

MILK PRODUCTION

December milk output 2 percent less than a year earlier

January 11, 1968

December milk production in the United States is estimated at 9,304 million pounds, 2 percent less than a year earlier and 5 percent below the 1961-65 average. Average daily production was up 2 percent from November to December, the same seasonal gain as in 1966. December output provided 1.50 pounds of milk per person daily, compared with 1.48 pounds a month earlier and 1.55 pounds a year earlier. Preliminary estimates of monthly milk production for the year 1967 totaled 119,583 million pounds. This is 1 percent less than 1966 and 5 percent less than average. Production was up slightly a year earlier in January, February, and April but lower in all other months.

In most North Atlantic and North Central States, December milk production was less than a year earlier. The States of Vermont, Minnesota, and South Dakota reported exceptions, where production was 1 percent above a year earlier. In Maine and New Hampshire production was unchanged. In the South Atlantic, South Central, and Western States, production patterns continued mixed. December production increased in 10 States, was unchanged in 7 and decreased in 10. The three regions had changes from a month earlier ranging from an increase of 6 percent in Texas to a decrease of 7 percent in Delaware.

Table 1.--Milk per cow and milk production, by months, United States 1967, with comparisons

Month	Milk per cow			Milk production			
	Average 1961-65	1966	1967	Average 1961-65	1966	1967	Change from 1966
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent
January	621	678	715	10,222	9,805	9,855	+0.5
February	591	635	670	9,696	9,137	9,217	+0.9
March	676	736	766	11,062	10,537	10,510	-0.3
April	690	752	785	11,260	10,725	10,732	+0.1
May	757	812	844	12,310	11,525	11,508	-0.1
June	729	798	821	11,816	11,269	11,146	-1.1
July	671	736	761	10,849	10,350	10,311	-0.4
August	629	696	722	10,148	9,763	9,757	-0.1
September	592	663	680	9,522	9,263	9,173	-1.0
October	602	670	684	9,643	9,333	9,209	-1.3
November	581	649	660	9,288	9,012	8,861	-1.7
December	618	687	695	9,841	9,511	9,304	-2.2
Annual	7,759	8,513	8,806	125,660	120,230	119,583	-0.5

Table 2.-Monthly milk per cow and milk production
December 1967, with comparisons

State	Monthly milk per cow ^{1/}			Milk production			
	Dec. av. 1961-65	Dec. 1966	Dec. 1967	Dec. av. 1961-65	Dec. 1966	Dec. 1967	Change from 1966
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent
Maine.....	636	690	705	54	49	49	0
New Hampshire.....	686	765	785	33	31	31	0
Vermont.....	650	735	745	158	154	156	+ 1
Massachusetts.....	773	845	835	66	61	59	- 3
Rhode Island.....	766	815	830	8.8	7.5	7.1	- 5
Connecticut.....	766	845	845	59	58	57	- 3
New York.....	728	780	775	876	843	829	- 2
New Jersey.....	793	850	825	90	81	71	-12
Pennsylvania.....	678	745	710	571	562	517	- 8
Ohio.....	706	760	760	427	394	377	- 4
Indiana.....	678	740	740	245	215	198	- 8
Illinois.....	655	720	730	309	271	253	- 7
Michigan.....	735	775	780	450	408	393	- 4
Wisconsin.....	692	755	745	1,467	1,487	1,439	- 3
Minnesota.....	705	737	770	886	829	837	+ 1
Iowa.....	610	680	660	470	435	413	- 5
Missouri.....	424	505	535	225	207	205	- 1
North Dakota.....	447	500	550	109	92	89	- 3
South Dakota.....	486	530	555	113	110	111	+ 1
Nebraska.....	529	555	560	146	127	122	- 4
Kansas.....	544	640	630	148	141	134	- 5
Delaware.....	644	710	700	13.3	12.1	11.2	- 7
Maryland.....	637	720	730	126	128	126	- 2
Virginia.....	499	550	570	141	135	136	+ 1
West Virginia.....	418	490	505	42	37	36	- 3
North Carolina.....	537	615	620	125	128	128	0
South Carolina.....	506	570	590	46	43	43	0
Georgia.....	466	590	630	81	87	89	+ 2
Florida.....	650	695	725	117	126	130	+ 3
Kentucky.....	386	450	460	176	173	172	- 1
Tennessee.....	355	410	425	148	150	151	+ 1
Alabama.....	407	475	515	76	74	75	+ 1
Mississippi.....	307	370	395	89	86	84	- 2
Arkansas.....	353	440	485	56	50	49	- 2
Louisiana.....	388	480	485	83	92	90	- 2
Oklahoma.....	527	635	665	107	103	106	+ 3
Texas.....	502	608	690	242	237	252	+ 6
Montana.....	471	480	530	29	25	26	+ 4
Idaho.....	639	695	700	116	111	106	- 5
Wyoming.....	550	630	630	13.7	12.9	12.9	0
Colorado.....	623	680	690	68	67	67	0
New Mexico.....	585	645	665	23	25	26	+ 4
Arizona.....	822	865	885	42	45	45	0
Utah.....	714	775	785	60	59	59	0
Nevada.....	698	790	780	10.0	10.5	10.5	0
Washington.....	695	760	760	147	152	148	- 3
Oregon.....	524	580	610	73	70	71	+ 1
California.....	837	905	890	665	696	694	0
Alaska.....	709	795	770	1.79	1.51	1.39	- 8
Hawaii.....	785	845	830	11.4	12.4	12.2	- 2
United States.....	618	687	695	9,841	9,511	9,304	- 2.2

^{1/} Monthly rate based on all milk cows on farms (in milk or dry).

December rate per cow up 1 percent from a year earlier

December milk output per cow, at 695 pounds, was 1 percent more than the monthly rate of 687 pounds a year earlier and 12 percent more than the December average of 618 pounds. Production per cow was at the highest December level of record in 36 States. Daily output per cow averaged 22.4 pounds in December, 0.4 pounds above November and 0.2 pound above a year earlier.

December production of milk per cow was highest at 890 pounds in California. Following were: Arizona, 885 pounds; Connecticut, 845; Massachusetts, 835; and Rhode Island and Hawaii, each with 830 pounds.

Milk-feed price ratio rises 7 percent above a year earlier

The December milk-feed price ratio, at 1.72, was 7 percent above a year earlier and 16 percent above average. Seasonally the December ratio was down 2 percent from November compared with a 3-percent usual seasonal decline. The increase in the milk-feed price ratio from a year earlier was because of a five-percent decrease in values of rations fed to dairy cows and a one-percent increase in the average price received for milk. The milkfat-feed price ratio was 26.1, the same as a month earlier. Last year the December ratio was 24.5 and the average for the month is 24.4.

Table 3.-Average milk price received by farmers and value of concentrate ration fed to milk cows, by regions, December 1967, with comparisons

Region	Milk price per 100 pounds				Ration value per 100 pounds			
	Dec. av. 1961-65	Dec. 1966	Nov. 1967	Dec. 1967	Dec. av. 1961-65	Dec. 1966	Nov. 1967	Dec. 1967
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
N. Atl.	4.99	5.69	5.96	5.77	3.60	3.86	3.64	3.68
E. N. Cent. ..	4.01	4.98	5.06	5.03	2.77	3.04	2.82	2.88
W. N. Cent. ...	3.66	4.51	4.47	4.46	2.43	2.74	2.44	2.47
S. Atl.	5.69	6.46	6.53	6.53	3.34	3.67	3.42	3.42
S. Cent.	5.14	6.03	6.09	6.13	3.10	3.38	3.24	3.26
West.	4.64	5.22	5.11	5.30	3.17	3.34	3.28	3.31
U. S.								
Milk areas....	4.45	5.28	5.36	5.33	3.00	3.28	3.06	3.10
Cream areas...	-	-	-	-	2.51	2.81	2.53	2.56
Milk and cream areas.....	-	-	-	-	2.98	3.26	3.05	3.09

Table 4.-Milk-feed and milkfat-feed price ratios, by regions, December 1967, with comparisons

Region	Milk-feed ratio 1/				Milkfat-feed ratio 2/			
	Dec. av. 1961-65	Dec. 1966	Nov. 1967	Dec. 1967	Dec. av. 1961-65	Dec. 1966	Nov. 1967	Dec. 1967
N. Atl.	1.39	1.47	1.64	1.57	-	-	-	-
E. N. Cent. ...	1.45	1.64	1.79	1.75	20.7	21.1	21.4	21.1
W. N. Cent. ...	1.51	1.65	1.83	1.81	25.8	25.6	27.7	27.7
S. Atl.	1.70	1.76	1.91	1.91	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.66	1.78	1.88	1.88	17.4	17.8	16.6	16.8
West.	1.46	1.56	1.56	1.60	18.8	19.9	19.6	19.7
U. S.	1.48	1.61	1.75	1.72	24.4	24.5	26.1	26.1

1/ Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of whole milk sold by farmers.

2/ Pounds of concentrate ration equal in value to 1 pound of milkfat in cream sold by farmers.

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