



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 Up 8 Percent from 2021

Mississippi catfish producers had 77.3 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2023, down 11 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize inventory on hand totaled 1.29 million fish, down 7 percent from January 1, 2022. Medium foodsize inventory, at 23.6 million fish, was up 10 percent from last year; while, small foodsize inventory at 52.4 million fish, was down 18 percent from January 1, 2022. Mississippi catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$262 million during 2022, up 8 percent from 2021.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Mississippi: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	630	(D)	(NA)	3,300	(D)	(NA)	5.2	(D)
All foodsize	86,790	77,290	89	107,550	100,450	93	(NA)	(NA)
Large	1,390	1,290	93	4,850	4,550	94	3.5	3.5
Medium	21,500	23,600	110	38,800	42,200	109	1.8	1.8
Small	63,900	52,400	82	63,900	53,700	84	1.0	1.0

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023
	(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	205,400	169,000	82	45,700	29,100	64	(NA)	(NA)
Large	(D)	52,000	(NA)	(D)	16,800	(NA)	(D)	323.0
Small	(D)	117,000	(NA)	(D)	12,300	(NA)	(D)	105.0
Fingerlings	232,000	243,000	105	7,400	8,850	120	31.9	36.4

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
(NA) Not available.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	730	890	122	3,777	4,748	126	5.2	5.3
All foodfish	157,855	136,290	86	210,722	188,309	89	(NA)	(NA)
Large	4,520	3,545	78	16,578	13,042	79	3.7	3.7
Medium	46,575	45,875	98	87,893	86,892	99	1.9	1.9
Small	106,760	86,870	81	106,251	88,375	83	1.0	1.0

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023
	(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	327,530	308,650	94	73,227	57,069	78	(NA)	(NA)
Large	126,050	117,510	93	52,271	38,141	73	415.0	325.0
Small	201,480	191,140	95	20,956	18,928	90	104.0	99.0
Fingerlings	283,775	281,055	99	9,712	10,484	108	34.2	37.3

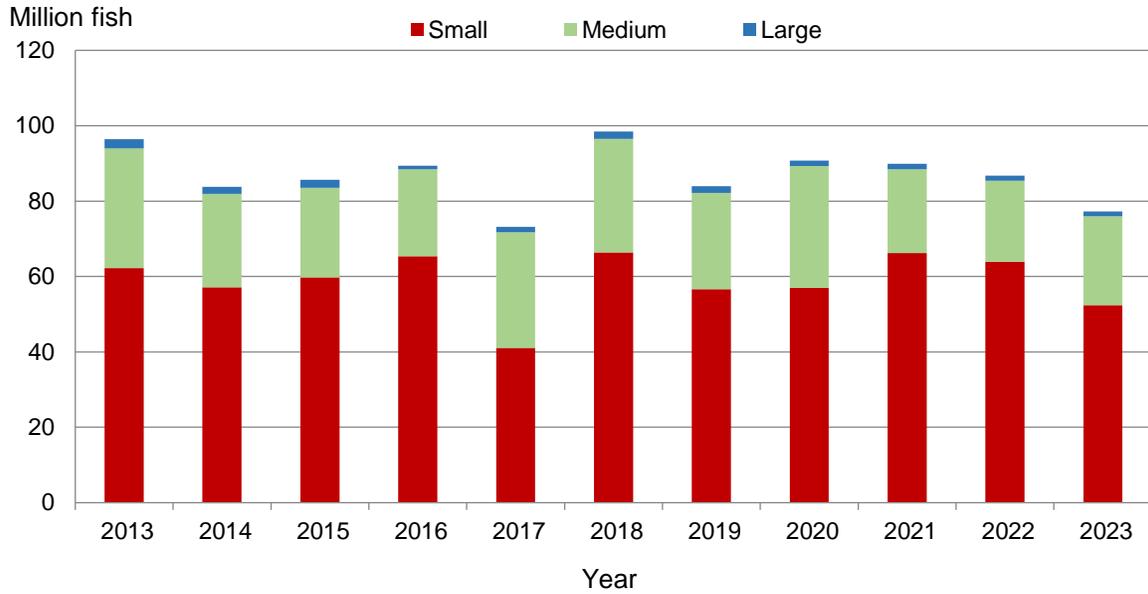
(NA) Not available.

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, 2013 - 2023



Catfish Sales by Size Category - Mississippi: 2021 and 2022

Size category	Fish		Live weight sold				Average price per pound		Total sales	
			Average weight		Total		2021	2022	2021	2022
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	(dollars)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Foodsize	(1,000 fish) 121,000	(1,000 fish) 137,000	(pounds per fish) 1.6	(pounds per fish) 1.5	(1,000 pounds) 194,300	(1,000 pounds) 203,400	1.25	1.29	242,875	262,386
Fingerlings and fry	(1,000 fish) 163,000	(1,000 fish) 142,000	(pounds per 1,000 fish) 32.2	(pounds per 1,000 fish) 28.9	(1,000 pounds) 5,250	(1,000 pounds) 4,100	2.27	2.39	11,918	9,799

Catfish Water Surface Acres - Mississippi and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Item	Mississippi			United States		
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
Water surface used for catfish production	34,100	33,100	97	58,300	55,855	96
Foodsize	25,800	25,400	98	46,860	45,435	97
Fingerlings	5,700	5,400	95	7,725	7,510	97
Broodfish	1,600	1,800	113	2,015	2,230	111