



**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 **2024 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 43 Percent**

Commercial catfish operations in Arkansas had 8.02 million foodsize fish on hand on July 1, 2024. The breakouts of foodsize fish inventory numbers on July 1, 2024, with their respective percent change from the previous year were: large foodsize at 370,000 fish, up 23 percent; medium foodsize at 2.35 million fish, up 24 percent; and small foodsize at 5.30 million fish, up 55 percent.

Arkansas was ranked third in the nation, behind Mississippi and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2024. Total stockers, at 14.7 million fish, were up 1 percent from a year ago.

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

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	July 2023	January 2024	July 2024	July 2023	January 2024	July 2024	January 2024	July 2024
	(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> .....	5,620	8,780	8,020	8,090	14,900	11,400	(X)	(X)
Large .....	300	590	370	1,090	2,150	1,400	3.6	3.8
Medium .....	1,900	3,780	2,350	3,550	8,000	4,700	2.1	2.0
Small .....	3,420	4,410	5,300	3,450	4,750	5,300	1.1	1.0

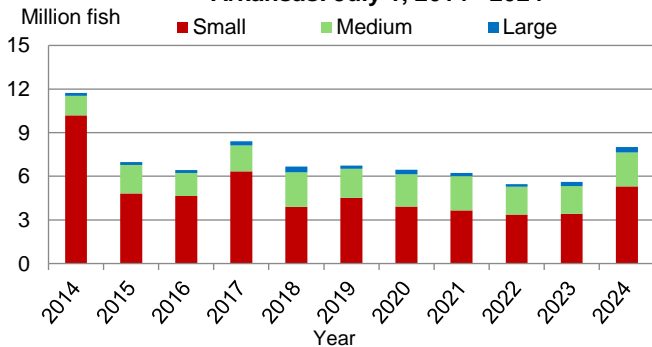
Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	July 2023	January 2024	July 2024	July 2023	January 2024	July 2024	January 2024	July 2024
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
<b>All stockers</b> .....	14,630	(D)	14,710	5,220	(D)	4,860	(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)	17,700	(D)	(D)	535	(D)	30.2	(D)

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

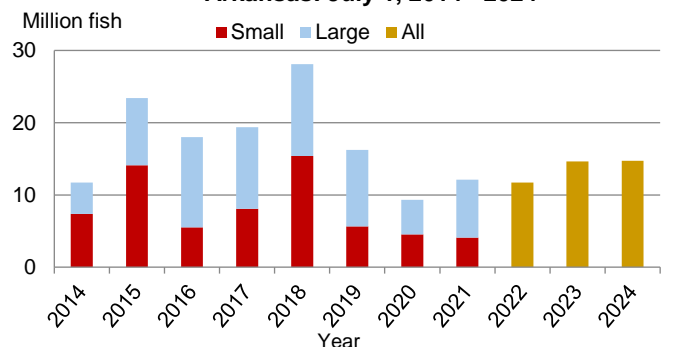
**Definitions Used for Catfish Production**

- 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, 2014 - 2024**



**Catfish Stocker Inventory by Size Category  
Arkansas: July 1, 2014 - 2024**



## Arkansas Water Surface Area Set at 3,000 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Arkansas during July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, totaled 3,000 acres. During July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 2,300 acres.

### Water Surface Acres Used for Production - Major States: 2023 and 2024

State	Water surface acres used for production July 1 - December 31	
	2023	2024
	(acres)	(acres)
AL .....	14,000	12,800
<b>AR</b> .....	3,400	3,000
MS .....	32,900	29,900
Total .....	50,300	45,700

### Catfish Water Surface Acres by Use – Major States: 2023 and 2024

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						
							Renovation		New construction				
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(acres)
AL .....	13,600	12,300	(D)	310	(D)	(D)	300	115	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>AR</b> .....	2,200	2,300	(D)	650	(D)	(D)	55	85	-	-	-	-	(D)
MS .....	25,100	23,000	5,000	4,500	1,800	1,500	1,100	1,000	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	1,800
Total .....	40,900	37,600	6,260	5,460	2,050	1,710	1,455	1,200	255	240	455	2,870	

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

### Water Surface Acres and Foodsize Acres Arkansas: July 1, 2014 - 2024

