

MILK PRODUCTION

Release:
January 13, 1969
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

DECEMBER 1968

December milk production 1 percent less than a year earlier

U. S. milk production in December is estimated at 9,220 million pounds, 1 percent less than a year earlier and the smallest December production since 1955.

Daily average milk production increased 1 percent from November 1968, to December, compared with a 2-percent gain a year earlier. December milk production provided 1.47 pounds of milk per person daily for all uses, compared with 1.45 pounds a month earlier and 1.50 pounds a year earlier.

Preliminary estimates of milk production for 1968 totaled 117,811 million pounds, 1.2 percent less than the 1967 total. Production was smaller than a year earlier in each month of 1968 except in February, because of leap year 1968. Larger decreases occurred in the earlier months of the year. During October and November, production was near 1967 levels but dropped about one percent below a year earlier in December. Revised estimates of number of milk cows, production per cow and total milk production by months for 1967 and 1968, by States, will be published in the February 12 report.

December milk production was below a year earlier in the North Atlantic States, except in New York and Pennsylvania where it was up, and in Connecticut where it was unchanged. In the North Central States, production was above a year earlier in Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and South Dakota, unchanged in Kansas and down elsewhere. Most South Atlantic States produced less milk than a year earlier except in Maryland, which was up 2 percent and Georgia--up 1 percent. In the South Central and Western Regions, changes were mixed. Unusually cold weather limited December output for many States.

Output per cow 2 percent above a year earlier

Milk output per cow averaged 715 pounds during December, 2 percent more than a year earlier. Daily output per cow averaged 23.1 pounds in December compared with 22.7 pounds in November. December production per cow was at record high levels in 43 States. The rate was highest in California and Arizona, at 920 pounds of milk per cow each; followed by Massachusetts and Connecticut, at 855 pounds each; and New Jersey, 850 pounds.

Milk-feed price ratio 7 percent above a year earlier

The December milk-feed price ratio at 1.81 was 7 percent above a year earlier. Higher milk prices and lower ration values caused the increase over a year earlier. The milkfat-feed price ratio for farm separated cream was 25.5 in December, 5 percent below a year earlier. The milkfat-feed price ratio will be discontinued after December 1968. The U. S. ration value per 100 pounds will be published for "milk areas" only.

Table 1.--Milk per cow and milk production, by months,
United States 1968

Month	Milk per cow			Milk production			Change from 1967
	1966	1967	1968	1966	1967	1968	
	Pounds			Million Pounds			Percent
January	677	716	724	9,787	9,847	9,608	-2.4
February	635	671	699	9,133	9,203	9,249	+0.5
March	736	769	778	10,527	10,517	10,269	-2.4
April	755	788	795	10,747	10,734	10,460	-2.6
May	811	844	859	11,489	11,470	11,283	-1.6
June	798	820	837	11,248	11,095	10,937	-1.4
July	735	764	783	10,322	10,315	10,208	-1.0
August	697	722	736	9,744	9,709	9,567	-1.5
September	661	680	698	9,214	9,124	9,058	-0.7
October	667	685	707	9,262	9,167	9,159	-0.1
November	645	661	681	8,925	8,814	8,793	-0.2
December	688	699	715	9,494	9,299	9,220	-0.8
Annual	8,507	8,821	9,015	119,892	119,294	117,811	-1.2

Table 2.--Average milk price received by farmers and value of concentrate ration fed to milk cows,
by regions, December 1968

Region	Milk price per 100 pounds				Ration value per 100 pounds			
	Dec. 1966	Dec. 1967	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1966	Dec. 1967	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1968
	Dollars							
N. Atl.	5.69	5.77	6.42	6.19	3.86	3.68	3.62	3.66
E. N. Cent. ...	4.98	4.98	5.29	5.25	3.04	2.94	2.92	2.94
W. N. Cent. ...	4.51	4.44	4.82	4.79	2.74	2.49	2.54	2.56
S. Atl.	6.45	6.43	6.80	6.79	3.67	3.55	3.38	3.40
S. Cent.	6.03	6.03	6.44	6.44	3.38	3.31	3.24	3.27
West.	5.21	5.35	5.40	5.50	3.34	3.24	3.20	3.19
U.S.								
Milk areas	5.27	5.29	5.68	5.62	3.28	3.13	3.09	3.11
Cream areas ...	-	-	-	-	2.81	2.57	2.62	2.64
Milk and cream areas	-	-	-	-	3.26	3.12	3.08	3.10

Table 3.--Milk-feed and milkfat-feed price ratios, by regions, December 1968

Region	Milk-feed ratio 1/				Milkfat-feed ratio 2/			
	Dec. 1966	Dec. 1967	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1968	Dec. 1966	Dec. 1967	Nov. 1968	Dec. 1968
N. Atl.	1.47	1.57	1.77	1.69	-	-	-	-
E. N. Cent. ...	1.64	1.69	1.81	1.79	21.0	21.0	20.3	20.3
W. N. Cent. ...	1.65	1.78	1.90	1.87	25.8	28.6	27.0	27.0
S. Atl.	1.76	1.81	2.01	2.00	-	-	-	-
S. Cent.	1.78	1.82	1.99	1.97	17.8	17.5	16.7	16.8
West.	1.56	1.65	1.69	1.72	19.9	20.4	20.3	20.5
U. S.	1.61	1.69	1.84	1.81	24.6	26.9	25.6	25.5

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.

Table 4.-Monthly milk per cow and milk production
December 1968

State	Monthly milk per cow ^{1/}			Milk production			
	Dec. : 1966	Dec. : 1967	Dec. : 1968	Dec. : 1966	Dec. : 1967	Dec. : 1968	Change : from 1967
	-- Pounds --			-- Million Pounds --			Percent
Maine	670	675	680	49	49	48	- 2
New Hampshire	730	750	760	30	31	29	- 6
Vermont	685	700	705	148	150	148	- 1
Massachusetts	830	825	855	62	60	58	- 3
Rhode Island	815	800	810	7.3	7.0	6.4	- 9
Connecticut	840	835	855	59	57	57	0
New York	780	780	810	843	824	828	0
New Jersey	850	830	850	76	69	64	- 7
Pennsylvania	745	705	735	562	517	532	+ 3
Ohio	760	760	760	394	370	355	- 4
Indiana	740	730	770	212	187	189	+ 1
Illinois	720	720	730	266	249	231	- 7
Michigan	775	772	800	398	371	372	0
Wisconsin	740	745	745	1,442	1,434	1,416	- 1
Minnesota	750	800	800	840	860	848	- 1
Iowa	690	700	715	435	420	393	- 6
Missouri	520	560	600	213	218	224	+ 3
North Dakota	500	540	550	92	89	78	-12
South Dakota	570	585	610	121	121	123	+ 2
Nebraska	580	580	595	132	126	123	- 2
Kansas	650	630	665	148	136	136	0
Delaware	700	700	720	11.9	11.2	10.8	- 4
Maryland	720	735	760	128	126	128	+ 2
Virginia	550	565	565	135	133	130	- 2
West Virginia	485	485	490	36	34	32	- 6
North Carolina	615	620	630	125	122	121	- 1
South Carolina	575	595	600	44	44	43	- 2
Georgia	590	630	665	87	89	90	+ 1
Florida	710	725	690	130	133	126	- 5
Kentucky	450	455	465	173	171	172	+ 1
Tennessee	430	450	465	154	153	153	0
Alabama	460	485	500	71	71	70	- 1
Mississippi	395	415	440	92	89	89	0
Arkansas	440	485	510	50	50	51	+ 2
Louisiana	480	485	525	92	90	93	+ 3
Oklahoma	650	670	695	105	105	106	+ 1
Texas	610	670	660	238	253	236	- 7
Montana	500	545	565	26	26	25	- 4
Idaho	715	715	740	114	109	112	+ 3
Wyoming	610	630	650	12.6	12.9	12.7	- 2
Colorado	680	690	710	67	67	69	+ 3
New Mexico	645	685	685	25	26	26	0
Arizona	840	880	920	44	45	48	+ 7
Utah	775	780	800	59	58	61	+ 5
Nevada	790	770	795	10.5	10.5	10.9	+ 4
Washington	760	760	800	152	148	147	- 1
Oregon	580	605	615	70	70	69	- 1
California	900	885	920	699	694	718	+ 3
Alaska	795	790	785	1.51	1.42	1.41	- 1
Hawaii	845	850	830	12.4	12.4	11.0	-11
United States	688	699	715	9,494	9,299	9,220	- 0.8

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS