



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Arkansas Catfish Production

Released: July 19, 2023



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](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

Cooperating with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture

This report contains the results from the **2023 July 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.

July 1 All Foodsize Inventory Up 3 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 5.62 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2023. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2023, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize at 300,000 fish, up 62 percent; medium foodsize at 1.90 million fish, down 1 percent; and small foodsize at 3.42 million fish, up 2 percent.

Arkansas was ranked third in the nation, behind Mississippi and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2023. Total stockers, at 14.5 million fish, were up 24 percent from a year ago.

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

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	July 2022	January 2023	July 2023	July 2022	January 2023	July 2023	January 2023	July 2023
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
<b>Broodfish</b> .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>All foodsize</b> .....	5,465	9,070	5,620	7,753	13,810	8,090	(X)	(X)
Large .....	185	370	300	653	1,310	1,090	3.5	3.6
Medium .....	1,920	3,450	1,900	3,700	6,950	3,550	2.0	1.9
Small .....	3,360	5,250	3,420	3,400	5,550	3,450	1.1	1.0

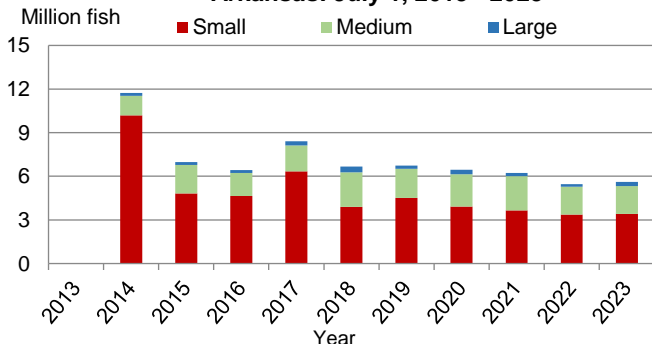
Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	July 2022	January 2023	July 2023	July 2022	January 2023	July 2023	January 2023	July 2023
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
<b>All stockers</b> .....	11,700	(D)	14,450	3,513	(D)	5,207	(X)	(X)
Large .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Small .....	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>Fingerlings and fry</b> .....	(D)	18,400	(D)	(D)	739	(D)	40.2	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.  
(X) Not applicable.

Definitions Used for Catfish Production

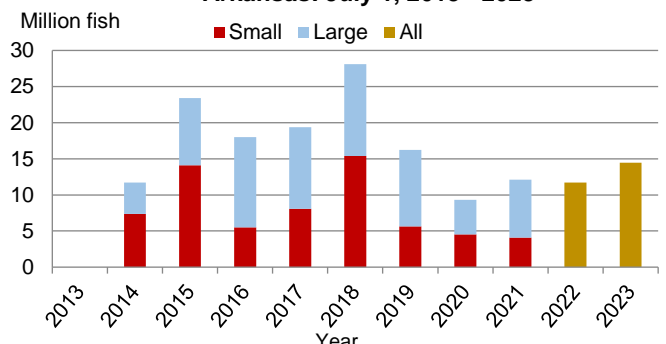
- Broodfish: Fish kept for egg production, including males, 3 to 10 lbs., or 4 to 6 years of age.
- Large foodsize: Over 3 lbs. per fish.
- Medium foodsize: 1 ½ to 3 lbs. per fish.
- Small foodsize: ¾ to 1 ½ lbs. per fish.
- Large stockers: 180 to 750 lbs. per 1,000 fish.
- Small stockers: 60 to 180 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.

Catfish Foodsize Inventory by Size Category  
Arkansas: July 1, 2013 - 2023



\* 2013 not published due to sequestration.

Catfish Stocker Inventory by Size Category  
Arkansas: July 1, 2013 - 2023



\* 2013 not published due to sequestration.

## Arkansas Water Surface Area Set at 3,400 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, totaled 3,400 acres. During July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 2,200 acres.

### Water Surface Acres Used for Production - Major States: 2022 and 2023

State	Water surface acres used for production July 1 - December 31	
	2022	2023
	(acres)	(acres)
AL .....	14,900	14,000
<b>AR</b> .....	3,600	3,400
MS .....	33,300	32,900
Total .....	51,800	50,300

### Catfish Water Surface Acres by Use – Major States: 2022 and 2023

State	Acres intended for utilization during July 1 - December 31 for										Acres taken out of production January 1 - June 30	
	Foodsize		Fingerlings		Broodfish		Currently under or scheduled for				2022	2023
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	Renovation		New construction			
(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
AL .....	14,400	13,900	(D)	(D)	20	(D)	(D)	300	125	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>AR</b> .....	2,300	2,200	(D)	(D)	110	(D)	(D)	55	-	-	-	-
MS .....	24,200	25,100	5,500	5,000	1,700	1,800	1,500	1,100	380	(D)	(D)	(D)
Total .....	40,900	41,200	6,650	6,260	1,830	2,050	2,005	1,455	505	255	1,190	455

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

### Water Surface Acres and Foodsize Acres Arkansas: July 1, 2013 - 2023

