



Arkansas Catfish Production Report

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Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture
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This report contains part of the results from the *Catfish Production Survey* conducted during January 2018. The data are posted on our web site at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report, *Catfish Production*, at the Internet address above. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire or interview for this survey.

Foodsize Catfish Sales Up 7 Percent From 2016

Arkansas catfish producers had 10.3 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2018, up 61 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize fish on hand totaled 440,000, up 110 percent from January 1, 2017. Medium foodsize inventory, at 3.37 million, was up 31 percent from last year; while, small foodsize, at 6.51 million, was up 80 percent from January 1, 2017. Arkansas catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$18.1 million during 2017, up 7 percent from 2016.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size – Arkansas: January 1, 2017 and 2018

Type and Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2017	2018	Percent of previous year	2017	2018	Percent of previous year	2017	2018
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	60	50	83	244	198	81	4.1	4.0
All Foodsize	6,400	10,320	161	8,892	14,470	163	(X)	(X)
Large	210	440	210	692	1,520	220	3.3	3.5
Medium	2,570	3,370	131	4,700	6,400	136	1.8	1.9
Small	3,620	6,510	180	3,500	6,550	187	1.0	1.0
							(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
All Stockers	30,280	28,690	95	5,100	3,840	75	(X)	(X)
Large	7,280	5,190	71	2,600	1,490	57	357.0	287.0
Small	23,000	23,500	102	2,500	2,350	94	108.7	100.0
Fingerlings	27,400	29,900	109	1,090	1,240	114	39.8	41.5

(X) Not applicable.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size – United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018

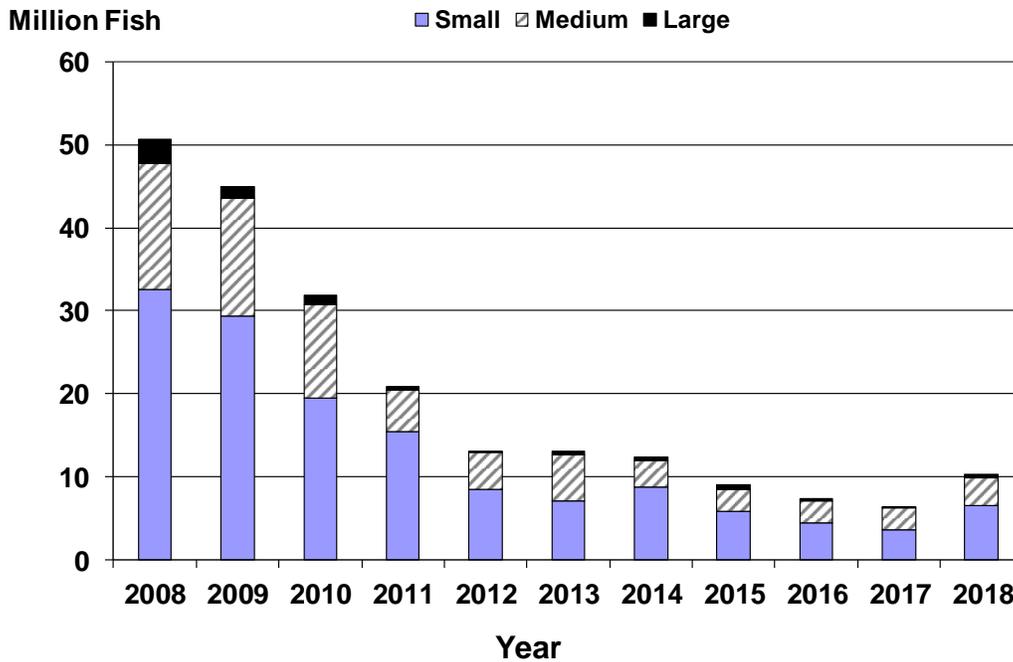
Type and Size	Number			Total Live Weight			Average Live Weight	
	2017	2018	Percent of previous year	2017	2018	Percent of previous year	2017	2018
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	595	670	113	2,996	3,586	120	5.0	5.4
All Foodsize	132,090	151,490	115	191,335	215,850	113	(X)	(X)
Large	3,770	4,430	118	14,008	16,332	117	3.7	3.7
Medium	54,410	53,225	98	101,454	101,479	100	1.9	1.9
Small	73,910	93,835	127	75,873	98,039	129	1.0	1.0
							(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
All Stockers	308,940	357,670	116	59,247	67,211	113	(X)	(X)
Large	102,235	115,410	113	39,796	44,598	112	389.0	386.0
Small	206,705	242,260	117	19,451	22,613	116	94.1	93.3
Fingerlings	269,420	211,810	79	8,513	8,101	95	31.6	38.2

(X) Not applicable.

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.

Foodsize Catfish Inventory by Size - Arkansas: January 1, 2008-2018



Catfish Sales by Size Category – Arkansas: 2016 and 2017

Size Category	Number of fish		Live Weight Sold				Average Price per Pound		Total Sales	
			Average Weight		Total		2016	2017	2016	2017
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Foodsize	(1,000)	(1,000)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
	10,300	11,100	1.6	1.5	16,300	16,800	1.04	1.08	16,952	18,144
Fingerlings	15,800	(D)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	472	(D)	3.00	(D)	1,416	(D)
			29.9	(D)						

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

Catfish Water Surface Acres - Arkansas and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018

Item	Unit	Arkansas			United States		
		2017	2018	Percent of previous year	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
Water Surface Used for Catfish Production ¹	Acres	5,000	4,800	96	60,790	61,860	102
For Foodsize	Acres	3,300	3,000	91	49,120	48,760	99
For Fingerlings	Acres	1,200	1,300	108	7,495	8,400	112
For Broodfish	Acres	180	195	108	1,905	1,940	102

¹ Includes acres currently under or scheduled for renovation and new construction.

