



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Arkansas Catfish Production

Released: April 2, 2019

Delta Region – Arkansas Field Office

10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, Arkansas 72211
(501) 228-9926 · (855) 270-2705 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov

Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture

This report contains part of the results from the **Catfish Production Survey**. The data are posted on our web site at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/ar> and in a more detailed report at <https://www.nass.usda.gov>. Thanks to all who responded to this survey.

Foodsize Catfish Sales Up 3 Percent from 2017

Arkansas catfish producers had 10.6 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2019, up 3 percent from a year ago. The number of small foodsize, at 6.37 million, was down 2 percent from January 1, 2018. Arkansas catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$18.7 million during 2018, up 3 percent from 2017.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size – Arkansas: January 1, 2018 and 2019

Size category	Number			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2018	2019	Percent of previous year	2018	2019	Percent of previous year	2018	2019
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	50	(D)	(NA)	198	(D)	(NA)	4.0	(D)
All foodsize	10,320	10,620	103	14,470	14,950	103	(NA)	(NA)
Large	440	(D)	(NA)	1,520	(D)	(NA)	3.5	(D)
Medium	3,370	(D)	(NA)	6,400	(D)	(NA)	1.9	(D)
Small	6,510	6,370	98	6,550	6,150	94	1.0	1.0
							(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
All stockers	28,690	36,650	128	3,840	4,850	126	(NA)	(NA)
Large	5,190	(D)	(NA)	1,490	(D)	(NA)	287.0	(D)
Small	23,500	(D)	(NA)	2,350	(D)	(NA)	100.0	(D)
Fingerlings	29,900	13,300	44	1,240	521	42	41.5	39.2

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

(NA) Not available.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size – United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019

Size category	Number			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2018	2019	Percent of previous year	2018	2019	Percent of previous year	2018	2019
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	670	560	84	3,586	2,659	74	5.4	4.7
All foodsize	161,660	144,875	90	230,250	206,899	90	(NA)	(NA)
Large	4,700	6,410	136	17,332	23,708	137	3.7	3.7
Medium	56,525	49,575	88	107,879	93,409	87	1.9	1.9
Small	100,435	88,890	89	105,039	89,782	85	1.0	1.0
							(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
All stockers	382,070	273,560	72	71,861	56,549	79	(NA)	(NA)
Large	123,910	106,170	86	47,798	40,324	84	386.0	380.0
Small	258,160	167,390	65	24,063	16,225	67	93.2	96.9
Fingerlings	211,810	343,875	162	8,101	9,384	116	38.2	27.3

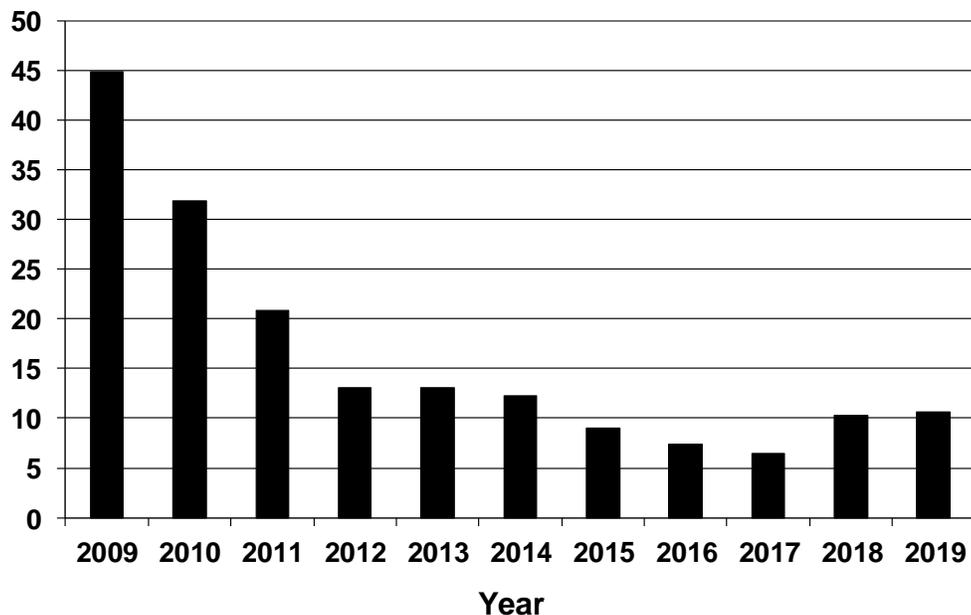
(NA) Not available.

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 - Arkansas: January 1, 2009-2019

Million fish



Catfish Sales by Size Category – Arkansas: 2017 and 2018

Size category	Number of fish		Live weight sold				Average price per pound		Total sales	
	2017 (1,000)	2018 (1,000)	Average weight		Total		2017 (dollars)	2018 (dollars)	2017 (1,000 dollars)	2018 (1,000 dollars)
			2017 (pounds per fish)	2018 (pounds per fish)	2017 (1,000 pounds)	2018 (1,000 pounds)				
Foodsize	11,100	10,900	1.5	1.7	16,800	18,300	1.08	1.02	18,144	18,666
Fingerlings and fry	(D)	12,400	(D)	38.1	(D)	472	(D)	1.99	(D)	939

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

Catfish Water Surface Acres - Arkansas and United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019

Item	Unit	Arkansas			United States		
		2018	2019	Percent of previous year	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
Water surface used for catfish production	Acres	4,800	4,300	90	63,760	63,320	99
Foodsize	Acres	3,000	3,000	100	50,560	51,630	102
Fingerlings	Acres	1,300	910	70	8,400	6,985	83
Broodfish	Acres	195	235	121	1,940	1,830	94