

Fishing License Sales Trends 1973-2008

Data obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/home.html>)

License Year	Paid License Holders	Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	Non-Resident Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	Total Licenses, Tags, Permits & Stamps	Gross Cost	% Change in # of Holders Compared to Previous Year:
1973	26,212,001	28,531,229	4,954,252	33,485,481	\$118,406,250	-
1974	27,079,305	29,555,201	4,750,288	34,305,489	\$127,793,568	3.3%
1975	27,510,493	30,002,969	4,676,838	34,679,807	\$141,572,033	1.6%
1976	27,818,484	29,855,826	5,080,657	34,936,483	\$154,580,846	1.1%
1977	27,324,396	28,611,864	4,979,544	33,591,408	\$156,146,998	-1.8%
1978	26,169,156	27,935,970	4,861,711	32,797,681	\$158,948,929	-4.2%
1979	27,947,397	30,276,205	5,121,407	35,397,612	\$173,921,156	6.8%
1980	27,994,917	30,127,204	5,055,704	35,182,908	\$196,823,591	0.2%
1981	29,234,772	31,982,601	5,339,274	37,321,875	\$212,750,119	4.4%
1982	29,511,854	32,104,614	5,139,675	37,244,289	\$226,877,205	0.9%
1983	29,130,543	32,516,501	5,304,512	37,821,013	\$243,629,650	-1.3%
1984	28,776,490	30,983,499	5,068,685	36,052,184	\$259,678,246	-1.2%
1985	29,776,079	30,499,210	5,176,347	35,675,557	\$282,442,744	3.5%
1986	30,359,462	30,437,437	5,539,669	35,977,106	\$301,789,679	2.0%
1987	30,345,714	30,958,074	5,546,776	36,504,850	\$315,794,372	0.0%
1988	31,478,490	31,296,259	5,541,972	36,838,231	\$329,833,031	3.7%
1989	30,175,983	28,123,981	5,609,888	33,733,869	\$305,033,971	-4.1%
1990	30,731,821	31,166,643	5,925,331	37,091,974	\$364,240,069	1.8%
1991	30,742,212	31,115,924	5,872,234	36,988,158	\$374,928,592	0.0%
1992	30,623,765	31,372,398	6,013,967	37,386,365	\$398,482,199	-0.4%
1993	30,184,801	31,879,297	6,138,710	38,018,007	\$411,749,167	-1.4%
1994	30,243,196	31,558,446	6,343,578	37,902,024	\$445,304,112	0.2%
1995	30,498,008	31,501,355	6,533,430	38,034,785	\$450,537,771	0.8%
1996	29,839,850	30,790,243	7,074,407	37,864,650	\$446,517,995	-2.2%
1997	29,188,537	30,143,097	6,584,335	36,727,432	\$462,937,167	-2.2%
1998	29,323,423	30,548,553	6,565,027	37,113,580	\$483,299,912	0.5%
1999	29,713,123	31,305,522	6,532,275	37,837,797	\$481,211,452	1.3%
2000	29,585,729	30,871,523	6,735,571	37,607,094	\$478,090,859	-0.4%
2001	29,452,379	31,043,368	6,816,182	37,859,550	\$498,765,362	-0.5%
2002	28,859,584	31,344,300	6,607,135	37,951,435	\$500,106,181	-2.0%
2003	27,908,272	31,000,424	6,564,270	37,564,694	\$512,970,894	-3.3%
2004	28,466,875	31,612,513	6,808,754	38,421,267	\$540,933,776	2.0%
2005	28,199,068	30,250,922	6,532,979	36,783,901	\$556,834,538	-0.9%
2006	28,128,889	29,158,925	6,416,925	35,575,850	\$586,623,249	-0.2%
2007	28,138,820	30,029,222	6,598,767	36,627,989	\$604,177,855	0.0%
2008	28,390,641	29,716,669	6,546,551	36,263,220	\$621,528,399	0.9%

* Rows highlighted in yellow are recessionary years. Recession dates were obtained from the National Bureau of Economic Research and Recession.org. A year is considered a recessionary year if 6 or months of that year were rated as recessionary.

Of the eight recessionary years since 1973, seven experienced increases in license sales (88%). Of the other 28 years, only 50% experienced increases.