



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



Mississippi Catfish Production

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Delta Region – Mississippi Field Office

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Cooperating with the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce

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

Foodsize Catfish Sales Up 17 Percent from 2020

Mississippi catfish producers had 78.1 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2022, down 13 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize inventory on hand totaled 1.30 million fish, down 7 percent from January 1, 2021. Medium foodsize inventory, at 20.4 million fish, was down 9 percent from last year; while, small foodsize inventory at 56.4 million fish, was down 15 percent from January 1, 2021. Mississippi catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$243 million during 2021, up 17 percent from 2020.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Mississippi: January 1, 2021 and 2022

| Size category | Fish | | | Total live weight | | | Average live weight | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 |
| | (1,000 fish) | (1,000 fish) | (percent) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (percent) | (pounds per fish) | (pounds per fish) |
| Broodfish | 570 | 630 | 111 | 3,150 | 3,300 | 105 | 5.5 | 5.2 |
| All foodsize | 89,900 | 78,100 | 87 | 111,200 | 99,600 | 90 | (NA) | (NA) |
| Large | 1,400 | 1,300 | 93 | 4,900 | 4,500 | 92 | 3.5 | 3.5 |
| Medium | 22,300 | 20,400 | 91 | 40,100 | 35,900 | 90 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Small | 66,200 | 56,400 | 85 | 66,200 | 59,200 | 89 | 1.0 | 1.0 |

| Size category | Fish | | | Total live weight | | | Average live weight | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 |
| | (1,000 fish) | (1,000 fish) | (percent) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (percent) | (pounds per 1,000 fish) | (pounds per 1,000 fish) |
| All stockers | 209,400 | 189,200 | 90 | 43,900 | 42,300 | 96 | (NA) | (NA) |
| Large | 68,400 | (D) | (NA) | 27,800 | (D) | (NA) | 406.0 | (D) |
| Small | 141,000 | (D) | (NA) | 16,100 | (D) | (NA) | 114.0 | (D) |
| Fingerlings | 172,000 | 232,000 | 135 | 6,350 | 7,400 | 117 | 36.9 | 31.9 |

(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, 2021 and 2022

| Size category | Fish | | | Total live weight | | | Average live weight | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 |
| | (1,000 fish) | (1,000 fish) | (percent) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (percent) | (pounds per fish) | (pounds per fish) |
| Broodfish | 640 | 730 | 114 | 3,491 | 3,777 | 108 | 5.5 | 5.2 |
| All foodfish | 156,615 | 146,085 | 93 | 210,944 | 196,655 | 93 | (NA) | (NA) |
| Large | 5,525 | 4,160 | 75 | 19,617 | 15,232 | 78 | 3.6 | 3.7 |
| Medium | 46,945 | 44,175 | 94 | 87,384 | 82,693 | 95 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Small | 104,145 | 97,750 | 94 | 103,943 | 98,730 | 95 | 1.0 | 1.0 |

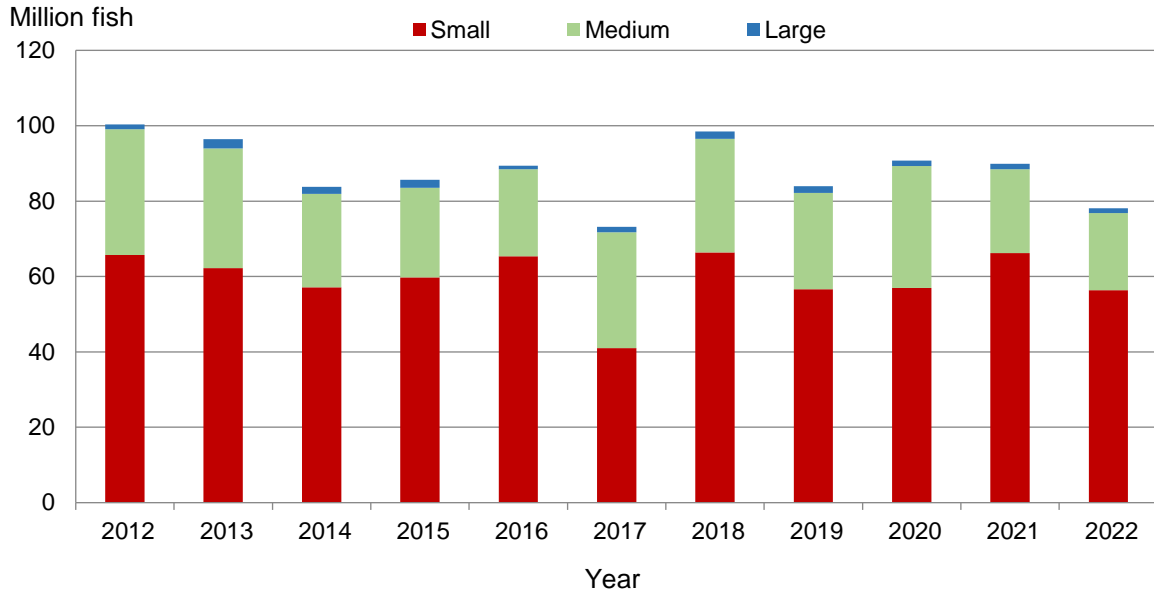
| Size category | Fish | | | Total live weight | | | Average live weight | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 |
| | (1,000 fish) | (1,000 fish) | (percent) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (percent) | (pounds per 1,000 fish) | (pounds per 1,000 fish) |
| All stockers | 313,055 | 305,830 | 98 | 69,161 | 68,477 | 99 | (NA) | (NA) |
| Large | 116,535 | 117,950 | 101 | 48,173 | 48,871 | 101 | 413.0 | 414.0 |
| Small | 196,520 | 187,880 | 96 | 20,988 | 19,606 | 93 | 107.0 | 104.0 |
| Fingerlings | 221,850 | 283,775 | 128 | 8,429 | 9,712 | 115 | 38.0 | 34.2 |

(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 - Mississippi: January 1, 2012 - 2022



Catfish Sales by Size Category - Mississippi: 2020 and 2021

| Size category | Fish | | Live weight sold | | | | Average price per pound | | Total sales | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | Average weight | | Total | | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 |
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | | | | |
| Foodsize | (1,000 fish) | (1,000 fish) | (pounds per fish) | (pounds per fish) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (dollars) | (dollars) | (1,000 dollars) | (1,000 dollars) |
| | 128,000 | 121,000 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 192,100 | 194,300 | 1.08 | 1.25 | 207,468 | 242,875 |

| Size category | Fish | | Live weight sold | | | | Average price per pound | | Total sales | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | | Average weight | | Total | | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 |
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | | | | |
| Fingerlings and fry | (1,000 fish) | (1,000 fish) | (pounds per 1,000 fish) | (pounds per 1,000 fish) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (dollars) | (dollars) | (1,000 dollars) | (1,000 dollars) |
| | 177,000 | 163,000 | 31.4 | 32.2 | 5,550 | 5,250 | 2.44 | 2.27 | 13,542 | 11,918 |

Catfish Water Surface Acres - Mississippi and United States: January 1, 2021 and 2022

| Item | Mississippi | | | United States | | |
|---|-------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|---------|--------------------------|
| | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year | 2021 | 2022 | Percent of previous year |
| | (acres) | (acres) | (percent) | (acres) | (acres) | (percent) |
| Water surface used for catfish production | 34,700 | 34,100 | 98 | 60,105 | 58,310 | 97 |
| Foodsize | 24,600 | 25,800 | 105 | 46,900 | 46,860 | 100 |
| Fingerlings | 5,500 | 5,700 | 104 | 7,610 | 7,725 | 102 |
| Broodfish | 1,500 | 1,600 | 107 | 1,850 | 2,035 | 110 |