



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Arkansas Catfish Production

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Delta Region – Arkansas Field Office

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Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division of Agriculture

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/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 5 Percent from 2021

Arkansas catfish producers had 9.07 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2023, down 6 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize inventory on hand totaled 370,000 fish, up 9 percent from January 1, 2022. Medium foodsize inventory, at 3.45 million fish, was down 3 percent from last year; while, small foodsize inventory at 5.25 million fish, was down 9 percent from January 1, 2022. Arkansas catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$22.9 million during 2022, up 5 percent from 2021.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Arkansas: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)
All foodsize	9,670	9,070	94	13,670	13,810	101	(NA)	(NA)
Large	340	370	109	1,170	1,310	112	3.4	3.5
Medium	3,560	3,450	97	6,900	6,950	101	1.9	2.0
Small	5,770	5,250	91	5,600	5,550	99	1.0	1.1

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023
	(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	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(NA)	(NA)
Large	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)
Small	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)
Fingerlings	23,200	18,400	79	934	739	79	40.3	40.2

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

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	730	890	122	3,777	4,748	126	5.2	5.3
All foodfish	157,855	136,290	86	210,722	188,309	89	(NA)	(NA)
Large	4,520	3,545	78	16,578	13,042	79	3.7	3.7
Medium	46,575	45,875	98	87,893	86,892	99	1.9	1.9
Small	106,760	86,870	81	106,251	88,375	83	1.0	1.0

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023
	(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	327,530	308,650	94	73,227	57,069	78	(NA)	(NA)
Large	126,050	117,510	93	52,271	38,141	73	415.0	325.0
Small	201,480	191,140	95	20,956	18,928	90	104.0	99.0
Fingerlings	283,775	281,055	99	9,712	10,484	108	34.2	37.3

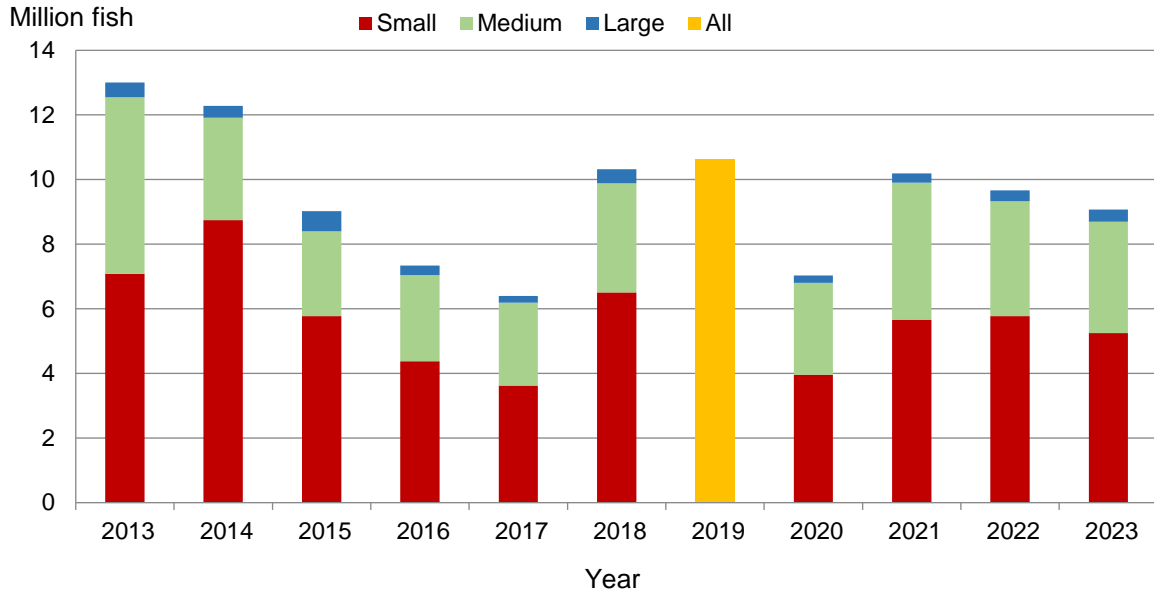
(NA) Not available.

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, 2013 - 2023



Catfish Sales by Size Category - Arkansas: 2021 and 2022

Size category	Fish		Live weight sold				Average price per pound		Total sales	
			Average weight		Total		2021	2022	2021	2022
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022				
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)
	10,400	10,400	1.7	1.7	17,300	18,000	1.26	1.27	21,798	22,860
Fingerlings and fry	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)

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

Catfish Water Surface Acres - Arkansas and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Item	Arkansas			United States		
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
Water surface used for catfish production	3,800	3,400	89	58,300	55,855	96
Foodsize	2,500	2,200	88	46,860	45,435	97
Fingerlings	870	870	100	7,725	7,510	97
Broodfish	(D)	(D)	(X)	2,015	2,230	111

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

(X) Not applicable.