

# Milk Production



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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## February Milk Production up 3 Percent

**Milk production** in the 22 major States during February totaled 10.8 billion pounds, 3 percent above production in these same States in February 1995. The increase is due to February 1996 having an extra day because it is leap year. On a daily basis, milk production declined during February 1996 versus a year earlier. January revised production, at 11.3 billion pounds was slightly less than January 1995.

**Production per cow** in the 22 major States averaged 1,343 pounds for February, 48 pounds above February 1995. On an average daily basis, production per cow for February was virtually unchanged from a year ago.

**The number of cows** on farms in the 22 major States was 8.01 million head, 38,000 head less than February 1995 and 14,000 head less than January 1996.

**During the October-December period**, the 22 major States produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.3 percent of the U.S. production. If the remaining 28 States not surveyed monthly followed the same pattern as the 22 States, the U.S. production would be 12.5 billion pounds for February 1996.

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### Correction this issue:

U.S. milk cow totals, 1994 Quarterly Revisions for Apr.- Jun. and Oct.- Dec.

Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, United States, 1995-96

Quarter	Milk Cows 1/		Milk per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		1996 as % of 1995
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	
	-----	1,000	-----	Pounds	-----	Million Pounds	Percent
Jan-Mar	9,470		4,112		38,941		
Apr-Jun	9,477		4,276		40,520		
Jul-Sep	9,465		4,049		38,325		
Oct-Dec	9,432		4,014		37,857		
Annual	9,461		16,451		155,644		

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.  
 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 22 Selected States, 1995-96

Month	Milk Cows 1/		Milk per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		1996 as % of 1995
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	
	-----	1,000	-----	Pounds	-----	Million Pounds	Percent
Jan	8,046	8,026	1,404	1,406	11,296	11,285	100
Feb	8,050	8,012	1,295	1,343	10,423	10,762	103
Mar	8,061		1,453		11,709		
Apr	8,058		1,427		11,501		
May	8,056		1,484		11,959		
Jun	8,066		1,421		11,465		
Jul	8,062		1,414		11,397		
Aug	8,062		1,375		11,086		
Sep	8,061		1,331		10,729		
Oct	8,050		1,364		10,978		
Nov	8,043		1,320		10,616		
Dec	8,034		1,380		11,088		
Annual	8,054		16,668		134,247		

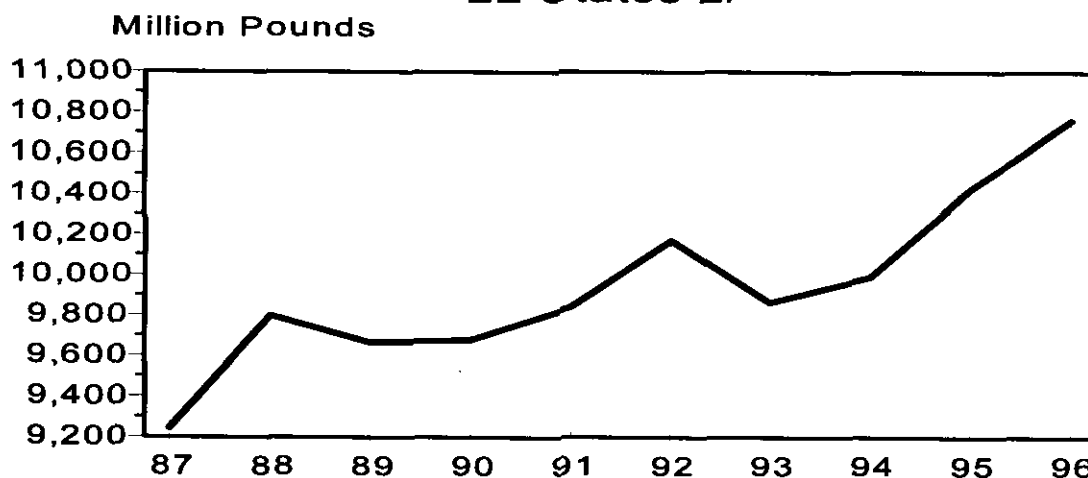
1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.  
 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, February 1995-96

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1996 as % of 1995
	---- 1,000 ----		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,251	1,260	1,545	1,600	1,933	2,016	104
FL	166	155	1,290	1,350	214	209	98
ID	221	246	1,360	1,370	301	337	112
IL	163	160	1,260	1,310	205	210	102
IN	145	140	1,200	1,260	174	176	101
IA	251	250	1,245	1,180	312	295	95
KY	163	156	965	985	157	154	98
MD	92	91	1,185	1,210	109	110	101
MI	326	327	1,315	1,365	429	446	104
MN	600	600	1,245	1,305	747	783	105
MO	193	183	1,115	1,160	215	212	99
NM	179	193	1,555	1,500	278	290	104
NY	707	700	1,250	1,340	884	938	106
NC	89	85	1,340	1,370	119	116	97
OH	289	285	1,260	1,245	364	355	98
PA	641	645	1,280	1,345	820	868	106
TN	130	119	1,100	1,140	143	136	95
TX	399	400	1,300	1,345	519	538	104
VT	156	157	1,250	1,275	195	200	103
VA	129	127	1,215	1,210	157	154	98
WA	262	263	1,540	1,535	403	404	100
WI	1,498	1,470	1,165	1,235	1,745	1,815	104
22 State:							
Total	8,050	8,012	1,295	1,343	10,423	10,762	103

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.  
 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

February Milk Production, 1987-1996 1/  
 22 States 2/



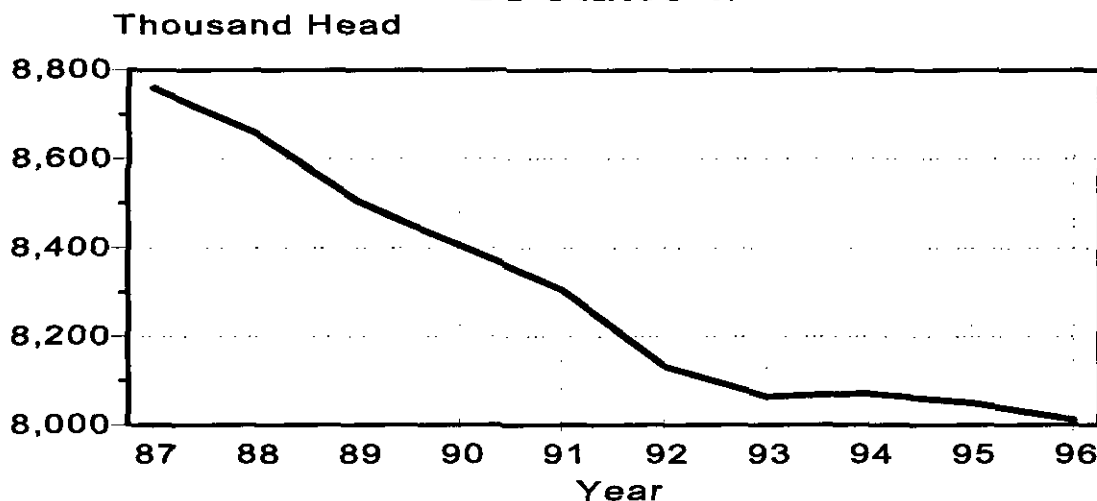
1/ The years, 1988, 1992, and 1996 are leap years.  
 2/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, January 1995-96 1/

State	Milk Cows 2/		Milk per Cow 3/		Milk Production 3/		1996 as % of 1995
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	
	----- 1,000 -----		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,250	1,260	1,685	1,670	2,106	2,104	100
FL	168	155	1,375	1,405	231	218	94
ID	220	245	1,500	1,490	330	365	111
IL	163	160	1,270	1,350	207	216	104
IN	145	140	1,280	1,290	186	181	97
IA	251	250	1,365	1,260	343	315	92
KY	163	157	1,075	1,045	175	164	94
MD	92	91	1,280	1,265	118	115	97
MI	326	327	1,435	1,425	468	466	100
MN	600	600	1,345	1,370	807	822	102
MO	195	185	1,210	1,180	236	218	92
NM	174	193	1,695	1,570	295	303	103
NY	708	700	1,360	1,405	963	984	102
NC	89	86	1,440	1,400	128	120	94
OH	290	285	1,350	1,325	392	378	96
PA	639	648	1,390	1,405	888	910	102
TN	130	120	1,200	1,190	156	143	92
TX	399	400	1,370	1,380	547	552	101
VT	156	158	1,335	1,360	208	215	103
VA	129	128	1,350	1,240	174	159	91
WA	259	263	1,700	1,650	440	434	99
WI	1,500	1,475	1,265	1,290	1,898	1,903	100
22 State:							
Total	8,046	8,026	1,404	1,406	11,296	11,285	100

1/ 1996 revised. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.  
 3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

February Milk Cows, 1987-1996  
 22 States 1/



1/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

**February 1996 Correction**

Milk Cows and Production: Number and Total Milk Production  
by Quarter, United States, 1994

State	Milk Cows 1/				Milk Production 2/			
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
	----- 1,000 Head -----				----- Million Pounds -----			
US	9,496	9,510*	9,510	9,484*	37,613	39,907	38,209	37,935

- 1/ Quarterly average includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.  
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves. \* Corrections for February 1996.

**Reliability Statement**

**Survey Procedures:** Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from a sample of producers. Individual States maintain a list of all known milk producers and information on the size of their herd. States use all known sources of producers to ensure that their lists are as complete as possible. Generally, all large producers and a sample of small producers are included in the survey. Questionnaires are mailed to producers near the end of the month to obtain data for the first day of the month. Additional reports are obtained by telephone, as needed, to supplement the mail response.

**Estimation Procedures:** State offices prepare these estimates using survey indications, historic trends, and any available administrative data. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

**Revision Policy:** Milk production, rate per cow, and number of cows are subject to revision the following month for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, Federal Market Order sales are the main basis for revisions. However, data for all orders are not available in time for this revision. Estimates are again subject to revisions in February each year based on additional administrative data. In the event that additional changes are necessary, a third revision is possible in February the following year. Estimates are again reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture, conducted by the Department of Commerce, are available. No revisions are made after that date.

**Reliability:** Since all operations with dairy animals are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the table below. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for milk cow inventory estimates over the past 10 quarters is 1.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final October-December estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 9.43 million head by more than 1.3 percent, or about 123,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.3 percent, or about 217,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

Reliability of October-December Milk Estimates 1/

Item	Root	90%	Difference Between				Number of	
	Mean	Confidence	First and Final	Estimates 1/	Quarters	First	Final	
	Square	Level	Average	Smallest	Largest	Above	Below	
	Error					Final	Final	
		- Percent -	----- Mil Lbs. -----			- Number -		
Milk Production	0.8	1.5	568	229	22	565	10	0
			----- 1,000 Head -----					
All Milk Cows	1.3	2.3	217	107	18	195	10	0

1/ Based on records for the past 10 October-December quarters.

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