
Alabama	27,200	25,400	27,200	25,100	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	3,960	3,900	3,950	3,900	1.0	1.0
California	720	(D)	760	(D)	1.1	(D)
Mississippi	57,000	59,900	57,000	59,100	1.0	1.0
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	2,860	(D)	2,600	(D)	0.9
Other States ¹	4,205	1,075	3,887	1,158	0.9	1.1
United States	93,085	93,135	92,797	91,858	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	49,780	41,200	77,900	61,900	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	7,030	7,080	10,208	10,430	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	90,760	80,950	119,900	99,300	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	7,185	7,200	10,378	10,920	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	3,265	2,210	4,903	3,486	(NA)	(NA)
United States	158,020	138,640	223,289	186,036	(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, 2020 and 2021**

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	34,200	29,600	14,000	12,500	409	422
Arkansas	(D)	7,660	(D)	2,200	(D)	287
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	74,000	61,100	27,500	24,800	372	406
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	10,370	1,005	3,278	615	316	612
United States	118,570	99,365	44,778	40,115	378	404
Small stockers						
Alabama	24,500	26,700	2,250	2,400	91.8	89.9
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	119,000	126,000	13,800	14,300	116.0	113.0
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	125	(D)	10	(D)	80.0
Other States ¹	26,440	24,725	2,291	2,105	86.6	85.1
United States	169,940	177,550	18,341	18,815	108.0	106.0
Total stockers						
Alabama	58,700	56,300	16,250	14,900	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	30,590	(D)	3,990	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
California	1,310	(D)	554	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	193,000	187,100	41,300	39,100	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	4,910	33,515	1,025	4,930	(NA)	(NA)
United States	288,510	276,915	63,119	58,930	(NA)	(NA)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	21,800	22,100	1,110	1,080	50.9	48.9
Arkansas	19,300	18,600	712	703	36.9	37.8
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	170,000	172,000	5,800	6,350	34.1	36.9
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	11,835	8,680	260	278	22.0	32.0
United States	222,935	221,380	7,882	8,411	35.4	38.0

(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, 2020 and 2021

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama	10	5	40	20	4.0	4.0
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	10	5	44	30	4.4	6.0
Mississippi	420	370	2,000	1,940	4.8	5.2
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	5	(D)	30	(D)	6.0	(D)
Other States ¹	55	55	279	279	5.1	5.1
United States	500	435	2,393	2,269	4.8	5.2

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

Sales – States and United States: 2019 and 2020

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	(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	60,300	55,300	102,500	94,000	1.7	1.7	97,375	98,700	0.95	1.05
Arkansas	10,700	9,960	18,600	15,700	1.7	1.6	19,716	16,642	1.06	1.06
California	1,210	(D)	2,400	(D)	2.0	(D)	7,632	(D)	3.18	(D)
Mississippi	113,000	128,000	203,500	192,100	1.8	1.5	213,675	207,468	1.05	1.08
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	8,100	(D)	17,000	(D)	2.1	(D)	18,530	(D)	1.09
Other States ¹	11,235	2,655	20,990	4,748	1.9	1.8	23,650	10,090	1.13	2.13
United States	196,445	204,015	347,990	323,548	1.8	1.6	362,048	351,430	1.04	1.09
	(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)	-
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	22,450	20,740	2,819	2,449	126.0	118.0	5,181	3,405	1.84	1.39
United States	22,450	20,740	2,819	2,449	126.0	118.0	5,181	3,405	1.84	1.39
Fingerlings and fry										
Alabama	310	210	9	4	29.0	19.0	68	57	7.60	14.20
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	146,000	177,000	3,850	5,550	26.4	31.4	8,971	13,542	2.33	2.44
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	26,035	23,515	891	799	34.2	34.0	3,177	2,106	3.57	2.64
United States	172,345	200,725	4,750	6,353	27.6	31.7	12,216	15,705	2.57	2.47

- Represents zero.

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

Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2019 and 2020

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	(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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	75	35	296	150	3.9	4.3	416	195	1.41	1.30
United States	75	35	296	150	3.9	4.3	416	195	1.41	1.30

- Represents zero.

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Foodsize and Stockers Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2019 and 2020

[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	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	94.6	94.6	0.7	0.7	2.6	2.2	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.8
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Stockers	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	60.9	65.6	12.7	10.4	20.7	19.9	4.6	4.1	1.1	-

- 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 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
Vacant, 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, 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
Adam Peters – Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-4870
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery	(202) 720-6147

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- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agencies archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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@usda.gov.

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