



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Arkansas Catfish Production

Released: February 11, 2022



Delta Region – Arkansas Field Office

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Cooperating with the University of Arkansas – Division 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 Up 17 Percent from 2020

Arkansas catfish producers had 9.59 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2022, down 6 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize inventory on hand totaled 260,000 fish, down 10 percent from January 1, 2021. Medium foodsize inventory, at 3.56 million fish, was down 16 percent from last year; while, small foodsize inventory at 5.77 million fish, was up 2 percent from January 1, 2021. Arkansas catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$19.5 million during 2021, up 17 percent from 2020.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Arkansas: January 1, 2021 and 2022

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022
	(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	10,190	9,590	94	14,880	13,374	90	(NA)	(NA)
Large	290	260	90	1,030	874	85	3.6	3.4
Medium	4,230	3,560	84	8,200	6,900	84	1.9	1.9
Small	5,670	5,770	102	5,650	5,600	99	1.0	1.0

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022
	(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	13,700	(D)	(NA)	5,700	(D)	(NA)	416.0	(D)
Small	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)	(X)	(D)	(D)
Fingerlings	18,600	23,200	125	703	934	133	37.8	40.3

(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, 2021 and 2022

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	640	730	114	3,491	3,777	108	5.5	5.2
All foodfish	156,615	146,085	93	210,944	196,655	93	(NA)	(NA)
Large	5,525	4,160	75	19,617	15,232	78	3.6	3.7
Medium	46,945	44,175	94	87,384	82,693	95	1.9	1.9
Small	104,145	97,750	94	103,943	98,730	95	1.0	1.0

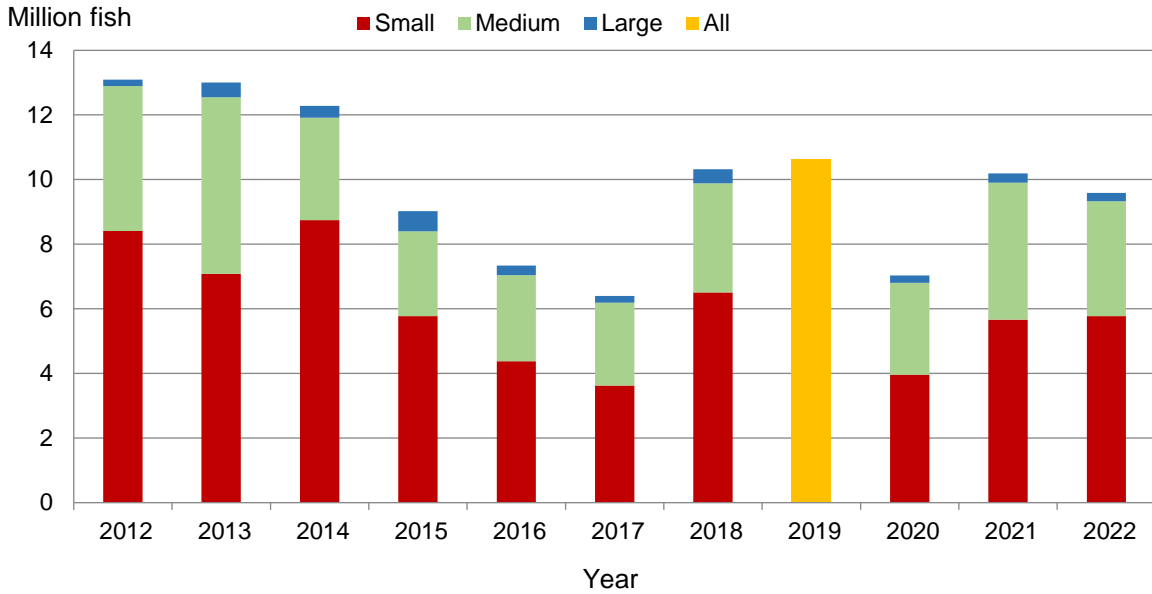
Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)
All stockers	313,055	305,830	98	69,161	68,477	99	(NA)	(NA)
Large	116,535	117,950	101	48,173	48,871	101	413.0	414.0
Small	196,520	187,880	96	20,988	19,606	93	107.0	104.0
Fingerlings	221,850	283,775	128	8,429	9,712	115	38.0	34.2

(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 - Arkansas: January 1, 2012 - 2022



Catfish Sales by Size Category - Arkansas: 2020 and 2021

Size category	Fish		Live weight sold				Average price per pound		Total sales	
			Average weight		Total		2020	2021	2020	2021
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021				
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)
	9,960	9,850	1.6	1.6	15,700	15,500	1.06	1.26	16,642	19,530
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, 2021 and 2022

Item	Arkansas			United States		
	2021	2022	Percent of previous year	2021	2022	Percent of previous year
	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
Water surface used for catfish production	3,600	3,800	106	60,105	58,310	97
Foodsize	2,400	2,500	104	46,900	46,860	100
Fingerlings	860	870	101	7,610	7,725	102
Broodfish	100	(D)	(NA)	1,850	2,035	110

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

(NA) Not available.