



Catfish Production

ISSN: 1948-271X

Released February 11, 2022, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Catfish Value of Sales Up 12 Percent from 2020

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 421 million dollars during 2021, up 12 percent from 377 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas) accounted for 97 percent of the United States total sales. The United States total Foodsize sales of 398 million dollars increased 13 percent from the previous year. Sales of Stockers totaled 6.59 million dollars in 2021, compared to 6.70 million dollars in 2020. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 13.6 million dollars, down 11 percent from 2020.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 92.6 percent of total Foodsize fish sales, down 1.8 percent from the previous year. Wholesale to other producers accounted for 81.8 percent of Stocker sales compared to 70.2 percent in 2020.

Water Surface Acres Down 3 Percent from January 1, 2021

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2022, totaled 58,310 acres, down 3 percent from the 60,105 acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 2,240 are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2022. An additional 270 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2022. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2021, the area taken out of production totaled 1,695 acres. As of January 1, 2022, Foodsize fish were produced on 46,860 acres, Fingerling producing acres totaled 7,725, and 2,035 acres were being used for Broodfish production.

Inventory

Catfish producers had 730 thousand Broodfish on hand January 1, 2022, up 14 percent from January 1, 2021. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 4.16 million on January 1, 2022, down 25 percent from a year ago. The inventory of Medium foodsize fish was down 6 percent to 44.2 million, while Small foodsize fish inventory was down 6 percent at 97.8 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2022, at 118 million fish, were up 1 percent from the previous year. Small stocker inventory was down 4 percent to 188 million. There were 284 million Fingerlings on hand January 1, 2022, up 28 percent from January 1, 2021.

Contents

Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2020-2022 3

Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2020-2022 3

Foodsize Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2021 and 2022..... 4

Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2021 and 2022 5

Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2021 and 2022 6

Sales – States and United States: 2020 and 2021 7

Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2020 and 2021..... 8

Foodsize and Stockers Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2020 and 2021 9

Terms and Definitions Used for Catfish Production Estimates 9

Terms and Definitions Used to Describe Point of First Sale10

Statistical Methodology.....10

Information Contacts.....11

Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2020-2022

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2021	2022	2020	2021
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	15,600	14,900	101,067	105,704
Arkansas	3,600	3,800	20,773	22,527
California	1,200	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	34,700	34,100	224,366	258,387
North Carolina	550	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,800	1,600	18,724	19,971
Other States ¹	2,655	3,910	12,018	14,572
United States	60,105	58,310	376,948	421,161

(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: 2020-2022

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			
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2020	2021
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	15,300	14,600	(D)	225	(D)	(D)	490	580	215	(D)	320	(D)
Arkansas	2,400	2,500	860	870	100	(D)	135	115	(D)	-	(D)	(D)
California	1,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	40	45	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	24,600	25,800	5,500	5,700	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,100	260	(D)	740	(D)
North Carolina	460	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	5	(D)	(D)	5	(D)	(D)	-
Texas	1,700	1,500	35	(D)	45	(D)	185	115	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	1,440	2,460	1,215	930	165	385	235	330	215	270	840	1,695
United States	46,900	46,860	7,610	7,725	1,850	2,035	2,745	2,240	695	270	1,900	1,695

- 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, 2021 and 2022

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	3,390	2,270	12,200	8,650	3.6	3.8
Arkansas	290	260	1,030	874	3.6	3.4
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	1,400	1,300	4,900	4,500	3.5	3.5
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	445	330	1,487	1,208	3.3	3.7
United States	5,525	4,160	19,617	15,232	3.6	3.7
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	15,000	14,500	29,000	29,200	1.9	2.0
Arkansas	4,230	3,560	8,200	6,900	1.9	1.9
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	22,300	20,400	40,100	35,900	1.8	1.8
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	4,500	(D)	8,350	(D)	1.9
Other States ¹	5,415	1,215	10,084	2,343	1.9	1.9
United States	46,945	44,175	87,384	82,693	1.9	1.9
Small foodsize						
Alabama	28,100	30,500	28,100	29,200	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	5,670	5,770	5,650	5,600	1.0	1.0
California	(D)	500	(D)	481	(D)	1.0
Mississippi	66,200	56,400	66,200	59,200	1.0	1.0
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	2,860	(D)	2,600	(D)	0.9	(D)
Other States ¹	1,315	4,580	1,393	4,249	1.1	0.9
United States	104,145	97,750	103,943	98,730	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	46,490	47,270	69,300	67,050	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	10,190	9,590	14,880	13,374	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	89,900	78,100	111,200	99,600	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	7,250	8,005	10,950	11,794	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	2,785	3,120	4,614	4,837	(NA)	(NA)
United States	156,615	146,085	210,944	196,655	(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, 2021 and 2022**

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	33,200	36,800	14,000	13,500	422	367
Arkansas	13,700	(D)	5,700	(D)	416	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	68,400	(D)	27,800	(D)	406	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	1,235	81,150	673	35,371	545	436
United States	116,535	117,950	48,173	48,871	413	414
Small stockers						
Alabama	29,900	32,000	2,700	3,050	90.3	95.3
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	141,000	(D)	16,100	(D)	114.0	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	125	(D)	10	(D)	80.0	(D)
Other States ¹	25,495	155,880	2,178	16,556	85.4	106.2
United States	196,520	187,880	20,988	19,606	107.0	104.0
Total stockers						
Alabama	63,100	68,800	16,700	16,550	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	209,400	189,200	43,900	42,300	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	40,555	47,830	8,561	9,627	(NA)	(NA)
United States	313,055	305,830	69,161	68,477	(NA)	(NA)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	22,100	(D)	1,080	(D)	48.9	(D)
Arkansas	18,600	23,200	703	934	37.8	40.3
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	172,000	232,000	6,350	7,400	36.9	31.9
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	370	(D)	8	(D)	21.6
Other States ¹	9,150	28,205	296	1,370	32.3	48.6
United States	221,850	283,775	8,429	9,712	38.0	34.2

(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, 2021 and 2022

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama	5	5	20	18	4.0	3.6
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	5	(D)	30	(D)	6.0	(D)
Mississippi	570	630	3,150	3,300	5.5	5.2
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	60	95	291	459	4.9	4.8
United States	640	730	3,491	3,777	5.5	5.2

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

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

Sales – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	(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	55,300	47,700	94,000	90,600	1.7	1.9	98,700	103,284	1.05	1.14
Arkansas	9,960	9,850	15,700	15,500	1.6	1.6	16,642	19,530	1.06	1.26
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	128,000	121,000	192,100	194,300	1.5	1.6	207,468	242,875	1.08	1.25
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	8,100	9,500	17,000	17,400	2.1	1.8	18,530	19,836	1.09	1.14
Other States ¹	3,025	3,360	5,328	5,633	1.8	1.7	10,711	12,652	2.01	2.25
United States	204,385	191,410	324,128	323,433	1.6	1.7	352,051	398,177	1.09	1.23
	(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	42,270	40,605	4,863	4,014	115.0	99.0	6,698	6,589	1.38	1.64
United States	42,270	40,605	4,863	4,014	115.0	99.0	6,698	6,589	1.38	1.64
Fingerlings and fry										
Alabama	210	(D)	4	(D)	19.0	(D)	57	(D)	14.20	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	177,000	163,000	5,550	5,250	31.4	32.2	13,542	11,918	2.44	2.27
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	18,445	27,265	606	665	32.9	24.4	1,707	1,632	2.82	2.45
United States	195,655	190,265	6,160	5,915	31.5	31.1	15,306	13,550	2.48	2.29

- 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: 2020 and 2021

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	(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)	-
California	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	1,065	1,075	2,355	2,424	2.2	2.3	2,893	2,845	1.23	1.17
United States	1,065	1,075	2,355	2,424	2.2	2.3	2,893	2,845	1.23	1.17

- 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: 2020 and 2021

[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	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	94.4	92.6	0.7	0.6	2.2	2.3	0.8	1.0	1.9	3.5
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
Stocker	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	70.2	81.8	7.1	9.4	19.4	6.3	2.1	0.9	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
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
Seth Riggins – Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-4870
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – 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
- Both national and state 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” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



United States Department of Agriculture

Registration is Now Open

USDA's 98th Annual
**Agricultural
Outlook Forum**
February 24-25, 2022



Register Today

<https://www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum>