

Milk Production



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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May Milk Production Down 1 Percent

Milk production in the 22 major States during May totaled 11.8 billion pounds, 1 percent below production in these same States in May 1995. April revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds was slightly less than April 1995.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,477 pounds for May, 7 pounds below May 1995. This is the first month since February 1993 that the rate has decreased when compared to a year ago.

The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.99 million head, 67,000 head less than May 1995 but 1,000 head more than April 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 13.7 billion pounds for May 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	7,988	1,427	1,434	11,501	11,451	100
May	8,056	7,989	1,484	1,477	11,959	11,803	99
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.

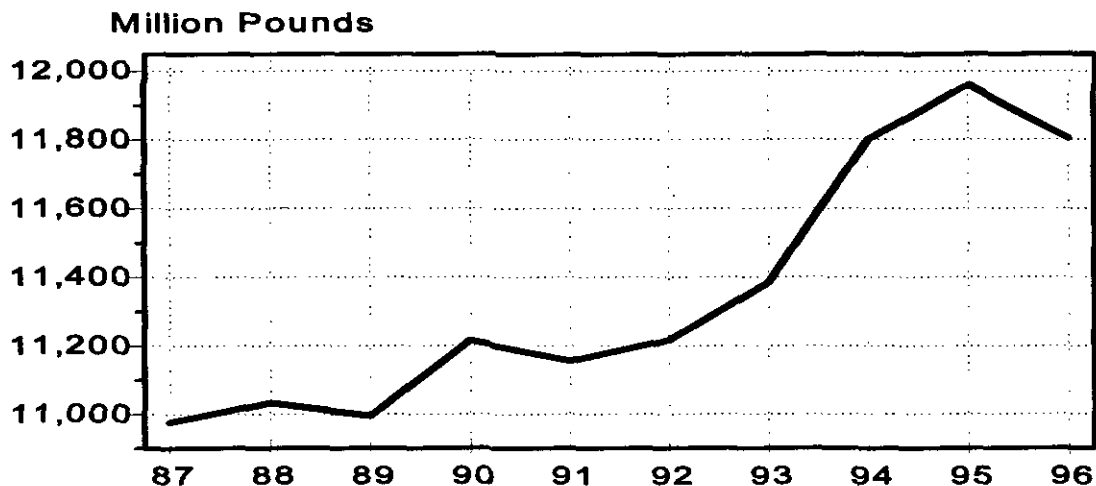
2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, May 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	1,253	1,262	1,775	1,775	2,224	2,240	101
FL	162	157	1,315	1,360	213	214	100
ID	229	249	1,560	1,570	357	391	110
IL	163	160	1,380	1,400	225	224	100
IN	144	140	1,380	1,350	199	189	95
IA	251	249	1,410	1,330	354	331	94
KY	163	156	1,140	1,090	186	170	91
MD	93	87	1,320	1,310	123	114	93
MI	326	326	1,510	1,470	492	479	97
MN	595	595	1,430	1,410	851	839	99
MO	194	182	1,300	1,305	252	238	94
NM	190	194	1,695	1,710	322	332	103
NY	704	703	1,460	1,470	1,028	1,033	100
NC	87	83	1,480	1,430	129	119	92
OH	289	285	1,425	1,400	412	399	97
PA	639	643	1,470	1,460	939	939	100
TN	129	115	1,240	1,220	160	140	88
TX	400	400	1,380	1,425	552	570	103
VT	156	156	1,430	1,450	223	226	101
VA	129	127	1,350	1,250	174	159	91
WA	266	262	1,755	1,755	467	460	99
WI	1,494	1,458	1,390	1,370	2,077	1,997	96
22 State:							
Total	8,056	7,989	1,484	1,477	11,959	11,803	99

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

May Milk Production, 1987-1996
 22 States 1/



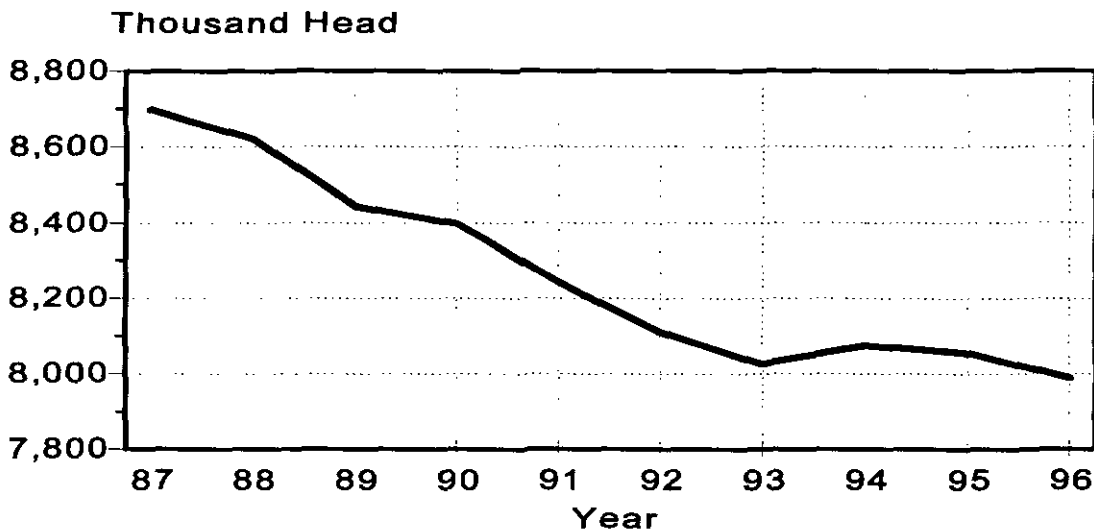
1/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, April 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	1,252	1,261	1,700	1,720	2,128	2,169	102
FL	164	157	1,355	1,400	222	220	99
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	156	1,135	1,075	185	168	91
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	1,355	812	806	99
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	1,420	980	994	101
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	115	1,240	1,250	162	144	89
TX	400	400	1,400	1,445	560	578	103
VT	156	156	1,380	1,380	215	215	100
VA	129	127	1,335	1,240	172	157	91
WA	267	262	1,670	1,665	446	436	98
WI	1,496	1,460	1,295	1,295	1,937	1,891	98
22 State:							
Total	8,058	7,988	1,427	1,434	11,501	11,451	100

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

May 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	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 3:00 p.m. ET on July 15, 1996.

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