



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 10 Percent from 2022

Mississippi catfish producers had 81.5 million foodsize fish on January 1, 2024, down 11 percent from a year ago. The number of large foodsize inventory on hand totaled 1.29 million fish, down 15 percent from January 1, 2023. Medium foodsize inventory, at 32.0 million fish, was up 17 percent from last year; while, small foodsize inventory at 48.2 million fish, was down 23 percent from January 1, 2023. Mississippi catfish growers had foodsize fish sales of \$235 million during 2023, down 10 percent from 2022.

Catfish Inventory and Live Weight by Type and Size - Mississippi: January 1, 2023 and 2024

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024
	(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	91,710	81,490	89	117,500	115,200	98	(NA)	(NA)
Large	1,510	1,290	85	5,300	4,500	85	3.5	3.5
Medium	27,400	32,000	117	49,400	60,000	121	1.8	1.9
Small	62,800	48,200	77	62,800	50,700	81	1.0	1.1

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024
	(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	198,000	127,100	64	34,100	19,850	58	(NA)	(NA)
Large	61,000	34,600	57	19,700	11,000	56	323.0	318.0
Small	137,000	92,500	68	14,400	8,850	61	105.0	95.7
Fingerlings	243,000	157,000	65	8,850	4,800	54	36.4	30.6

(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, 2023 and 2024

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024
	(1,000 fish)	(1,000 fish)	(percent)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(percent)	(pounds per fish)	(pounds per fish)
Broodfish	890	780	88	4,748	4,991	105	5.3	6.4
All foodfish	157,020	139,530	89	215,183	208,369	97	(NA)	(NA)
Large	4,275	4,020	94	15,816	14,759	93	3.7	3.7
Medium	52,275	59,565	114	98,892	115,001	116	1.9	1.9
Small	100,470	75,945	76	100,475	78,609	78	1.0	1.0

Size category	Fish			Total live weight			Average live weight	
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024
	(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	345,350	224,445	65	62,819	42,176	67	(NA)	(NA)
Large	126,810	80,220	63	41,141	28,532	69	324.0	356.0
Small	218,540	144,225	66	21,678	13,644	63	99.2	94.6
Fingerlings	281,055	198,820	71	10,484	6,457	62	37.3	32.5

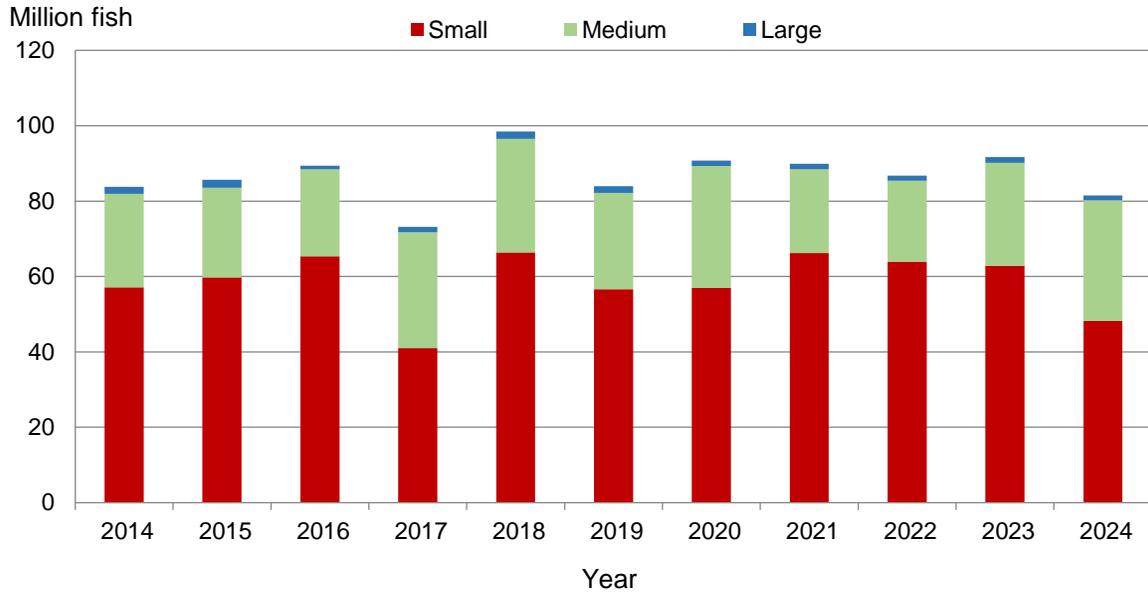
(NA) Not available.

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, 2014 - 2024



Catfish Sales by Size Category - Mississippi: 2022 and 2023

Size category	Fish		Live weight sold				Average price per pound		Total sales	
			Average weight		Total		2022	2023	2022	2023
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Foodsize	(1,000 fish) 137,000	(1,000 fish) 128,000	(pounds per fish) 1.5	(pounds per fish) 1.5	(1,000 pounds) 203,400	(1,000 pounds) 188,200	(dollars) 1.29	(dollars) 1.25	(1,000 dollars) 262,386	(1,000 dollars) 235,250
Fingerlings and fry	(1,000 fish) 142,000	(1,000 fish) (D)	(pounds per 1,000 fish) 28.9	(pounds per 1,000 fish) (D)	(1,000 pounds) 4,100	(1,000 pounds) (D)	(dollars) 2.39	(dollars) (D)	(1,000 dollars) 9,799	(1,000 dollars) (D)

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

Catfish Water Surface Acres - Mississippi and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024

Item	Mississippi			United States		
	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
Water surface used for catfish production	33,100	31,700	96	55,855	53,545	96
Foodsize	25,400	24,300	96	45,435	43,160	95
Fingerlings	5,400	5,200	96	7,510	7,245	96
Broodfish	1,800	1,500	83	2,230	1,920	86