



Catfish Production

ISSN: 1948-271X

Released February 9, 2026, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Catfish Value of Sales Up 1 Percent from 2024

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 394 million dollars during 2025, up 1 percent from 390 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 367 million dollars increased slightly from the previous year. Sales of Stockers totaled 16.3 million dollars in 2025, compared to 11.9 million dollars in 2024. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 9.24 million dollars, down 4 percent from 2024.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 92.7 percent of total Foodsize fish sales, down 1.0 percent from the previous year. Wholesale to other producers accounted for 78.2 percent of Stocker sales compared to 76.4 percent in 2024.

Water Surface Acres Down 8 Percent from January 1, 2025

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2026, totaled 48,115 acres, down 8 percent from the 52,070 acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 2,015 are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2026. An additional 100 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2026. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2025, the area taken out of production totaled 990 acres. As of January 1, 2026, Foodsize fish were produced on 38,090 acres, Fingerling producing acres totaled 6,475, and 1,715 acres were being used for Broodfish production.

Inventory

Catfish producers had 788 thousand Broodfish on hand January 1, 2026, up 2 percent from January 1, 2025. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 3.42 million on January 1, 2026, down 22 percent from a year ago. The inventory of Medium foodsize fish was down 41 percent to 39.5 million, while Small foodsize fish inventory was down 20 percent at 69.9 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2026, at 62.5 million fish, were down 8 percent from the previous year. Small stocker inventory was up 5 percent to 163 million. There were 244 million Fingerlings on hand January 1, 2026, up 9 percent from January 1, 2025.

Contents

Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2024-2026..... 3

Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2024-2026 3

Foodsize Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2025 and 2026..... 4

Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2025 and 2026 5

Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – United States: January 1, 2025 and 2026 5

Sales – States and United States: 2024 and 2025 6

Foodsize and Stockers Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2024 and 2025..... 6

Terms and Definitions 7

Statistical Methodology..... 8

Information Contacts..... 9

Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2024-2026

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2025	2026	2024	2025
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	12,100	10,300	104,407	99,454
Arkansas	3,400	3,200	23,092	25,082
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	29,900	28,500	224,841	233,292
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,600	1,600	19,404	19,312
Other States ¹	5,070	4,515	17,764	16,636
United States	52,070	48,115	389,508	393,776

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

¹ Other States includes data for States not published in this table.

Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2024-2026

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			
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2024	2025
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	11,600	10,100	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	160	(D)	(D)	700	410
Arkansas	2,500	2,100	620	500	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	170	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	170	160	40	35	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)	-
Mississippi	22,500	21,600	4,800	4,500	1,400	1,300	1,100	1,300	(D)	(D)	65	180
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	(D)
Texas	1,600	1,500	(D)	(D)	40	45	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	2,860	2,790	1,410	1,315	380	335	590	555	60	100	320	400
United States	41,060	38,090	7,000	6,475	1,860	1,715	1,690	2,015	60	100	1,255	990

- Represents zero.

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

¹ Other States includes data for States not published in this table.

Foodsize Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2025 and 2026

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	1,820	1,380	6,550	5,000	3.6	3.6
Arkansas	580	490	2,100	1,650	3.6	3.4
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	1,450	1,060	5,300	3,850	3.7	3.6
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	520	485	1,852	1,769	3.6	3.6
United States	4,370	3,415	15,802	12,269	3.6	3.6
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	22,300	9,440	44,400	18,400	2.0	1.9
Arkansas	3,380	2,370	7,250	5,250	2.1	2.2
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	36,000	22,400	67,800	42,400	1.9	1.9
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	5,370	5,330	10,450	10,332	1.9	1.9
United States	67,050	39,540	129,900	76,382	1.9	1.9
Small foodsize						
Alabama	21,900	16,700	22,200	15,000	1.0	0.9
Arkansas	2,940	2,660	3,250	2,850	1.1	1.1
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	56,500	45,000	58,000	46,300	1.0	1.0
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	5,980	5,570	5,789	5,416	1.0	1.0
United States	87,320	69,930	89,239	69,566	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	46,020	27,520	73,150	38,400	(X)	(X)
Arkansas	6,900	5,520	12,600	9,750	(X)	(X)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(X)
Mississippi	93,950	68,460	131,100	92,550	(X)	(X)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(X)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(X)
Other States ¹	11,870	11,385	18,091	17,517	(X)	(X)
United States	158,740	112,885	234,941	158,217	(X)	(X)

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

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Other States includes data for States not published in this table.

**Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States:
January 1, 2025 and 2026**

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	14,100	10,700	6,300	4,800	447	449
Arkansas	12,200	13,100	3,700	4,050	303	309
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	37,400	35,300	15,100	14,300	404	405
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	4,455	3,410	1,903	1,343	427	394
United States	68,155	62,510	27,003	24,493	396	392
Small stockers						
Alabama	30,800	31,800	3,050	3,200	99.0	101.0
Arkansas	24,200	24,700	2,050	2,200	84.7	89.1
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	94,900	102,000	11,200	11,700	118	115
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	5,815	4,885	566	455	97.3	93.0
United States	155,715	163,385	16,866	17,555	108	107
Total stockers						
Alabama	44,900	42,500	9,350	8,000	(X)	(X)
Arkansas	36,400	37,800	5,750	6,250	(X)	(X)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(X)
Mississippi	132,300	137,300	26,300	26,000	(X)	(X)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(X)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(X)
Other States ¹	10,270	8,295	2,469	1,798	(X)	(X)
United States	223,870	225,895	43,869	42,048	(X)	(X)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	6,430	5,090	348	260	54.1	51.1
Arkansas	10,800	14,500	335	447	31.0	30.8
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	200,000	219,000	6,500	6,850	32.5	31.3
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	6,535	5,435	239	139	36.6	25.6
United States	223,765	244,025	7,422	7,696	33.2	31.5

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

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Other States includes data for States not published in this table.

Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – United States: January 1, 2025 and 2026

Size category	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	776	788	4,501	4,425	5.8	5.6

Sales – States and United States: 2024 and 2025

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
	(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	63,000	57,000	105,400	97,500	1.7	1.7	104,346	99,450	0.99	1.02
Arkansas	9,200	9,870	13,700	15,900	1.5	1.6	16,303	19,875	1.19	1.25
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	137,000	141,000	189,800	194,300	1.4	1.4	210,678	213,730	1.11	1.10
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	12,750	12,000	23,372	22,342	1.8	1.9	35,214	33,839	1.51	1.51
United States	221,950	219,870	332,272	330,042	1.5	1.5	366,541	366,894	1.10	1.11
Broodfish										
United States	226	213	945	899	4.2	4.2	1,496	1,364	1.58	1.52
	(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										
Mississippi ²	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Other States ¹	61,220	86,355	8,074	12,467	132.0	144.0	11,897	16,280	1.47	1.31
United States	61,220	86,355	8,074	12,467	132.0	144.0	11,897	16,280	1.47	1.31
Fingerlings and fry										
United States	147,890	146,285	4,374	4,447	29.6	30.4	9,574	9,238	2.19	2.08

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

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Other States includes data for States not published in this table.

² Estimates discontinued in 2025.

Foodsize and Stockers Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2024 and 2025

[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	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
	93.7	92.7	0.4	0.7	2.8	2.6	1.8	1.9	1.3	2.1
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Stockers	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
	76.4	78.2	11.5	10.3	10.4	9.6	0.5	0.6	1.2	1.3

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.

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

Stockers (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
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Tiffany Byrne – Dairy Products.....	(651) 440-7789
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed.....	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised, Poultry	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish, Trout, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products	(202) 690-3237
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448
Shulonda Shaw – Cold Storage, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses.....	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Chicken Hatchery, Broiler Hatchery.....	(202) 720-6147

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: www.nass.usda.gov.
- The national specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Economics, Statistics, and Market Information (ESMIS) – National Agricultural Library (NAL) website houses NASS’s and other agency archived reports at <https://esmis.nal.usda.gov>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from <https://esmis.nal.usda.gov>. To receive the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the website, create a new account and subscribe to the reports. You should whitelist notifications@esmis.nal.usda.gov 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.

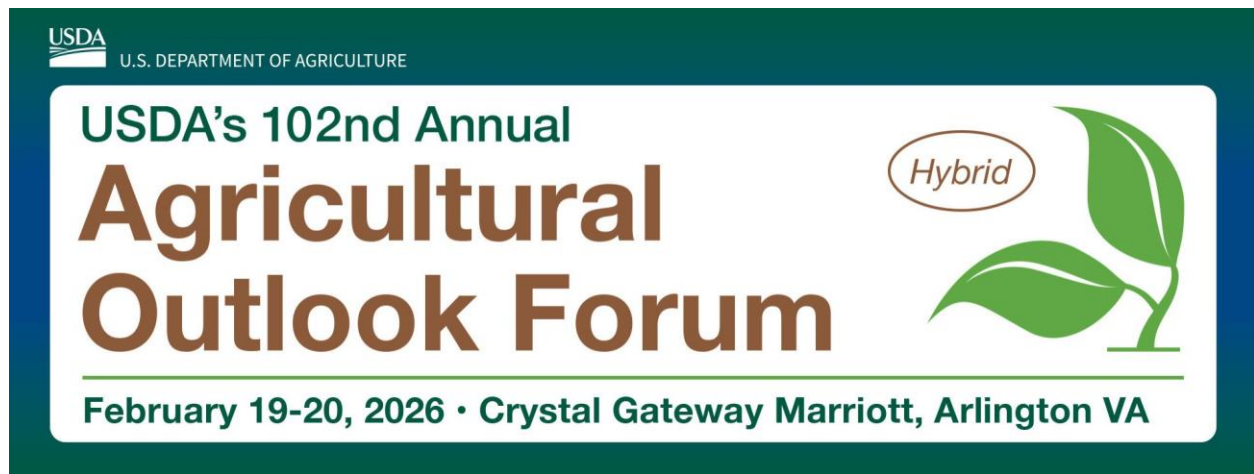
If you have specific questions you would like an expert to respond to, please visit our “Ask A Specialist” website at www.nass.usda.gov/Contact_Us/Ask_a_Specialist.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Registration is now open to USDA's 102nd Agricultural Outlook Forum!

USDA's 102nd Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott on February 19-20, 2026, and all Forum sessions will be livestreamed on a virtual platform. Join USDA's new Chief Economist, Justin Benavidez, as he unveils the USDA's initial 2026 forecast for the agricultural economy, commodity markets, trade, and farm income. Hear how cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence are modernizing agricultural production practices and reshaping markets. Learn from more than 80 subject matter experts, executives, and academics as they explore some of the most pressing issues impacting agriculture. Explore USDA's agency exhibits and discover recent USDA-funded innovations along with the Department's key programs and activities.

Join us in-person or virtually.

To see the Forum program and register, visit:

[The 2026 Forum Website](#)