



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 Arkansas Department 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 Down 10 Percent from 2022**

Arkansas catfish producers had 8.78 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2024, down 6 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize inventory on hand totaled 590,000 fish, down 8 percent from January 1, 2023. Medium foodsize inventory, at 3.78 million fish, was up 10 percent from last year; while, small foodsize inventory at 4.41 million fish, was down 16 percent from January 1, 2023. Arkansas catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$20.6 million during 2023, down 10 percent from 2022.

**Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Arkansas: January 1, 2023 and 2024**

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024
	(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 .....	9,340	8,780	94	14,834	14,900	100	(NA)	(NA)
Large .....	640	590	92	2,334	2,150	92	3.6	3.6
Medium .....	3,450	3,780	110	6,950	8,000	115	2.0	2.1
Small .....	5,250	4,410	84	5,550	4,750	86	1.1	1.1

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024
	(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 .....	18,400	17,700	96	739	535	72	40.2	30.2

(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, 2023 and 2024**

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish .....	890	780	88	4,748	4,991	105	5.3	6.4
All foodfish .....	157,020	139,530	89	215,183	208,369	97	(NA)	(NA)
Large .....	4,275	4,020	94	15,816	14,759	93	3.7	3.7
Medium .....	52,275	59,565	114	98,892	115,001	116	1.9	1.9
Small .....	100,470	75,945	76	100,475	78,609	78	1.0	1.0

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024
	(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 .....	345,350	224,445	65	62,819	42,176	67	(NA)	(NA)
Large .....	126,810	80,220	63	41,141	28,532	69	324.0	356.0
Small .....	218,540	144,225	66	21,678	13,644	63	99.2	94.6
Fingerlings .....	281,055	198,820	71	10,484	6,457	62	37.3	32.5

(NA) Not available.

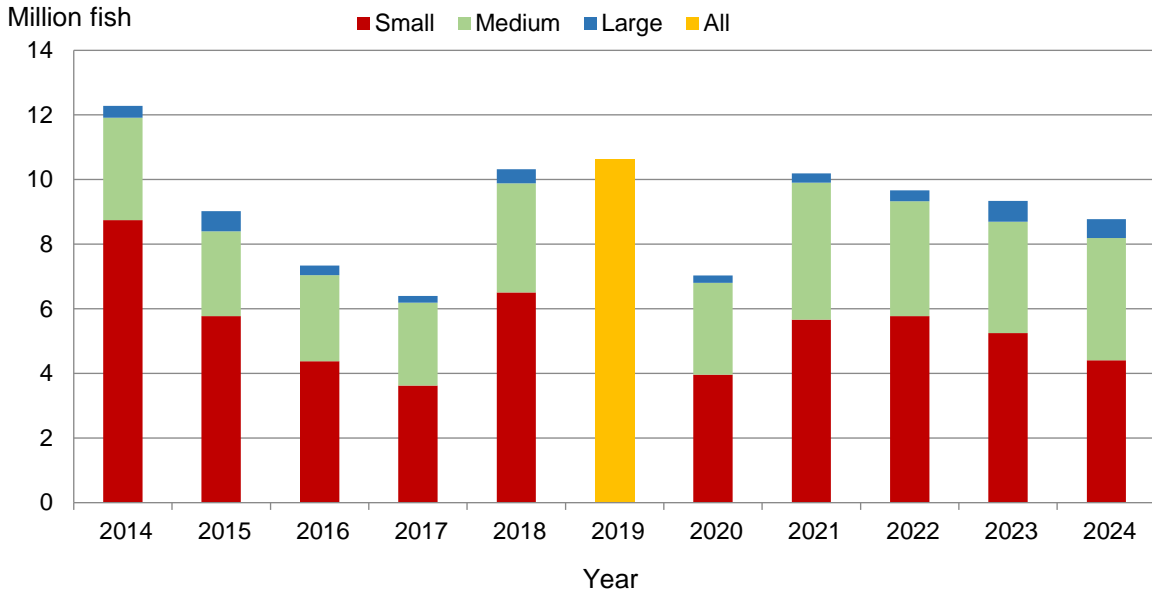
**Definitions Used for Catfish Production**

- 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.



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### Foodsize Catfish Inventory - Arkansas: January 1, 2014 - 2024



### Catfish Sales by Size Category - Arkansas: 2022 and 2023

Size category	Fish		Live weight sold				Average price per pound		Total sales	
			Average weight		Total		2022	2023	2022	2023
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	(dollars)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Foodsize .....	(1,000 fish) 10,400	(1,000 fish) 10,600	(pounds per fish) 1.7	(pounds per fish) 1.6	(1,000 pounds) 18,000	(1,000 pounds) 16,600	(dollars) 1.27	(dollars) 1.24	(1,000 dollars) 22,860	(1,000 dollars) 20,584
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, 2023 and 2024

Item	Arkansas			United States		
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
Water surface used for catfish production .....	3,400	3,100	91	55,855	53,545	96
Foodsize .....	2,200	2,000	91	45,435	43,160	95
Fingerlings .....	870	710	82	7,510	7,245	96
Broodfish .....	(D)	(D)	(X)	2,230	1,920	86

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

(X) Not applicable.