

# Arkansas Catfish Production Report



Arkansas  
Field Office

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U. S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

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This report contains the results from the *Catfish Growers Survey* conducted during the first half of January, 2008. The data are also posted on our Web site at the Internet address above, and in more detailed U.S. statistics at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire or interview for this survey.

## Foodsize Catfish Inventory Down 13 Percent

Arkansas catfish producers had 46.4 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2008, down 13 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize fish on hand totaled 2 million, up 25 percent from January 1, 2007. Medium foodsize inventory, at 13.5 million, was down 6 percent from last year, while small foodsize, at 30.9 million, was down 17 percent from January 1, 2007. Arkansas catfish growers had sales of \$71.5 million during 2007, down 10 percent from 2006. As of January 1, 2008, the water surface acres being used for catfish production totaled 29,900 acres, down 2 percent from a year earlier. The number of catfish operations decreased from 137 on January 1, 2007, to 128 on January 1, 2008.

### Arkansas Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, January 1, 2007-2008

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight		
	2007	2008	% Change from '07	2007	2008	% Change from '07	2007	2008	
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish		
<b>Broodfish</b>	120	100	- 17	612	490	- 20	5.1	4.9	
<b>All Foodsize</b>	53,300	46,400	- 13	69,610	65,200	- 6	-	-	
Large	1,600	2,000	+ 25	5,410	7,000	+ 29	3.4	3.5	
Medium	14,400	13,500	- 6	28,800	28,000	- 3	2.0	2.1	
Small	37,300	30,900	- 17	35,400	30,200	- 15	0.9	1.0	
	<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>								
<b>All Stockers</b>	75,800	90,100	+ 19	15,000	19,300	+ 29	-	-	
Large	31,200	33,400	+ 7	10,800	13,200	+ 22	346	395	
Small	44,600	56,700	+ 27	4,200	6,100	+ 45	94.2	107.6	
<b>Fingerlings</b>	156,000	125,000	- 20	5,200	4,900	- 6	33.3	39.2	

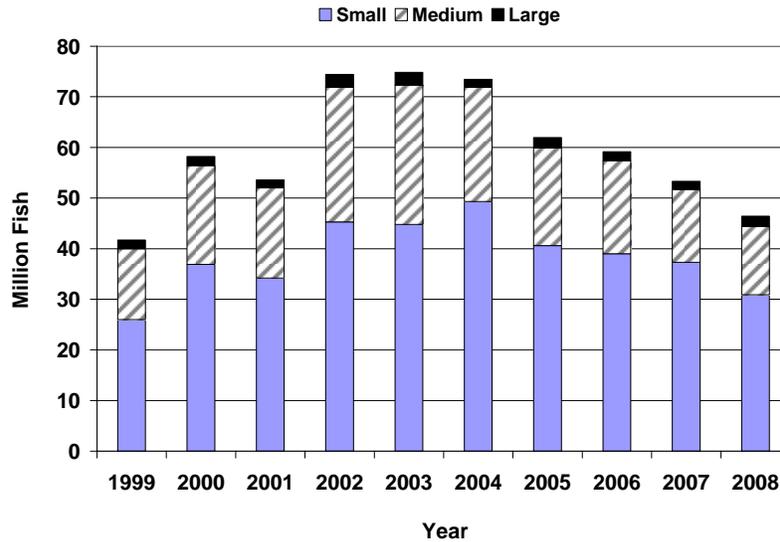
### U.S. Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size, January 1, 2007-2008

Type & Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight		
	2007	2008	% Change from '07	2007	2008	% Change from '07	2007	2008	
	1,000 Fish			1,000 Pounds			Pounds per Fish		
<b>Broodfish</b>	902	760	- 16	4,813	3,695	- 23	5.3	4.8	
<b>All Foodsize</b>	313,066	293,848	- 6	412,241	391,805	- 5	-	-	
Large	8,400	7,754	- 8	27,866	25,734	- 8	3.3	3.3	
Medium	98,407	90,385	- 8	181,703	170,878	- 6	1.8	1.8	
Small	206,259	195,709	- 5	202,672	195,193	- 4	0.9	1.0	
	<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>								
<b>All Stockers</b>	575,627	570,447	- 1	142,218	140,830	- 1	-	-	
Large	280,854	271,076	- 3	112,060	109,401	- 2	399	404	
Small	294,773	299,371	+ 2	30,158	31,429	+ 4	102.3	105.0	
<b>Fingerlings</b>	964,814	894,005	- 7	29,910	28,908	- 3	31.0	32.3	

### Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large Stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small Stockers: 60 to 180 lbs. per 1,000 fish or over 6" in length.
- Fingerlings: 2 to 60 lbs. per 1,000 fish or 2" to 6" in length.

**Arkansas Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size, January 1, 1999-2008**



**Arkansas Catfish Sales by Size Category, 2006-2007**

Size Category	Number		Live Weight Sold				Average Price per Pound		Total Sales	
			Average Weight		Total		2006	2007	2006	2007
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007				
	<i>1,000 Fish</i>		<i>Pounds per Fish</i>		<i>1,000 Pounds</i>		<i>Dollars</i>		<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	
Foodsize	56,500	57,600	1.8	1.6	99,200	90,400	0.76	0.75	75,392	67,800
Fingerlings	127,000	89,300	<i>Pounds per 1,000 Fish</i>		1,350	1,220	2.10	1.81	2,835	2,208
			10.6	13.7						
<b>Total</b>	<b>183,500*</b>	<b>146,900*</b>	-	-	<b>100,550*</b>	<b>91,620*</b>	-	-	<b>79,586**</b>	<b>71,544*</b>

\* Broodfish and stockers not included. \*\* Total sales include broodfish and stockers.

**Number of Operations and Water Surface Acres, January 1, 2007-2008**

Item	Unit	Arkansas			United States		
		2007	2008	% Change from '07	2007	2008	% Change from '07
Catfish Operations, January 1	Number	137	128	- 7	1,240	1,064	- 14
Water Surface Used for Catfish Production <sup>1</sup>	Acres	30,400	29,900	- 2	163,676	154,632	- 6
For Foodsize	Acres	25,500	24,000	- 6	133,471	125,366	- 6
For Fingerlings	Acres	4,200	4,400	+ 5	23,249	21,233	- 9
For Broodfish	Acres	560	500	- 11	3,903	3,509	- 10

<sup>1</sup> During January 1 to June 30. Current year data for intended utilization.