

# Milk Production



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Released April 15, 1996, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Milk Production" call Kevin Hintzman at (202) 720-4448, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET. For assistance with general agricultural statistics, information about NASS, its products or services, contact the NASS Information Hotline at 1-800-727-9540 or E-mail: [NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV](mailto:NASS@NASS.USDA.GOV).

## March Milk Production Down Slightly

Milk production in the 22 major States during March totaled 11.7 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same States in March 1995. February revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds was 3 percent more than February 1995. On a daily basis, milk production declined during February 1996 versus a year earlier.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,460 pounds for March, 7 pounds above March 1995.

The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 8.00 million head, 57,000 head less than March 1995 and 6,000 head less than February 1996.

During the January-March period, the 22 major States produced 33.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.1 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 13.1 billion pounds for January 1996, 12.4 billions pounds for February 1996, and 13.6 billion pounds for March 1996.

## January-March Milk Production Up 1 Percent

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 39.1 billion pounds, 1 percent above the January-March period last year. The increase is due to February 1996 having an extra day because it was leap year. On a daily basis, milk production declined during the first quarter. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.40 million head, 68,000 head less than the same period last year.

## Grain and Other Concentrates Fed

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on April 1, 1996 averaged 18.6 pounds per cow, unchanged from April 1, 1995, but down 0.2 pounds per day from January.

## Value of Grain and Other Concentrates

The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on April 1 averaged \$9.15 per hundredweight, \$1.58 more than the price on April 1, 1995.

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

Quarter	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
Jan-Mar	9,470	9,402	4,112	4,163	38,941	39,140	101
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/		
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1996 as % of 1995
	---- 1,000 ----		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
Jan	8,046	8,026	1,404	1,406	11,296	11,285	100
Feb	8,050	8,010	1,295	1,338	10,423	10,719	103
Mar	8,061	8,004	1,453	1,460	11,709	11,686	100
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.

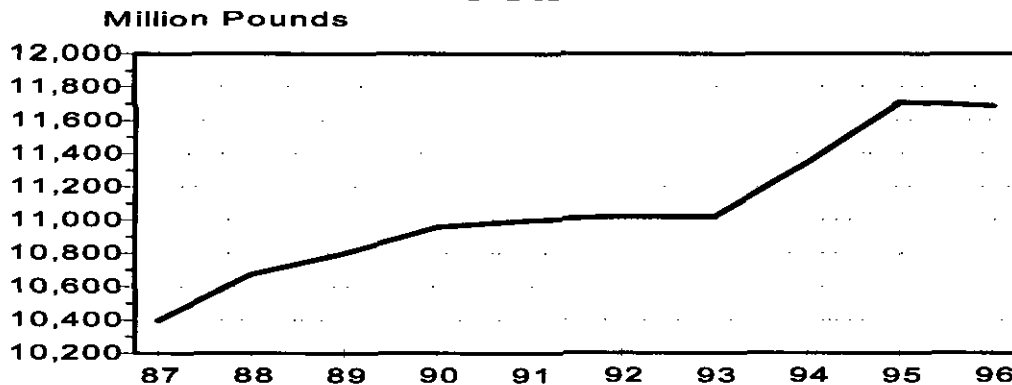
Milk Cows and Production: By State, March 1995-96

State	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
CA	1,251	1,261	1,725	1,730	2,158	2,182	101
FL	166	156	1,435	1,450	238	226	95
ID	223	247	1,510	1,510	337	373	111
IL	163	160	1,380	1,380	225	221	98
IN	145	140	1,340	1,380	194	193	99
IA	251	249	1,380	1,300	346	324	94
KY	163	156	1,105	1,070	180	167	93
MD	93	87	1,310	1,380	122	120	98
MI	326	326	1,490	1,480	486	482	99
MN	600	600	1,395	1,410	837	846	101
MO	194	183	1,295	1,270	251	232	92
NM	185	193	1,705	1,700	315	328	104
NY	707	700	1,420	1,470	1,004	1,029	102
NC	88	85	1,510	1,490	133	127	95
OH	289	285	1,395	1,385	403	395	98
PA	641	645	1,440	1,465	923	945	102
TN	130	119	1,250	1,270	163	151	93
TX	400	400	1,450	1,445	580	578	100
VT	156	157	1,400	1,405	218	221	101
VA	129	127	1,355	1,280	175	163	93
WA	263	262	1,715	1,685	451	441	98
WI	1,498	1,466	1,315	1,325	1,970	1,942	99
22 State:							
Total	8,061	8,004	1,453	1,460	11,709	11,686	100

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

March Milk Production, 1987-1996  
22 States 1/



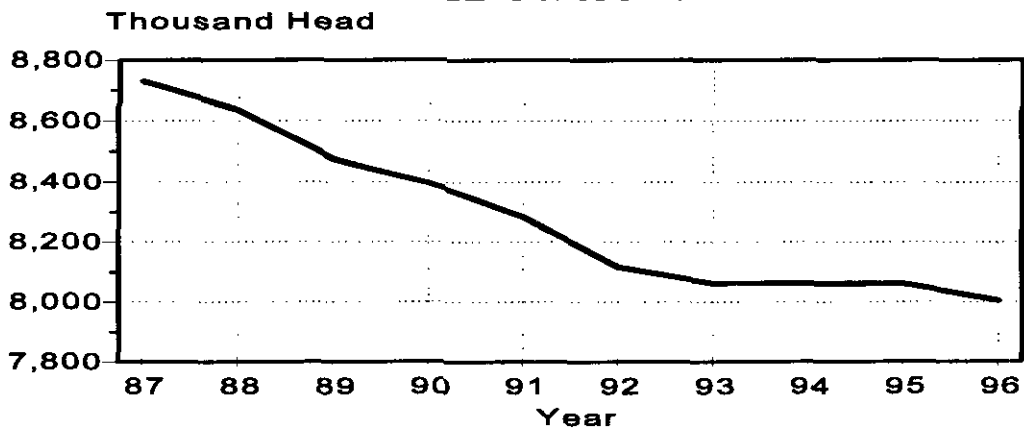
1/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

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

State	Milk Cows 2/		Milk per Cow 3/		Milk Production 3/		
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996	1996 as % of 1995
	---- 1,000 ----		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,251	1,260	1,545	1,585	1,933	1,997	103
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	89	1,185	1,235	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	1,200	215	220	102
NM	179	193	1,555	1,520	278	293	105
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	1,130	143	134	94
TX	399	400	1,300	1,345	519	538	104
VT	156	157	1,250	1,305	195	205	105
VA	129	127	1,215	1,160	157	147	94
WA	262	263	1,540	1,530	403	402	100
WI	1,498	1,470	1,165	1,215	1,745	1,786	102
22 State:							
Total	8,050	8,010	1,295	1,338	10,423	10,719	103

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

March Milk Cows, 1987-1996  
 22 States 1/



1/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

Milk Cows and Production: By State and United States  
Revised October-December 1994-1995

State	Oct-Dec Milk Cows 1/		Oct-Dec Milk Production 2/		1995 as % of 1994
	1994	1995	1994	1995	
	1,000		Million Pounds		Percent
AL	37	32	122	112	92
AK	0.7	0.7	2.85	3.07	108
AZ	114	113	536	555	104
AR	61	59	177	174	98
CA	1,245	1,258	6,382	6,252	98
CO	82	82	389	389	100
CT	32	31	128	129	101
DE	10	10	35.4	36.2	102
FL	172	156	603	547	91
GA	102	98	389	363	93
HI	10.5	10.3	32.8	31.3	95
ID	217	242	981	1,089	111
IL	163	162	619	617	100
IN	145	142	552	539	98
IA	252	250	1,000	990	99
KS	81	83	295	295	100
KY	165	159	504	477	95
LA	79	79	220	210	95
ME	39	39	155	156	101
MD	91	91	336	329	98
MA	28	27	111	110	99
MI	326	326	1,364	1,349	99
MN	603	600	2,229	2,277	102
MS	57	53	174	161	93
MO	196	186	678	628	93
MT	21	20	79	77	97
NE	75	72	276	273	99
NV	23	23	106	103.2	97
NH	19	20	76	82	108
NJ	24	23	80	76	95
NM	171	195	851	883	104
NY	712	702	2,762	2,864	104
NC	89	86	360	335	93
ND	66	63	208	198	95
OH	289	287	1,125	1,113	99
OK	98	97	300	320	107
OR	100	96	417	400	96
PA	640	647	2,559	2,624	103
RI	2.1	2.1	7.6	7.9	104
SC	28	26	103	94	91
SD	120	116	384	371	97
TN	133	122	435	414	95
TX	401	400	1,496	1,485	99
UT	88	88	359	363	101
VT	157	158	607	626	103
VA	129	128	493	473	96
WA	263	265	1,291	1,280	99
WV	22	21	69	64	93
WI	1,498	1,480	5,453	5,491	101
WY	6.8	5.9	23.5	21.5	91
US 3/	9,484	9,432	37,935	37,857	100

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

3/ Milk cows will not add due to rounding.

Milk Cows and Production: By State and United States  
Preliminary January-March 1995-96

State	Jan-Mar Milk Cows 1/		Jan-Mar Milk Production 2/		1996
	1995	1996	1995	1996	as % of 1995
	---- 1,000 ----		-- Million Pounds --		Percent
AL	35	32	138	126	91
AK	0.7	0.8	2.8	3.10	111
AZ	113	118	590	639	108
AR	61	59	189	186	98
CA	1,251	1,260	6,197	6,283	101
CO	83	82	386	396	103
CT	32	31	137	133	97
DE	10	9.7	39.2	36.5	93
FL	167	155	683	653	96
GA	102	97	433	413	95
HI	10.4	10	36.7	33.3	91
ID	221	246	968	1,075	111
IL	163	160	637	647	102
IN	145	140	554	550	99
IA	251	250	1,001	934	93
KS	81	85	305	310	102
KY	163	156	512	485	95
LA	80	78	258	235	91
ME	39	40	157	162	103
MD	92	89	349	345	99
MA	28	27	112	111	99
MI	326	327	1,383	1,394	101
MN	600	600	2,391	2,451	103
MS	56	53	201	181	90
MO	194	184	702	670	95
MT	21	20	77	75	97
NE	74	69	272	268	99
NV	24	23	105.6	101.2	96
NH	19	20	79	87	110
NJ	23	23	84	83	99
NM	179	193	888	924	104
NY	707	700	2,851	2,951	104
NC	89	85	380	363	96
ND	65	64	207	208	100
OH	289	285	1,159	1,128	97
OK	98	97	333	325	98
OR	98	94	417	396	95
PA	640	646	2,631	2,723	103
RI	2.2	2	8.2	7.8	95
SC	27	26	108	104	96
SD	120	113	394	375	95
TN	130	119	462	428	93
TX	399	400	1,646	1,668	101
UT	87	88	353	366	104
VT	156	157	621	641	103
VA	129	127	506	469	93
WA	261	263	1,294	1,277	99
WV	22	21	70	68	97
WI	1,499	1,470	5,613	5,631	100
WY	6	6	20.7	21.3	103
U S 3/	9,470	9,402	38,941	39,140	101

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.  
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.  
3/ Milk cows will not add due to rounding.

Grain and Other Concentrates: Quantity Fed Daily and Value  
By State and United States, April 1, 1995-96

State	: Grain and Other Concentrates : Value per 100 Pounds of Concentrate		: Fed Daily per Milk Cow : Ration Fed to Milk Cows	
	: 1995	: 1996	: 1995	: 1996
	: ----- Pounds -----		: ----- Dollars -----	
AL	: 19.0	20.1	8.10	9.80
AK	: 19.5	19.5	13.80	13.80
AZ	: 23.9	19.3	7.70	8.75
AR	: 18.0	19.0	10.90	9.75
CA	: 20.0	19.0	7.60	9.10
CO	: 22.5	23.0	7.00	8.90
CT	: 18.0	17.5	8.40	10.60
DE	: 15.1	13.9	9.00	9.80
FL	: 25.0	22.0	7.20	8.00
GA	: 23.4	24.0	7.50	9.20
ID	: 22.5	23.0	6.80	8.10
IL	: 16.9	16.9	8.20	9.60
IN	: 17.2	17.7	7.80	8.30
IA	: 17.6	15.1	6.80	7.90
KS	: 19.3	19.0	7.00	8.80
KY	: 16.7	16.8	8.60	10.30
LA	: 18.1	19.0	8.00	9.85
ME	: 16.0	16.5	9.00	10.70
MD	: 15.0	15.4	9.20	10.30
MA	: 16.5	16.0	8.55	10.20
MI	: 17.0	19.0	7.20	8.10
MN	: 18.0	17.8	7.00	8.90
MS	: 17.1	18.7	7.95	9.40
MO	: 19.0	18.0	7.60	8.80
MT	: 17.1	17.1	7.30	8.80
NE	: 17.2	17.1	7.10	8.10
NV	: 20.0	20.0	8.10	8.90
NH	: 17.0	16.5	8.85	10.55
NJ	: 15.4	15.6	8.40	11.45
NM	: 26.0	26.0	6.20	8.20
NY	: 15.6	15.2	9.10	10.80
NC	: 18.9	18.6	8.75	10.50
ND	: 16.2	16.6	5.60	7.40
OH	: 17.5	17.5	8.00	9.20
OK	: 19.8	20.0	7.80	9.70
OR	: 19.5	19.5	8.75	9.50
PA	: 16.0	18.0	8.80	10.30
RI	: 16.0	15.0	8.25	10.10
SC	: 19.5	19.0	7.65	9.30
SD	: 17.4	16.3	6.35	8.00
TN	: 18.0	17.0	8.90	10.70
TX	: 19.5	23.0	6.30	9.40
UT	: 19.5	17.1	7.00	9.20
VT	: 16.0	15.5	8.65	10.80
VA	: 15.0	15.8	8.60	9.90
WA	: 21.0	19.0	7.90	9.30
WV	: 15.6	14.5	8.90	10.00
WI	: 18.0	18.7	6.70	8.40
WY	: 12.5	13.0	6.70	8.05
US	: 18.6	18.6	7.57	9.15

## 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 1.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final January-March estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 9.40 million head by more than 1.1 percent, or about 103,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.1 percent, or about 197,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level).



Reliability of January-March Milk Estimates 1/

Item	Root	Mean	90% Confidence Level	Difference Between First and Final Estimates 1/			Number of Quarters	
	Square	Error		Average	Smallest	Largest	Above	Below
							Final	Final
	- Percent -			Mil Lbs.			- Number -	
Milk Production	0.6	1.0	391	180	30	315	8	2
				----- 1,000 Head -----				
All Milk Cows	1.1	2.1	197	99	5	187	10	0

1/ Based on records for the past 10 January-March quarters.

The next **"Milk Production"** report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on May 15, 1996.

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