

# CATFISH PROCESSING



Released: July 22, 2005

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Released July 21, 2005, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Catfish Processing* call Mike Barker at 202-720-3243, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## **Catfish Processing Down 1 Percent**

Farm-raised catfish processed during June 2005 totaled 49.6 million pounds round weight, down 1 percent from June 2004. The average price paid to producers was 72.1 cents per pound for June 2005, down 0.1 cent from last month but 3.2 cents above a year ago.

Net pounds of processed fish sold during June 2005 totaled 25.2 million pounds, up 1 percent from the comparable month in 2004. Total end of the month inventory decreased 3 percent from last month but was up 11 percent from a year ago. Sales of fresh fish, at 8.88 million pounds, were down 6 percent from June 2004 and represented 35 percent of total sales. Frozen fish sales, at 16.3 million pounds, were up 5 percent from a year ago and accounted for the remaining 65 percent of total fish sales. Sales of whole fish represented 15 percent of the total fish sold, fillets accounted for 61 percent, and the remaining 24 percent were mostly steaks, nuggets, and value added products.

The June 2005 average price received by processors for total fresh fish was \$2.32 per pound, an increase of 4 cents from last year. Prices for fresh whole fish were \$1.58 per pound, up 1 cent from last year. Prices for fresh fillets were up 11 cents at \$2.85 per pound. Total frozen fish averaged \$2.27 per pound, up 5 cents from June 2004. Prices for frozen whole fish were up 5 cents at \$2.01, and frozen fillets at \$2.68 per pound were up 3 cents from a year ago.

Freshwater imports of frozen, boneless, *Ictalurus*, *Pangasius* and *Siluriformes* catfish fillets for May 2005 totaled 2.70 million pounds, substantially above last year. Seventy-nine percent of all imports were from Vietnam with the remainder coming from Cambodia, China and China-Taipei. The *Ictalurus* (channel catfish) imports totaled 154 thousand pounds.

Exports of frozen, boneless catfish fillets reported for May 2005 totaled 4.94 thousand pounds, all of which went to Canada. Fresh fillet exports totaled 79.0 thousand pounds, with 41.1 thousand pounds going to Canada and the rest to Mexico, Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

Import and export data are compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Census.

### *Special Note*

Pages 4 and 5 contain revisions for January - May, 2005. Round & Gutted and Whole Dressed Fresh Fish were updated for incorrectly reported data. This also affected the Total Fresh, and the Total Fresh and Frozen Fish estimates for the same time period.

**Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed by Major Processors,  
United States, 2004-2005**

Month	Round Weight Processed					Percent of Previous Year Percent
	Monthly		Percent of Previous Year Percent	Cumulative		
	2004 <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	2005 <i>1,000 Pounds</i>		2004 <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	2005 <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	
Jan	53,849	53,856	100	53,849	53,856	100
Feb	54,173	51,720	95	108,022	105,576	98
Mar	60,272	57,117	95	168,294	162,693	97
Apr	53,896	50,306	93	222,190	212,999	96
May	52,324	51,552	99	274,514	264,551	96
Jun	50,155	49,626	99	324,669	314,177	97
Jul	51,055			375,724		
Aug	53,295			429,019		
Sep	51,329			480,348		
Oct	52,396			532,744		
Nov	49,536			582,280		
Dec	48,170			630,450		

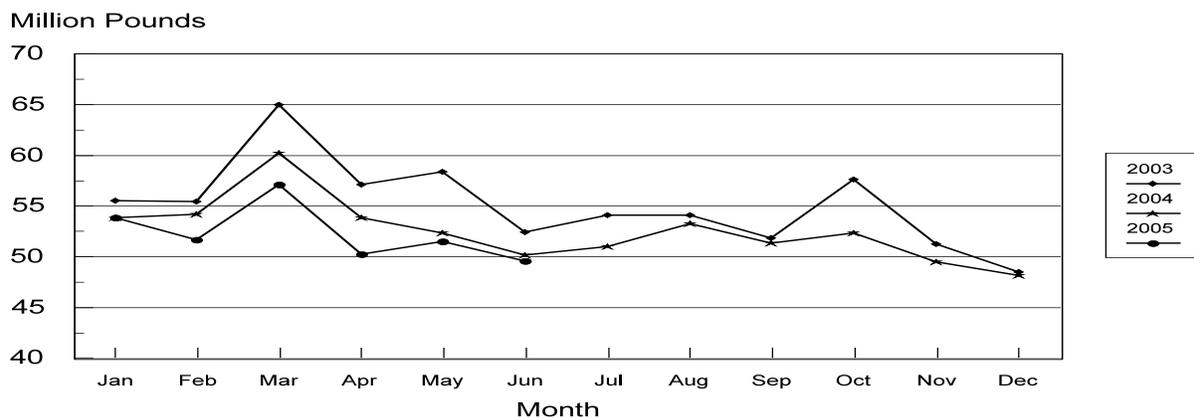
**Farm-Raised Catfish: Prices Paid to Producers by Processors  
and Imports, United States, 2004-2005**

Month	Price per Pound <sup>1</sup>		Change from Previous Year Dollars	Imports <sup>2</sup>		Percent of Previous Year Percent
	2004	2005		2004	2005	
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	
Jan	0.668	0.725	0.057	215	1,383	643
Feb	0.703	0.731	0.028	204	1,230	603
Mar	0.723	0.733	0.010	295	1,161	394
Apr	0.728	0.725	-0.003	328	2,198	670
May	0.720	0.722	0.002	248	2,695	1,087
Jun	0.689	0.721	0.032	270		
Jul	0.682			123		
Aug	0.683			1,637		
Sep	0.683			1,801		
Oct	0.695			1,104		
Nov	0.689			1,579		
Dec	0.690			1,420		

<sup>1</sup>Price for fish delivered to the processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

<sup>2</sup> Pounds of frozen boneless fillets. Includes Ictalurus, Pangasius and Siluriformes catfish. Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

**Catfish Processed  
United States 2003-2005**



**Catfish Processors: Sales Volume, Average Price, and Ending Inventory, United States, June 2004-2005**

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Fresh Fish						
Whole						
Round & Guttled	876	1,291	1.03	1.19	*	*
Whole Dressed	1,831	1,474	1.80	1.85	*	*
Total	2,707	2,765	1.57	1.58	237	175
Other						
Steaks	110	95	2.11	2.16	*	*
Nuggets	821	771	1.27	1.30	103	94
Other <sup>1</sup>	317	264	2.99	3.04	*	*
Total	1,248	1,130	1.78	1.78	134	114
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	5,500	4,987	2.74	2.85	579	495
Total Fresh	9,455	8,882	2.28	2.32	950	784
Frozen Fish						
Whole Dressed	1,024	1,008	1.96	2.01	1,133	736
Other						
Steaks	115	114	1.92	1.97	64	118
Nuggets	3,480	3,244	0.93	0.93	2,216	2,288
Other <sup>1</sup>	1,243	1,592	2.71	2.49	796	898
Total	4,838	4,950	1.41	1.46	3,076	3,304
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	9,579	10,314	2.65	2.68	6,232	7,784
Total Frozen	15,441	16,272	2.22	2.27	10,441	11,824
Fresh & Frozen Fish						
Whole						
Round & Guttled	876	1,291	1.03	1.19	*	*
Whole Dressed	2,855	2,482	1.86	1.91	*	*
Total	3,731	3,773	1.68	1.69	1,370	911
Other						
Steaks	225	209	2.01	2.06	*	*
Nuggets	4,301	4,015	0.99	1.00	2,319	2,382
Other <sup>1</sup>	1,560	1,856	2.77	2.57	*	*
Total	6,086	6,080	1.49	1.52	3,210	3,418
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	15,079	15,301	2.68	2.74	6,811	8,279
Total Fresh & Frozen	24,896	25,154	2.24	2.28	11,391	12,608

\* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>1</sup> Includes all products not already reported including weight of breading and added ingredients.

<sup>2</sup> Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded products.

**Catfish Processors: Sales Volume  
United States, January-May 2005**

Item	Jan <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	Feb <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	Mar <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	Apr <i>1,000 Pounds</i>	May <i>1,000 Pounds</i>
Fresh Fish					
Whole					
Round & Guttet	*1,155	*1,267	*1,570	*1,404	*1,246
Whole Dressed	*1,956	*1,910	*1,832	*1,534	*1,433
Total	3,111	3,177	3,402	2,938	2,679
Other					
Steaks	104	97	103	106	98
Nuggets	948	961	973	915	832
Other <sup>1</sup>	248	237	294	250	274
Total	1,300	1,295	1,370	1,271	1,204
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	5,274	5,615	5,795	4,979	5,274
Total Fresh	9,685	10,087	10,567	9,188	9,157
Frozen Fish					
Whole Dressed	1,116	1,117	1,166	1,141	1,091
Other					
Steaks	194	108	133	126	98
Nuggets	3,209	3,068	3,103	2,621	3,167
Other <sup>1</sup>	1,382	1,677	1,680	1,036	1,325
Total	4,785	4,853	4,916	3,783	4,590
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	10,618	10,469	10,824	10,424	10,926
Total Frozen	16,519	16,439	16,906	15,348	16,607
Fresh & Frozen Fish					
Whole					
Round & Guttet	*1,155	*1,267	*1,570	*1,404	*1,246
Whole Dressed	*3,072	*3,027	*2,998	*2,675	*2,524
Total	4,227	4,294	4,568	4,079	3,770
Other					
Steaks	298	205	236	232	196
Nuggets	4,157	4,029	4,076	3,536	3,999
Other <sup>1</sup>	1,630	1,914	1,974	1,286	1,599
Total	6,085	6,148	6,286	5,054	5,794
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	15,892	16,084	16,619	15,403	16,200
Total Fresh & Frozen	26,204	26,526	27,473	24,536	25,764

\* Revised.

<sup>1</sup> Includes all products not already reported including weight of breading and added ingredients.

<sup>2</sup> Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded products.

**Catfish Processors: Average Price  
United States, January-May 2005**

Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
	<i>Dollars per Pound</i>				
Fresh Fish					
Whole					
Round & Guttled	*1.25	*1.27	*1.26	*1.23	*1.21
Whole Dressed	*1.83	*1.83	*1.85	*1.88	*1.88
Total	*1.64	*1.64	*1.61	*1.61	*1.61
Other					
Steaks	2.12	2.12	2.15	2.18	2.16
Nuggets	1.27	1.29	1.30	1.29	1.30
Other <sup>1</sup>	3.02	3.03	3.05	3.03	3.05
Total	1.67	1.67	1.74	1.71	1.77
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	2.81	2.75	2.85	2.87	2.86
Total Fresh	2.28	2.26	*2.31	*2.31	2.35
Frozen Fish					
Whole Dressed	1.97	2.01	1.98	2.01	2.02
Other					
Steaks	1.71	1.96	1.94	1.87	1.98
Nuggets	1.00	1.03	1.05	1.00	0.93
Other <sup>1</sup>	2.80	2.78	2.81	2.68	2.68
Total	1.55	1.66	1.68	1.49	1.46
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	2.66	2.66	2.70	2.66	2.64
Total Frozen	2.29	2.32	2.35	2.32	2.27
Fresh & Frozen Fish					
Whole					
Round & Guttled	*1.25	*1.27	*1.26	*1.23	*1.21
Whole Dressed	*1.88	*1.90	*1.90	*1.94	*1.94
Total	*1.73	*1.74	*1.71	*1.72	*1.73
Other					
Steaks	1.85	2.04	2.03	2.01	2.07
Nuggets	1.06	1.09	1.11	1.08	1.01
Other <sup>1</sup>	2.83	2.81	2.85	2.75	2.74
Total	1.57	1.66	1.69	1.54	1.52
Fillets <sup>2</sup>	2.71	2.69	2.75	2.73	2.71
Total Fresh & Frozen	2.29	2.30	*2.34	*2.32	2.30

\* Revised

<sup>1</sup> Includes all products not already reported including weight of breading and added ingredients.

<sup>2</sup> Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excludes any breaded products.

## Catfish Processing Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** Survey data for catfish processing are collected from approximately 21 processors. All participating processors must meet the minimum criteria of having a capacity to process at least 2,000 pounds live weight of catfish per 8-hour shift. The survey is conducted entirely by NASS Headquarter's staff in Washington, D.C. NASS field offices, however, are responsible for keeping Headquarters informed of any new processing operations in their state to ensure that the survey coverage is as complete as possible. Processors are contacted either by mail or telephone. Diligent effort is made to ensure that all operations are accounted for in the estimate.

**Estimation Procedures:** The "Catfish Processing" report refers strictly to farm-raised fish and excludes wild capture fish. Prior to summarization, questionnaires are compared with the previous month's reports for comparable placement of data, reasonable price levels, and reasonable inventory carryover given the sales and processing totals reported. Estimates are made for those processors whose reports are not available in time to be included in the release. These plants are identified by an asterisk on page 5 of this release. Estimates are normally based on the processor's previous report and current conditions. Published totals are a straight summation of the individual reports and estimated data. Price items are weighted by the associated volumes to compute weighted average prices. The published price for total whole fish, however, reflects an adjustment to the round and gutted only price to bring it to an equivalent dressed weight price.

If a plant uses a fiscal accounting system, proration is used to convert reported data to a calendar month basis. Only national level estimates are published due to the limited number of plants involved. Generally, individual items are not published if there are less than three plants reporting, or if any one plant has 60 percent or more of the total.

One unique feature of the "Catfish Processing" report is the listing of cooperating processors by name on each month's release. This feature originally was used to solicit industry cooperation in maintaining coverage, but it has continued because of the processors' overall acceptance of this policy.

Import and export data for frozen catfish fillets, which are compiled by the Department of Commerce, are also included in this report.

**Reliability:** Catfish processing estimates are based on a census of all known active processors and, therefore, have no sampling variability. However, estimates may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of the data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** Revisions may be necessary following a review of late reports received from plants. Revisions of less than 2 percent of the existing published levels of any category will normally not be made.

## Definitions Used For Catfish Processing:

**Average Price Paid to Producers** - Refers to the price of fish delivered to the processing plant door. Price includes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include any adjustments based on year-end settlements.

**Filletts** - Boned sides of the fish, cut lengthwise away from the backbone.

**Fresh Fish** - Fish intended for immediate consumption. Also referred to as ice-packed.

**Frozen Fish** - Fish which are individually quick frozen and glazed (IQF) or individually bagged and bulk frozen.

**Nuggets** - Small fillets cut from below the rib section of the fish. Usually includes breading or added ingredients.

**Round & Guttred Only** - Fish with no processing done or viscera only removed.

**Round Weight** - A term for fish live weight.

**Steaks** - Cross-section cuts from larger dressed fish.

**Strips** - Finger size pieces of fish cut from fillets. Usually includes breading or added ingredients.

**Whole Dressed** - Weight of whole fish with only head, viscera, and skin removed. Generally, 60 percent of the live weight remains as dressed fish.

### Processing data were compiled in cooperation with the following processors:

America's Catch	Heartland Catfish
Aqua Farm Catfish	Lake's Farm Raised Catfish, Inc
Carolina Classics Catfish, Inc.	Pride of the Pond
Consolidated Catfish Co. LLC.	Pride of the South Catfish Co.
Delta Pride Catfish, Inc	Prime Line Catfish Co.
Delta Supreme Fish Processing	Seabrook Seafood, Inc.
Fish Breeders of Idaho	Simmons Farm-Raised
Freshwater Farms Products LLC.	Southern Pride
Guidry Catfish Processors, Inc.	*Southfresh Farms
Harvest Select	Superior Fish Processors
Haring's Pride	

\* Estimated

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