



Catfish Production

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Catfish Value of Sales Down 2 Percent from 2022

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 437 million dollars during 2023, down 2 percent from 447 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 405 million dollars decreased 4 percent from the previous year. Sales of Stockers totaled 20.3 million dollars in 2023, compared to 10.6 million dollars in 2022. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 10.3 million dollars, down 15 percent from 2022.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 94.7 percent of total Foodsize fish sales, up 1.0 percent from the previous year. Wholesale to other producers accounted for 77.4 percent of Stocker sales compared to 79.5 percent in 2022.

Water Surface Acres Down 4 Percent from January 1, 2023

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2024, totaled 53,545 acres, down 4 percent from the 55,855 acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 1,855 are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2024. An additional 220 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2024. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2023, the area taken out of production totaled 2,425 acres. As of January 1, 2024, Foodsize fish were produced on 43,160 acres, Fingerling producing acres totaled 7,245, and 1,920 acres were being used for Broodfish production.

Inventory

Catfish producers had 780 thousand Broodfish on hand January 1, 2024, down 12 percent from January 1, 2023. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 4.02 million on January 1, 2024, down 6 percent from a year ago. The inventory of Medium foodsize fish was up 14 percent to 59.6 million, while Small foodsize fish inventory was down 24 percent at 75.9 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2024, at 80.2 million fish, were down 37 percent from the previous year. Small stocker inventory was down 34 percent to 144 million. There were 199 million Fingerlings on hand January 1, 2024, down 29 percent from January 1, 2023.

Contents

Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2022-2024..... 3

Water Surface Acre Usage – States and United States: 2022-2024 3

Foodsize Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024..... 4

Stockers and Fingerlings Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024 5

Broodfish Inventory by Size Category – States and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024 6

Sales – States and United States: 2022 and 2023 7

Broodfish Sales – States and United States: 2022 and 2023..... 8

Foodsize and Stockers Sold by Point of First Sale – United States: 2022 and 2023 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: 2022-2024

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2023	2024	2022	2023
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	14,100	13,700	103,969	112,884
Arkansas	3,400	3,100	26,671	24,590
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	33,100	31,700	277,944	259,546
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,500	1,600	21,724	22,797
Other States ¹	3,755	3,445	16,731	17,574
United States	55,855	53,545	447,039	437,391

(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: 2022-2024

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			
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2022	2023
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	14,000	13,100	370	440	15	10	(D)	115	70	(D)	920	720
Arkansas	2,200	2,000	870	710	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	165	190	55	60	85	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	25,400	24,300	5,400	5,200	1,800	1,500	1,200	1,100	(D)	165	400	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	10	5	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,500	1,500	(D)	45	(D)	20	(D)	80	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	2,335	2,260	705	650	355	330	1,100	560	65	55	395	1,705
United States	45,435	43,160	7,510	7,245	2,230	1,920	2,385	1,855	135	220	1,715	2,425

- 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, 2023 and 2024

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	1,720	1,660	6,750	6,400	3.9	3.9
Arkansas	640	590	2,334	2,150	3.6	3.6
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	1,510	1,290	5,300	4,500	3.5	3.5
North Carolina	5	(D)	18	(D)	3.6	(D)
Texas	(D)	185	(D)	650	(D)	3.5
Other States ¹	400	295	1,414	1,059	3.5	3.6
United States	4,275	4,020	15,816	14,759	3.7	3.7
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	15,700	18,100	31,600	36,100	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	3,450	3,780	6,950	8,000	2.0	2.1
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	27,400	32,000	49,400	60,000	1.8	1.9
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	4,610	4,510	8,550	8,350	1.9	1.9
Other States ¹	1,115	1,175	2,392	2,551	2.1	2.2
United States	52,275	59,565	98,892	115,001	1.9	1.9
Small foodsize						
Alabama	27,700	19,400	27,700	19,600	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	5,250	4,410	5,550	4,750	1.1	1.1
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	62,800	48,200	62,800	50,700	1.0	1.1
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	2,620	2,620	2,300	2,250	0.9	0.9
Other States ¹	2,100	1,315	2,125	1,309	1.0	1.0
United States	100,470	75,945	100,475	78,609	1.0	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	45,120	39,160	66,050	62,100	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	9,340	8,780	14,834	14,900	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	91,710	81,490	117,500	115,200	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	7,355	7,315	11,285	11,250	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	3,495	2,785	5,514	4,919	(NA)	(NA)
United States	157,020	139,530	215,183	208,369	(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, 2023 and 2024**

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	46,400	25,200	14,400	10,000	310	397
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	61,000	34,600	19,700	11,000	323	318
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	19,410	20,420	7,041	7,532	363	369
United States	126,810	80,220	41,141	28,532	324	356
Small stockers						
Alabama	50,800	19,200	4,450	1,860	87.6	96.9
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	137,000	92,500	14,400	8,850	105.0	95.7
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	30,740	32,525	2,828	2,934	92.0	90.2
United States	218,540	144,225	21,678	13,644	99.2	94.6
Total stockers						
Alabama	97,200	44,400	18,850	11,860	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	198,000	127,100	34,100	19,850	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	50,150	52,945	9,869	10,466	(NA)	(NA)
United States	345,350	224,445	62,819	42,176	(NA)	(NA)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Arkansas	18,400	17,700	739	535	40.2	30.2
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	243,000	157,000	8,850	4,800	36.4	30.6
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	350	185	7	4	20.0	21.6
Other States ¹	19,305	23,935	888	1,118	46.0	46.7
United States	281,055	198,820	10,484	6,457	37.3	32.5

(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, 2023 and 2024

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish						
Alabama	5	(D)	18	(D)	3.6	(D)
Arkansas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
California	(D)	5	(D)	37	(D)	7.4
Mississippi	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	5	(D)	17	(D)	3.4
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	885	770	4,730	4,937	5.3	6.4
United States	890	780	4,748	4,991	5.3	6.4

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

Sales – States and United States: 2022 and 2023

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(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	46,600	52,400	83,900	96,200	1.8	1.8	101,519	112,554	1.21	1.17
Arkansas	10,400	10,600	18,000	16,600	1.7	1.6	22,860	20,584	1.27	1.24
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	137,000	128,000	203,400	188,200	1.5	1.5	262,386	235,250	1.29	1.25
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	9,440	11,000	18,500	21,600	2.0	2.0	21,460	22,248	1.16	1.03
Other States ¹	2,555	2,580	5,096	5,205	2.0	2.0	13,350	14,321	2.62	2.75
United States	205,995	204,580	328,896	327,805	1.6	1.6	421,575	404,957	1.28	1.24
	(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)	53,300	(D)	9,650	(D)	181.0	(D)	14,861	(D)	1.54
North Carolina	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)	-	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	59,715	34,005	5,964	3,253	100.0	96.0	10,620	5,450	1.78	1.68
United States	59,715	87,305	5,964	12,903	100.0	148.0	10,620	20,311	1.78	1.57
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	142,000	(D)	4,100	(D)	28.9	(D)	9,799	(D)	2.39	(D)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	3,130	(D)	105	(D)	33.5	(D)	100	(D)	0.95	(D)
Other States ¹	20,230	152,865	623	4,496	30.8	29.4	2,206	10,287	3.54	2.29
United States	165,360	152,865	4,828	4,496	29.2	29.4	12,105	10,287	2.51	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: 2022 and 2023

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(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	55	(D)	239	(D)	4.3	(D)	315	(D)	1.32	(D)
North Carolina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	965	252	1,960	1,133	2.0	4.5	2,424	1,836	1.24	1.62
United States	1,020	252	2,199	1,133	2.2	4.5	2,739	1,836	1.25	1.62

- 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: 2022 and 2023

[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	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
United States	93.7	94.7	0.4	0.4	2.6	2.4	1.0	1.4	2.3	1.2
Stockers	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
	United States	79.5	77.4	12.4	12.2	6.1	8.2	0.5	0.7	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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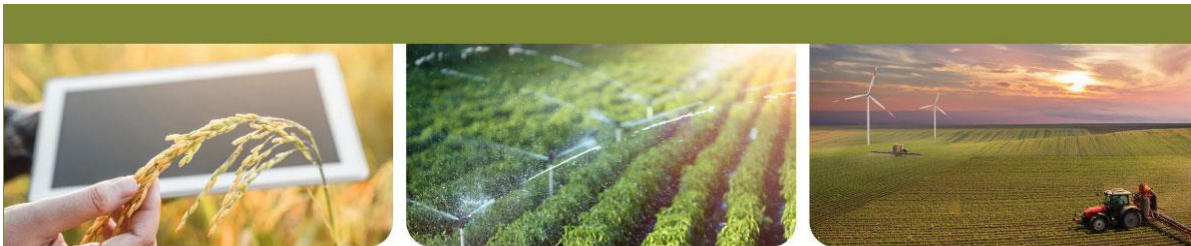
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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov.

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- More than 30 sessions covering commodity markets and outlook, international trade, agricultural policy, as well as cutting edge topics that will influence the future of agriculture



For More Information, please contact the Forum Coordinator [Mirvat Sewadeh](#) at 202-720-5447