

# DAIRY PRODUCTION

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Production of milk on United States farms in February totaled 8,884 million pounds, 1 percent less than last year, but 9 percent above average. Milk production was below the corresponding month a year earlier for the third consecutive month. This resulted from the smaller number of milk cows on farms as milk production per cow was record high for February. The milk produced on farms in February was sufficient to provide 1.93 pounds of milk daily for each person in the United States, about 3 percent less than a year ago and slightly less than average in the 1944-53 period.

Milk production per cow in herds kept by crop correspondents increased less than usual from February 1 to March 1 this year, and on the latter date was only slightly above a year earlier. Weather during February was quite variable with storms and extremely cold weather reducing milk production in some areas. Freezes extending to the Gulf

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, UNITED STATES,  
1944-53 AVERAGE, 1954 AND 1955

Month:	Monthly total				Daily average per capita		
	1954		1955		Average		
Average :	1944-53 :	1954 :	1955 :	1955 :	1944-53 :	1954 :	1955 :
	Million pounds			Percent	Pounds		
Jan.	8,305	9,202	9,105	99	1.82	1.84	1.79
Feb.	8,168	9,001	8,884	99	1.96	1.99	1.93
Mar.	9,653	10,683			2.11	2.13	
Apr.	10,408	11,280			2.35	2.32	
May	12,318	12,999			2.69	2.59	
June	12,306	12,600			2.78	2.59	
July	11,552	11,558			2.52	2.29	
Aug.	10,529	10,474			2.29	2.08	
Sept.	9,174	9,369			2.06	1.91	
Oct.	8,601	9,021			1.87	1.78	
Nov.	7,743	8,474			1.73	1.73	
Dec.	8,035	8,841			1.74	1.74	
Year	116,792	123,502			2.16	2.08	

This report includes milk production and related information released in CROP PRODUCTION, together with selected special summaries brought together for those interested primarily in dairy statistics.

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reduced winter grazing in the lower South, but rains in some sections helped pasture prospects, Milk production per cow on March 1 in all regions continued well above the 10-year average, but in the East North Central and South Central regions was a little below last year. The percentage of milk cows in crop correspondents herds reported in production on March 1 averaged 70.5 percent, a new high record for the date. In all regions except the South Central, the percentage of cows milked continued moderately above a year ago.

Interior States below last year

In the 33 States for which milk production estimates are available, new high records for February were established in 12 States. Milk production was rather generally below February 1954 in States in the main Corn Belt from Indiana westward, the Great Plains and the interior South. Production was down 4 percent or more in Illinois, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming. On the other hand, production was above a year earlier from Ohio northeastward, in the southern Atlantic Coast States and in the far West. Wisconsin, as usual, led all States with an output of 1,271 million pounds of milk during February, followed by Minnesota with 731 million, California with 515 million, and Pennsylvania with 475 million pounds.

MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, SELECTED STATES 1/

State	Feb. : 1944-53	Feb. : 1954	Jan. : 1955	Feb. : 1955	State	Feb. : 1944-53	Feb. : 1954	Jan. : 1955	Feb. : 1955
Million pounds					Million pounds				
N. J.	82	91	103	95	Ga.	82	93	97	96
Pa.	394	459	503	475	Ky.	136	159	162	152
Ohio	340	395	445	421	Tenn.	139	160	165	153
Ind.	251	264	258	255	Ala.	90	96	97	95
Ill.	384	394	390	378	Miss.	91	106	109	110
Mich.	380	405	412	408	Ark.	82	91	92	89
Wis.	1,087	1,267	1,287	1,271	Okla.	150	134	136	136
Minn.	684	760	745	731	Texas	247	245	235	230
Iowa	436	414	436	409	Mont.	39	35	35	34
Mo.	246	278	276	272	Idaho	85	100	107	105
N. Dak.	118	118	116	122	Wyo.	17	15	15	14
S. Dak.	99	96	87	91	Utah	50	53	55	54
Nebr.	164	161	153	151	Wash.	120	123	134	123
Kans.	191	182	186	174	Oreg.	76	77	79	80
Va.	117	136	143	135	Calif.	423	501	554	515
W. Va.	52	50	55	53	Other				
N. C.	105	120	132	121	States	1,171	1,378	1,260	1,290
S. C.	40	45	46	46	U. S.	8,168	9,001	9,105	8,884

1/ Monthly data for other States not yet available.

MILK PRODUCED PER MILK COW IN HERDS KEPT BY REPORTERS 1/

State and division	March 1			
	Average 1944-53	1953	1954	1955
<u>P o u n d s</u>				
Me.	14.0	16.0	16.6	17.6
N. H.	16.5	18.4	19.4	21.1
Vt.	15.7	17.7	19.7	19.6
Mass.	17.6	18.4	20.9	21.5
Conn.	18.3	19.0	22.9	22.4
N. Y.	19.8	22.7	22.7	22.1
N. J.	21.3	23.2	22.9	24.3
Pa.	18.7	21.0	21.1	21.5
N. Atl.	18.81	21.19	21.61	21.72
Ohio	16.1	18.3	19.1	20.6
Ind.	15.2	17.5	18.2	18.2
Ill.	16.8	18.6	19.7	19.4
Mich.	19.0	20.9	21.2	22.1
Wis.	19.3	20.7	22.1	21.4
E. N. Cent.	17.89	19.81	20.83	20.80
Minn.	20.7	22.9	22.6	22.8
Iowa	17.0	17.8	18.3	19.0
Mo.	10.8	11.2	12.9	12.4
N. Dak.	14.7	16.5	16.5	16.9
S. Dak.	13.0	14.1	14.9	15.2
Nebr.	15.5	17.5	18.7	17.2
Kans.	15.0	15.9	18.3	17.8
W. N. Cent.	16.02	17.57	18.29	18.31
Md.	16.7	18.7	19.0	20.0
Va.	12.7	15.5	15.3	16.0
W. Va.	10.3	11.0	11.1	11.4
N. C.	12.0	13.1	14.0	13.7
S. C.	10.8	11.7	12.0	12.7
Ga.	9.1	9.4	10.2	10.4
S. Atl.	11.95	13.49	13.92	14.42
Ky.	10.7	11.5	12.2	11.6
Tenn.	10.1	11.0	11.2	11.0
Ala.	8.5	8.8	8.6	8.3
Miss.	6.9	7.5	8.2	7.8
Ark.	7.5	8.3	8.6	8.9
Okla.	10.5	11.3	11.5	12.2
Tex.	8.3	8.9	10.0	8.9
S. Cent.	9.21	10.03	10.45	10.28
Mont.	14.7	16.2	16.2	16.2
Idaho	18.0	19.2	20.0	20.4
Wyo.	16.5	16.8	17.2	16.2
Colo.	16.1	16.9	18.3	19.6
Utah	18.6	20.0	20.2	21.0
Wash.	18.1	20.6	19.6	19.2
Oreg.	14.5	15.7	15.3	18.0
Calif.	19.5	20.5	22.3	21.6
West	17.49	18.76	19.12	19.68
U. S.	15.32	16.89	17.57	17.62

1/ Averages represent daily milk production divided by the total number of milk cows (in milk or dry). Figures for New England States and New Jersey are based on combined returns from crop and special dairy reporters; others represent crop reporters only. Averages for some less important dairy States are not shown separately.

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DAIRY PRODUCT-FEED PRICE RATIOS, BY REGIONS

Region	Milk-Feed <sup>1/</sup>				Butterfat-Feed <sup>2/</sup>			
	Feb. 1934- 53 av.	Feb. 1954	Jan. 1955	Feb. 1955	Feb. 1934- 53 av.	Feb. 1954	Jan. 1955	Feb. 1955
N. Atl.	1.27	1.18	1.25	1.21	-	-	-	-
E.N.C.	1.28	1.17	1.19	1.14	23.0	19.9	17.9	17.9
W.N.C.	1.47	1.25	1.27	1.23	26.6	23.0	21.3	21.4
S. Atl.	1.52	1.46	1.48	1.45	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.44	1.36	1.42	1.36	18.5	15.8	14.1	14.1
West.	1.32	1.26	1.32	1.28	21.0	18.4	17.2	17.1
U. S.	1.31	1.22	1.27	1.22	24.1	21.3	19.6	19.6

<sup>1/</sup> Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of whole milk sold by farmers to plants and dealers.

<sup>2/</sup> Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of butterfat in cream sold by farmers.