



Catfish Production

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Catfish Value of Sales Down 21 Percent from 2023

Catfish growers in the United States had sales of 358 million dollars during 2024, down 21 percent from 454 million dollars the previous year. The top four States (Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas) accounted for 95 percent of the United States total sales. The United States total Foodsize sales of 331 million dollars decreased 21 percent from the previous year. Sales of Stockers totaled 11.9 million dollars in 2024, compared to 20.3 million dollars in 2023. Fingerling and fry sales totaled 12.5 million dollars, up 21 percent from 2023.

By point of first sale, direct sales to processors accounted for 93.3 percent of total Foodsize fish sales, down 1.6 percent from the previous year. Wholesale to other producers accounted for 76.4 percent of Stocker sales compared to 77.4 percent in 2023.

Water Surface Acres Down 3 Percent from January 1, 2024

The water surface acres being used for catfish production as of January 1, 2025, totaled 52,070 acres, down 3 percent from the 53,545 acres used a year earlier. Of the total acres, 1,690 are to be renovated during the period of January 1 to June 30, 2025. An additional 60 acres are under construction or expected to be constructed and in use by July 1, 2025. During the period of July 1 through December 31, 2024, the area taken out of production totaled 1,255 acres. As of January 1, 2025, Foodsize fish were produced on 41,060 acres, Fingerling producing acres totaled 7,000, and 1,860 acres were being used for Broodfish production.

Inventory

Catfish producers had 776 thousand Broodfish on hand January 1, 2025, down 1 percent from January 1, 2024. Large foodsize fish on hand totaled 3.73 million on January 1, 2025, down 11 percent from a year ago. The inventory of Medium foodsize fish was down 24 percent to 47.4 million, while Small foodsize fish inventory was down 10 percent at 70.9 million. Large stockers on hand January 1, 2025, at 58.7 million fish, were down 30 percent from the previous year. Small stocker inventory was down 13 percent to 133 million. There were 224 million Fingerlings on hand January 1, 2025, up 13 percent from January 1, 2024.

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Water Surface Acres Used for Production and Total Sales – States and United States: 2023-2025

State	Water surface acres used for production during January 1 - June 30		Total sales	
	2024	2025	2023	2024
	(acres)	(acres)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	13,700	12,100	112,884	94,507
Arkansas	3,100	3,400	24,590	23,092
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	31,700	29,900	276,046	202,587
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	1,600	1,600	22,797	19,554
Other States ¹	3,445	5,070	17,574	17,790
United States	53,545	52,070	453,891	357,530

(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: 2023-2025

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			
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2023	2024
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
Alabama	13,100	11,600	440	(D)	10	(D)	115	(D)	(D)	(D)	720	700
Arkansas	2,000	2,500	710	620	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	170
California	(D)	(D)	190	170	60	40	(D)	(D)	-	-	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	24,300	22,500	5,200	4,800	1,500	1,400	1,100	(D)	165	40	(D)	65
North Carolina	220	(D)	10	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	-
Texas	1,500	1,600	45	(D)	20	40	80	(D)	(D)	-	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	2,040	2,860	650	1,410	330	380	560	1,690	35	20	1,705	320
United States	43,160	41,060	7,245	7,000	1,920	1,860	1,855	1,690	200	60	2,425	1,255

- 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, 2024 and 2025

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Large foodsize						
Alabama	1,750	1,450	6,850	5,200	3.9	3.6
Arkansas	590	580	2,150	2,100	3.6	3.6
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	1,370	1,180	4,800	4,200	3.5	3.6
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	185	200	650	684	3.5	3.4
Other States ¹	295	320	1,059	1,168	3.6	3.7
United States	4,190	3,730	15,509	13,352	3.7	3.6
Medium foodsize						
Alabama	19,300	12,000	38,600	24,100	2.0	2.0
Arkansas	3,780	2,780	8,000	6,250	2.1	2.2
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	33,700	27,200	64,100	52,600	1.9	1.9
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	4,510	(D)	8,350	(D)	1.9	(D)
Other States ¹	1,175	5,370	2,551	10,450	2.2	1.9
United States	62,465	47,350	121,601	93,400	1.9	2.0
Small foodsize						
Alabama	20,900	16,400	20,900	16,000	1.0	1.0
Arkansas	4,410	2,840	4,750	3,100	1.1	1.1
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	49,300	45,700	54,200	47,800	1.1	1.0
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	2,620	(D)	2,250	(D)	0.9	(D)
Other States ¹	1,315	5,980	1,309	5,789	1.0	1.0
United States	78,545	70,920	83,409	72,689	1.1	1.0
Total foodsize						
Alabama	41,950	29,850	66,350	45,300	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	8,780	6,200	14,900	11,450	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	84,370	74,080	123,100	104,600	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	7,315	7,650	11,250	11,284	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	2,785	4,220	4,919	6,807	(NA)	(NA)
United States	145,200	122,000	220,519	179,441	(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, 2024 and 2025**

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
Large stockers						
Alabama	26,900	11,200	10,700	5,000	398	446
Arkansas	(D)	12,200	(D)	3,700	(D)	303
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	37,000	30,800	11,800	12,000	319	390
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	20,420	4,455	7,532	1,903	369	427
United States	84,320	58,655	30,032	22,603	356	385
Small stockers						
Alabama	20,500	24,400	1,990	2,400	97.1	98.4
Arkansas	(D)	24,200	(D)	2,050	(D)	84.7
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	98,800	78,200	9,450	8,900	95.6	114.0
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Other States ¹	32,525	5,815	2,934	566	90.2	97.3
United States	151,825	132,615	14,374	13,916	94.7	105.0
Total stockers						
Alabama	47,400	35,600	12,690	7,400	(NA)	(NA)
Arkansas	(D)	36,400	(D)	5,750	(NA)	(NA)
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Mississippi	135,800	109,000	21,250	20,900	(NA)	(NA)
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Texas	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Other States ¹	52,945	10,270	10,466	2,469	(NA)	(NA)
United States	236,145	191,270	44,406	36,519	(NA)	(NA)
Fingerlings						
Alabama	16,200	6,430	877	348	54.1	54.1
Arkansas	17,700	10,800	535	335	30.2	31.0
California	2,520	(D)	63	(D)	25.0	(D)
Mississippi	157,000	200,000	4,800	6,500	30.6	32.5
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	185	(D)	4	(D)	21.6	(D)
Other States ¹	5,215	6,535	178	239	34.1	36.6
United States	198,820	223,765	6,457	7,422	32.5	33.2

(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 – United States: January 1, 2024 and 2025

Size category	Fish		Live weight			
			Total		Average	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	780	776	4,991	4,501	6.4	5.8

Sales – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

Size category and State	Fish		Live weight				Sales			
			Total		Average		Total		Average price per pound	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	(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	52,400	53,000	96,200	95,400	1.8	1.8	112,554	94,446	1.17	0.99
Arkansas	10,600	9,200	16,600	13,700	1.6	1.5	20,584	16,303	1.24	1.19
California	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Mississippi	134,000	119,000	201,400	166,800	1.5	1.4	251,750	185,148	1.25	1.11
North Carolina	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Texas	11,000	(D)	21,600	(D)	2.0	(D)	22,248	(D)	1.03	(D)
Other States ¹	2,580	12,750	5,205	23,372	2.0	1.8	14,321	35,214	2.75	1.51
United States	210,580	193,950	341,005	299,272	1.6	1.5	421,457	331,111	1.24	1.11
Broodfish										
United States	252	226	1,133	945	4.5	4.2	1,836	2,056	1.62	2.18
	(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	53,300	(NA)	9,650	(NA)	181.0	(NA)	14,861	(NA)	1.54	(NA)
Other States ¹	34,005	61,220	3,253	8,074	96.0	132.0	5,450	11,897	1.68	1.47
United States	87,305	61,220	12,903	8,074	148.0	132.0	20,311	11,897	1.57	1.47
Fingerlings and fry										
United States	152,865	147,890	4,496	4,374	29.4	29.6	10,287	12,466	2.29	2.85

(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.

² Estimates discontinued in 2025.

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

[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	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Foodsize	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
	94.9	93.3	0.4	0.5	2.3	2.9	1.3	1.9	1.1	1.4
	Wholesale to other producers		Recreational stocking		Live haulers and brokers		Government agencies		Other outlets	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Stockers	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
	77.4	76.4	12.2	11.5	8.2	10.4	0.7	0.5	1.5	1.2

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
Ryan Cowen, Acting Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section	(202) 720-3040
Holly Brenize – Poultry Slaughter.....	(202) 720-0585
Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish and Trout, Mink, Census of Aquaculture, 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 – Chicken Hatchery, Broiler Hatchery	(202) 720-6147

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- 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.

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USDA will hold the 101st Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum on February 27-28, 2025, at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott in Arlington, VA, under the title "Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges, Today." All Forum sessions will also be livestreamed on a virtual platform.

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