

# Milk Production



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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## April Milk Production Down Slightly

**Milk production** in the 22 major States during April totaled 11.5 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same States in April 1995. March revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds was slightly less than March 1995.

**Production per cow** in the 22 major States averaged 1,438 pounds for April, 11 pounds above April 1995.

**The number of cows** on farms in the 22 major States was 7.99 million head, 67,000 head less than April 1995 and 7,000 head less March 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 13.3 billion pounds for April 1996.

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	9,400	4,112	4,162	38,941	39,125	100
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	8,010	1,295	1,338	10,423	10,719	103
Mar	8,061	7,998	1,453	1,459	11,709	11,671	100
Apr	8,058	7,991	1,427	1,438	11,501	11,489	100
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.

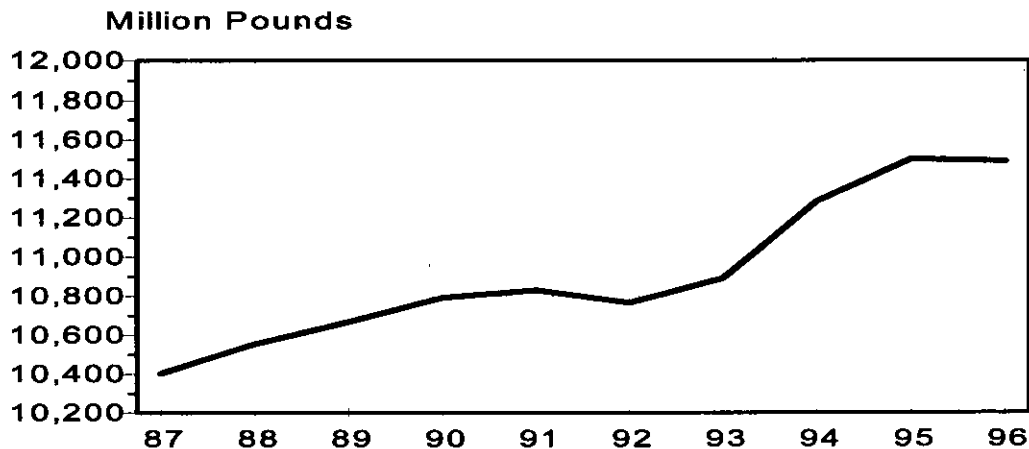
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, April 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	1,252	1,261	1,700	1,725	2,128	2,175	102
FL	164	155	1,355	1,400	222	217	98
ID	227	248	1,490	1,490	338	370	109
IL	163	160	1,370	1,370	223	219	98
IN	144	140	1,320	1,320	190	185	97
IA	251	250	1,360	1,280	341	320	94
KY	163	157	1,135	1,080	185	170	92
MD	93	87	1,280	1,310	119	114	96
MI	326	326	1,440	1,440	469	469	100
MN	595	595	1,365	1,365	812	812	100
MO	195	183	1,305	1,290	254	236	93
NM	185	193	1,670	1,670	309	322	104
NY	705	700	1,390	1,430	980	1,001	102
NC	88	84	1,480	1,450	130	122	94
OH	289	285	1,390	1,380	402	393	98
PA	639	643	1,420	1,435	907	923	102
TN	131	116	1,240	1,250	162	145	90
TX	400	400	1,400	1,445	560	578	103
VT	156	156	1,380	1,395	215	218	101
VA	129	127	1,335	1,240	172	157	91
WA	267	261	1,670	1,655	446	432	97
WI	1,496	1,464	1,295	1,305	1,937	1,911	99
22 State:							
Total	8,058	7,991	1,427	1,438	11,501	11,489	100

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

April Milk Production, 1987-1996  
 22 States 1/



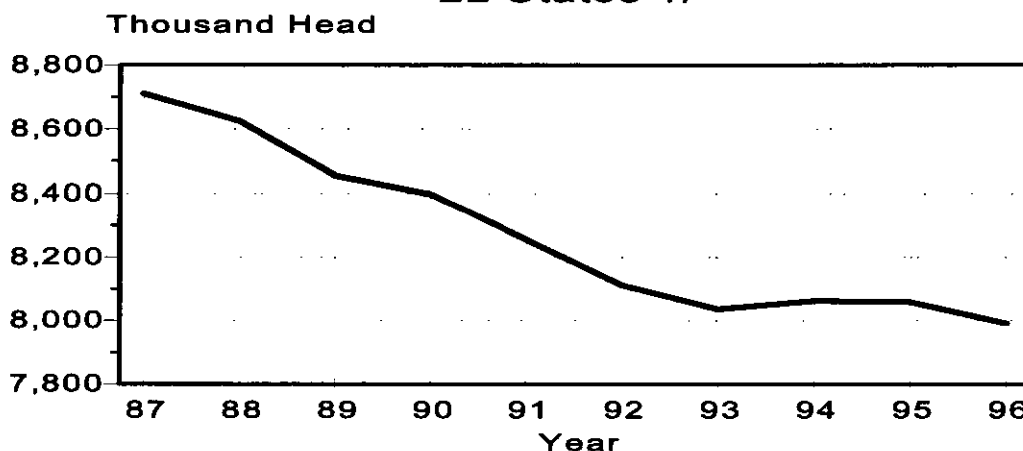
1/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, March 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	1,251	1,261	1,725	1,725	2,158	2,175	101
FL	166	156	1,435	1,475	238	230	97
ID	223	247	1,510	1,500	337	371	110
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	1,075	180	168	93
MD	93	87	1,310	1,380	122	120	98
MI	326	326	1,490	1,480	486	482	99
MN	600	595	1,395	1,405	837	836	100
MO	194	183	1,295	1,245	251	228	91
NM	185	193	1,705	1,675	315	323	103
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	118	1,250	1,250	163	148	91
TX	400	400	1,450	1,480	580	592	102
VT	156	157	1,400	1,405	218	221	101
VA	129	127	1,355	1,260	175	160	91
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	7,998	1,453	1,459	11,709	11,671	100

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

April Milk Cows, 1987-1996  
 22 States 1/



1/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

## 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 Square Error	90% Confidence Level	Difference Between First and Final Estimates 1/	Average			Number of Quarters	
				Smallest	Largest	Above Final	Below Final	
Milk Production	0.6	1.0	391	180	30	315	8	2
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 June 13, 1996.

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