



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Mississippi Catfish Production

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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 **January 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.

Foodsize Catfish Sales Down 26 Percent from 2023

Mississippi catfish producers had 74.1 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2025, down 12 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize inventory on hand totaled 1.18 million fish, down 14 percent from January 1, 2024. Medium foodsize inventory, at 27.2 million fish, was down 19 percent from last year; while, small foodsize inventory at 45.7 million fish, was down 7 percent from January 1, 2024. Mississippi catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$185 million during 2024, down 26 percent from 2023.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Mississippi: January 1, 2024 and 2025

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025
	(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	84,370	74,080	88	123,100	104,600	85	(NA)	(NA)
Large	1,370	1,180	86	4,800	4,200	88	3.5	3.6
Medium	33,700	27,200	81	64,100	52,600	82	1.9	1.9
Small	49,300	45,700	93	54,200	47,800	88	1.1	1.0

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025
	(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	135,800	109,000	80	21,250	20,900	98	(NA)	(NA)
Large	37,000	30,800	83	11,800	12,000	102	319.0	390.0
Small	98,800	78,200	79	9,450	8,900	94	95.6	114.0
Fingerlings	157,000	200,000	127	4,800	6,500	135	30.6	32.5

(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, 2024 and 2025

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	780	776	99	4,991	4,501	90	6.4	5.8
All foodfish	145,200	122,000	84	220,519	179,441	81	(NA)	(NA)
Large	4,190	3,730	89	15,509	13,352	86	3.7	3.6
Medium	62,465	47,350	76	121,601	93,400	77	1.9	2.0
Small	78,545	70,920	90	83,409	72,689	87	1.1	1.0

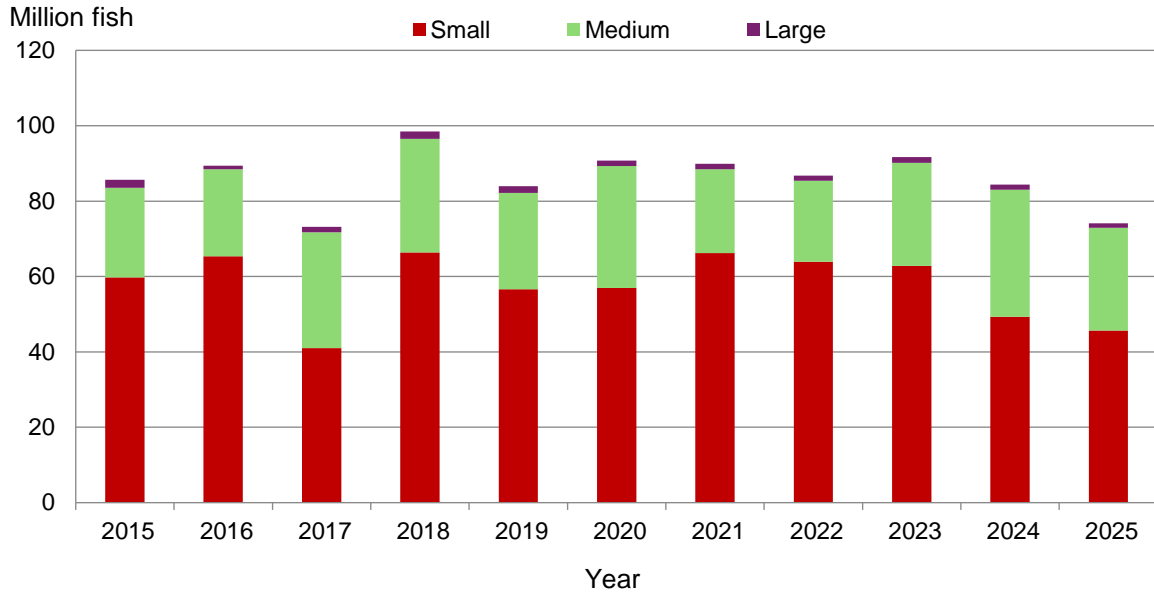
Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
All stockers	236,145	191,270	81	44,406	36,519	82	(NA)	(NA)
Large	84,320	58,655	70	30,032	22,603	75	356.0	385.0
Small	151,825	132,615	87	14,374	13,916	97	94.7	105.0
Fingerlings	198,820	223,765	113	6,457	7,422	115	32.5	33.2

(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 - Mississippi: January 1, 2015 - 2025



Catfish Sales by Size Category - Mississippi: 2023 and 2024

Size category	Fish		Live weight sold				Average price per pound		Total sales	
			Average weight		Total		2023	2024	2023	2024
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024				
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)
	134,000	119,000	1.5	1.4	201,400	166,800	1.25	1.11	251,750	185,148
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 - Mississippi and United States: January 1, 2024 and 2025

Item	Mississippi			United States		
	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025	Percent of previous year
	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
Water surface used for catfish production	31,700	29,900	94	53,545	52,070	97
Foodsize	24,300	22,500	93	43,160	41,060	95
Fingerlings	5,200	4,800	92	7,245	7,000	97
Broodfish	1,500	1,400	93	1,920	1,860	97