



# Mississippi Catfish Production

Released: July 17, 2024

## 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 **2024 July 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.

### July 1 All Foodsize Inventory Down 2 Percent

Commercial catfish operations in Mississippi had 69.0 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 1.53 million fish, down 12 percent; medium foodsize at 26.6 million fish, down 1 percent; and small foodsize at 40.9 million fish, down 2 percent.

Mississippi was ranked first in the nation, ahead of Arkansas and Alabama, in total foodsize catfish inventory on July 1, 2024. Total stockers, at 121 million fish, were down 27 percent from a year ago.

### Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Mississippi: 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> .....	1,020	(D)	1,030	4,850	(D)	4,500	(D)	4.4
<b>All foodsize</b> .....	70,230	81,490	69,030	105,900	115,200	98,200	(X)	(X)
Large .....	1,730	1,290	1,530	6,100	4,500	5,400	3.5	3.5
Medium .....	26,900	32,000	26,600	53,000	60,000	51,900	1.9	2.0
Small .....	41,600	48,200	40,900	46,800	50,700	40,900	1.1	1.0

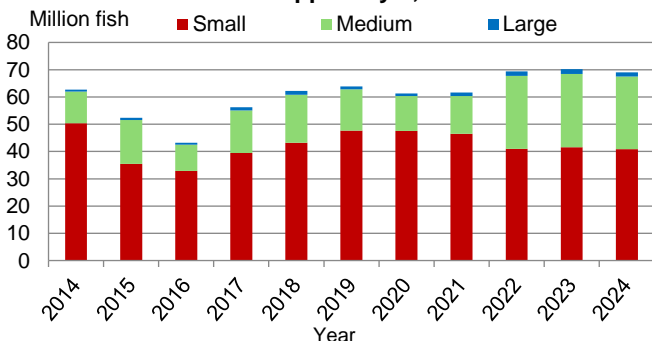
Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	July 2023	January 2024	July 2024	July 2023	January 2024	July 2024	January 2024	July 2024
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
<b>All stockers</b> .....	165,700	127,100	120,800	32,300	19,850	29,900	(X)	(X)
Large .....	62,700	34,600	57,900	23,200	11,000	23,500	318.0	406.0
Small .....	103,000	92,500	62,900	9,100	8,850	6,400	95.7	102.0
<b>Fingerlings and fry</b>	209,000	157,000	280,000	5,450	4,800	6,200	30.6	22.1

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

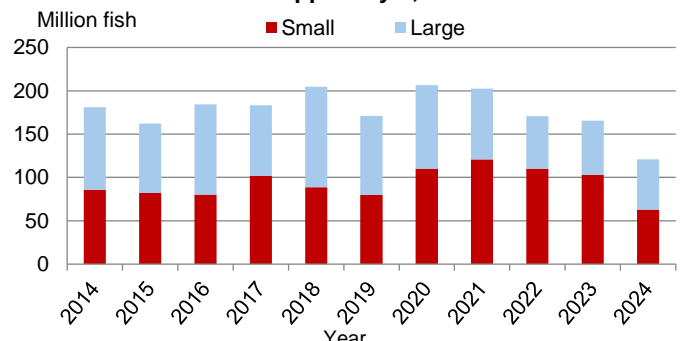
### Definitions Used for Catfish Production

- 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**  
Mississippi: July 1, 2014 - 2024



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



## Mississippi Water Surface Area Set at 29,900 Acres

The water surface area to be used for catfish production in Mississippi during July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, totaled 29,900 acres. During July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, water surface acres intended for foodsize catfish production is expected to total 23,000 acres. A total of 1,800 acres were taken out of production during the January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024 period.

### 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
AR .....	3,400	3,000
<b>MS</b> .....	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)
AL .....	13,600	12,300	(D)	310	(D)	(D)	300	115	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
AR .....	2,200	2,300	(D)	650	(D)	(D)	55	85	-	-	-	(D)
<b>MS</b> .....	25,100	23,000	5,000	4,500	1,800	1,500	1,100	1,000	(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 Mississippi: July 1, 2014 - 2024

