In 2011, the U.S. farm-raised catfish industry processed 334 million pounds, down 327 million pounds (-49%) from its peak 2003 level of 662 million pounds processed.

- U.S. farm-raised catfish production acres in January 2012 were 89,390 acres, down 17,370 acres from a 2002 high of 196,760 acres, a 55% decrease in ten years.

- In 2011, US catfish farmers fed 465 thousand tons of feed, down 353 thousand tons (-43%) from the 2007 peak level of 818 thousand tons. Mississippi catfish farmers fed 215 thousand tons of catfish feed, which is down 45% from 2007 levels (392 thousand tons); Alabama farmers fed 166 thousand tons in 2011 which is down 21% from 2007 levels (210 thousand tons); Arkansas farmers fed 38 thousand tons in 2011 which is down 72% from 2007 levels (136 thousand tons); and Louisiana farmers have about gone out of existence, with feed fed in 2011 at just over 3 thousand tons, down 88% from 2007 levels (27 thousand tons).

- Catfish feed contains 35 – 45% soybean and 30 – 35% corn and these commodities sharp price increases over the last couple of years has sent catfish feed prices soaring as well. Catfish feed prices (32% protein) in 2011 averaged $421/ton (no delivery charge included), up $67/ton (+19%) over the 2010 average feed price ($353/ton). In July 2012 feed prices reached and all time high of $479/ton.

- Average cost of production for West Alabama catfish producers was approximately $1.00 per pound in 2011 and they received an average price of $1.18/lb in that same year, a good year. That has not been the normal year, as historical catfish prices average around $0.77/lb. As of July 2012, producers are receiving $0.93/lb and feed prices have increased to $480/ton, roughly a $0.06/lb increase in production costs for a $1.06/lb production cost. So far in 2012, catfish producers are losing approximately $0.13 per pound produced.
- There has been a dramatic increase in imported frozen catfish fillet products (including Ictalurus, Pangasius and Siluriformes). In 2005 the imported quantity of catfish frozen fillets to the US was 30 million pounds, and in 2011 the catfish import quantity had increased to 204 million pounds, a 577% increase over this seven year period.

- The price catfish processors paid to producers for live fish averaged $1.18 per pound in 2011 and has decreased to $0.93 per pound as of early June 2012 (-21%), while production costs to the farmer continue to increase. The 2010 prices were the highest they had ever been and were reflecting a severe shortage of fish inventory in the ponds, due to the many producers and their acreage that had gone out of business due to inexpensive imports and high feed costs, such as the high price of corn and soybeans, the two major ingredients in catfish feed.
Live Catfish Prices Received by Producers  
January 2006 - July 2012

Catfish Feed Prices for 28% and 32% Crude Protein, Floating, January 2006 - July 2012

32% ---- 28%

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Quantity of U.S. Catfish and Imported Catfish-like Frozen Fillets Sold in the U.S. (U.S. percentages of frozen fillet sold are in boxes), 2005-2011