



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 21 Percent from 2023

Arkansas catfish producers had 6.20 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2025, down 29 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize inventory on hand totaled 580,000 fish, down 2 percent from January 1, 2024. Medium foodsize inventory, at 2.78 million fish, was down 26 percent from last year; while, small foodsize inventory at 2.84 million fish, was down 36 percent from January 1, 2024. Arkansas catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$16.3 million during 2024, down 21 percent from 2023.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Arkansas: 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	8,780	6,200	71	14,900	11,450	77	(NA)	(NA)
Large	590	580	98	2,150	2,100	98	3.6	3.6
Medium	3,780	2,780	74	8,000	6,250	78	2.1	2.2
Small	4,410	2,840	64	4,750	3,100	65	1.1	1.1
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	(D)	36,400	(X)	(D)	5,750	(X)	(NA)	(NA)
Large	(D)	12,200	(X)	(D)	3,700	(X)	(D)	303.0
Small	(D)	24,200	(X)	(D)	2,050	(X)	(D)	84.7
Fingerlings	17,700	10,800	61	535	335	63	30.2	31.0

(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

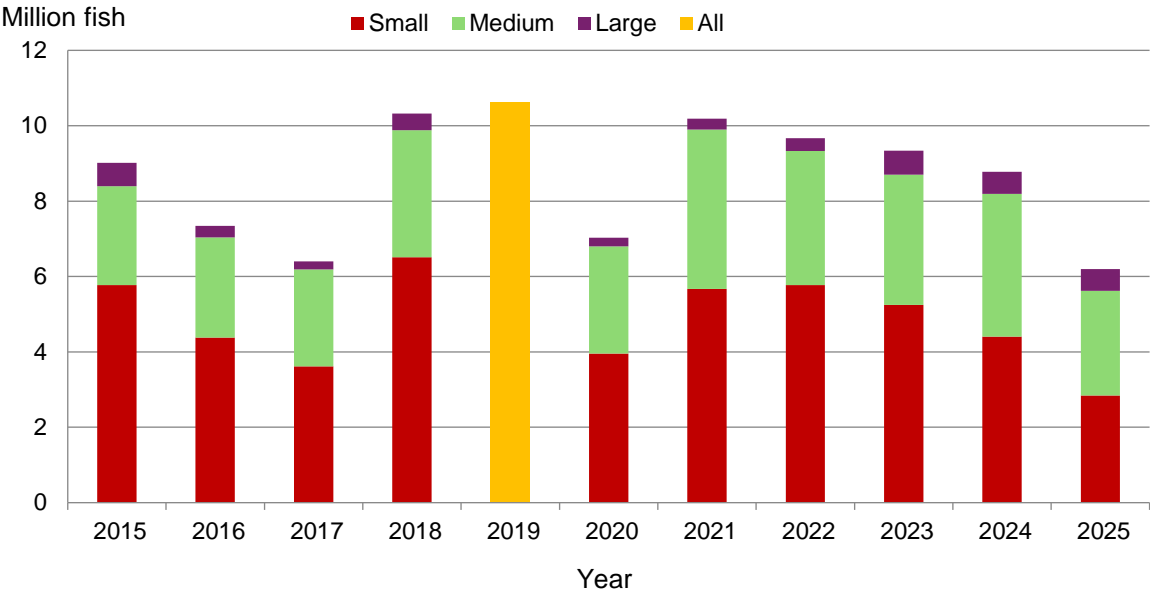
Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	2024	2025
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	780	776	99	4,991	4,501	90	6.4	5.8
All 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.

Foodsized Catfish Inventory - Arkansas: January 1, 2015 - 2025



Catfish Sales by Size Category - Arkansas: 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)
	10,600	9,200	1.6	1.5	16,600	13,700	1.24	1.19	20,584	16,303
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
Fingerlings and fry	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(pounds per 1,000 fish)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(dollars)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
	(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, 2024 and 2025

Item	Arkansas			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	3,100	3,400	110	53,545	52,070	97
Foodsized	2,000	2,500	125	43,160	41,060	95
Fingerlings	710	620	87	7,245	7,000	97
Broodfish	(D)	(D)	(X)	1,920	1,860	97

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

(X) Not applicable.