

Milk Production



USDA
Washington, D.C.

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December Milk Production Down Slightly

Milk production in the 22 major States during December totaled 11.1 billion pounds, slightly below production in these same States in December 1995. November revised production, at 10.7 billion pounds was slightly above November 1995. During 1996, milk production was 1.2 billion pounds less than 1995. On a daily basis, 1996 production averaged 4.4 million pounds per day less than 1995.

Production per cow in the 22 major States averaged 1,394 pounds for December, 14 pounds above December 1995.

The number of cows on farms in the 22 major States was 7.94 million head, 97,000 head less than December 1995 and 6,000 head less than November 1996. This is the seventeenth consecutive month of decline. The number of cows on farms averaged 101,000 less during 1996 when compared to 1995. The number of milk cows on farms was the lowest on record.

During the October-December period, the 22 major States produced 32.7 billion pounds of milk, 86.4 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 12.7 billion pounds for October 1996, 12.4 billion pounds for November 1996, 12.8 billion pounds for December 1996.

U.S. October-December Milk Production Up Slightly

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 37.9 billion pounds, slightly above the October-December period in 1995. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the October-December quarter was 9.32 million head 114,000 less than the same period a year earlier.

Grain and Other Concentrates Fed

Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows on January 1, 1997, averaged 19.2 pounds per cow, 0.4 pound more than January 1, 1996.

Value of Grain and Other Concentrates

The value of grain and other concentrates fed to cows on January 1, averaged \$8.79 per hundredweight, \$.28 more than January 1, 1996.

NASS is planning to change the States that are included in the monthly milk production estimating program starting January 1997. The last major change was in 1986. We plan to drop Maryland, North Carolina, and Tennessee while adding Arizona.

Historic monthly estimates have been created for Arizona back to 1994. Therefore, data users will have a comparable data set for 1994, 1995, and 1996 for the 20 State monthly total. The 20 States in the monthly estimating program account for 85 percent of the U.S. milk production.

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	9,402	4,112	4,160	38,941	39,111	100
Apr-Jun	9,477	9,375	4,276	4,236	40,520	39,706	98
Jul-Sep	9,465	9,344	4,049	4,041	38,325	37,759	99
Oct-Dec	9,432	9,318	4,014	4,064	37,857	37,868	100
Annual	9,461	9,360	16,451	16,501	155,644	154,445	99

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	7,987	1,484	1,470	11,959	11,740	98
Jun	8,066	7,984	1,421	1,387	11,465	11,075	97
Jul	8,062	7,977	1,414	1,397	11,397	11,142	98
Aug	8,062	7,969	1,375	1,377	11,086	10,970	99
Sep	8,061	7,957	1,331	1,337	10,729	10,640	99
Oct	8,050	7,953	1,364	1,380	10,978	10,977	100
Nov	8,043	7,943	1,320	1,342	10,616	10,662	100
Dec	8,034	7,937	1,380	1,394	11,088	11,063	100
Annual	8,054	7,977	16,668	16,722	134,247	133,395	99

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

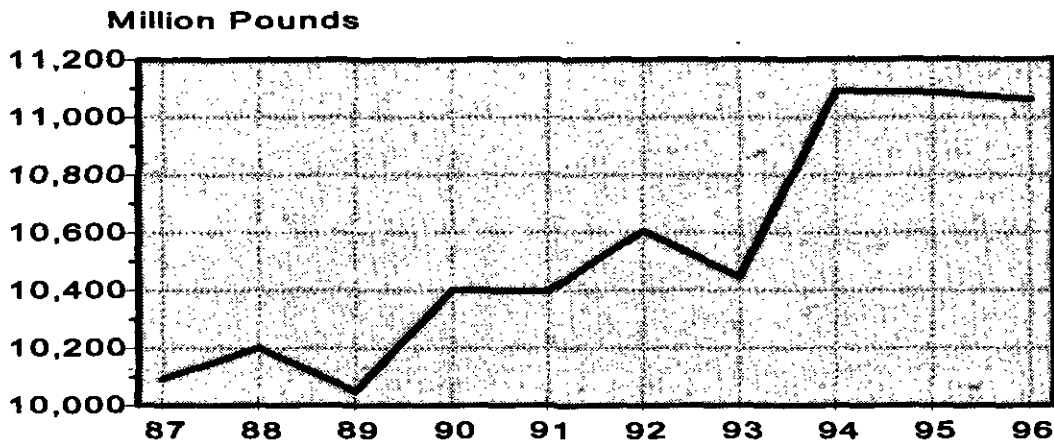
Milk Cows and Production: By State, December 1995-96

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	1,259	1,268	1,665	1,700	2,096	2,156	103
FL	155	158	1,300	1,300	202	205	101
ID	244	267	1,500	1,540	366	411	112
IL	162	152	1,300	1,350	211	205	97
IN	140	139	1,280	1,300	179	181	101
IA	250	250	1,315	1,325	329	331	101
KY	158	151	1,030	1,020	163	154	94
MD	91	85	1,250	1,290	114	110	96
MI	326	324	1,400	1,430	456	463	102
MN	600	595	1,315	1,345	789	800	101
MO	186	175	1,160	1,100	216	193	89
NM	194	197	1,550	1,630	301	321	107
NY	702	700	1,380	1,310	969	917	95
NC	86	78	1,330	1,385	114	108	95
OH	287	286	1,310	1,310	376	375	100
PA	647	643	1,370	1,365	886	878	99
TN	120	113	1,180	1,210	142	137	96
TX	400	390	1,310	1,325	524	517	99
VT	157	156	1,350	1,340	212	209	99
VA	128	126	1,250	1,230	160	155	97
WA	264	266	1,620	1,640	428	436	102
WI	1,478	1,418	1,255	1,270	1,855	1,801	97
22 State:							
Total	8,034	7,937	1,380	1,394	11,088	11,063	100

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

December Milk Production, 1987-1996

22 States 1/



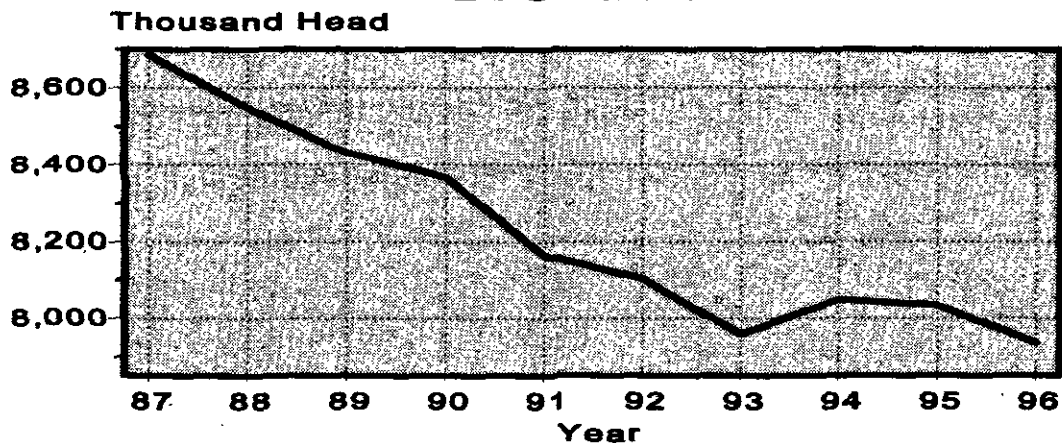
1/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, November 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	1,258	1,268	1,615	1,710	2,032	2,168	107
FL	155	157	1,160	1,230	180	193	107
ID	242	266	1,470	1,500	356	399	112
IL	162	153	1,250	1,290	203	197	97
IN	143	140	1,240	1,250	177	175	99
IA	250	250	1,310	1,260	328	315	96
KY	159	151	960	960	153	145	95
MD	91	85	1,175	1,230	107	105	98
MI	326	325	1,340	1,360	437	442	101
MN	600	595	1,220	1,250	732	744	102
MO	186	175	1,100	1,055	205	185	90
NM	196	195	1,460	1,565	286	305	107
NY	702	700	1,335	1,260	937	882	94
NC	86	79	1,290	1,290	111	102	92
OH	287	285	1,270	1,230	364	351	96
PA	647	642	1,310	1,310	848	841	99
TN	123	112	1,090	1,150	134	129	96
TX	400	395	1,200	1,205	480	476	99
VT	158	155	1,280	1,285	202	199	99
VA	128	126	1,205	1,170	154	147	95
WA	264	266	1,570	1,600	414	426	103
WI	1,480	1,423	1,200	1,220	1,776	1,736	98
22 State:							
Total	8,043	7,943	1,320	1,342	10,616	10,662	100

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

December Milk Cows, 1987-1996
 22 States 1/



1/ Includes New Mexico beginning in 1994.

Milk Cows and Production: By State and United States
Revised July-September 1995-1996

State	Jul-Sep Milk Cows 1/		Jul-Sep Milk Production 2/		1996 as % of 1995
	1995	1996	1995	1996	
	---- 1,000 ----		-- Million Pounds --		Percent
AL	33	31	101	88	87
AK	0.7	0.8	3.05	3.56	117
AZ	114	120	488	515	106
AR	60	56	174	162	93
CA	1,255	1,263	6,400	6,447	101
CO	82	83	385	411	107
CT	31	30	126	118	94
DE	10	10	32.9	33.4	102
FL	162	156	518	512	99
GA	100	97	339	322	95
HI	10.2	9.3	34.5	32.4	94
ID	236	260	1,103	1,251	113
IL	162	158	625	619	99
IN	143	140	546	529	97
IA	250	250	1,009	955	95
KS	82	80	275	280	102
KY	162	151	487	436	90
LA	79	77	194	177	91
ME	40	40	163	163	100
MD	92	86	311	317	102
MA	28	27	112	109	97
MI	326	327	1,394	1,365	98
MN	600	600	2,289	2,295	100
MS	54	50	153	142	93
MO	188	176	625	568	91
MT	21	20	80	78	98
NE	74	69	274	255	93
NV	23	25.5	105.8	119.9	113
NH	20	19	81	79	98
NJ	23	23	77	71	92
NM	198	196	910	919	101
NY	701	703	2,916	2,861	98
NC	86	81	326	301	92
ND	64	62	212	198	93
OH	289	285	1,118	1,073	96
OK	96	96	317	300	95
OR	97	93	424	404	95
PA	643	642	2,604	2,594	100
RI	2.1	1.9	7.9	7.5	95
SC	26	26	85	85	100
SD	118	112	404	370	92
TN	124	112	401	360	90
TX	402	397	1,365	1,337	98
UT	88	92	379	401	106
VT	158	157	637	630	99
VA	129	126	465	430	92
WA	269	264	1,361	1,351	99
WV	21	20	65	60	92
WI	1,488	1,440	5,802	5,602	97
WY	6	6.2	21	22.3	106
US 3/	9,465	9,344	38,325	37,759	99

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 October-December 1995-96

State	Oct-Dec Milk Cows 1/		Oct-Dec Milk Production 2/		1996
	1995	1996	1995	1996	as % of 1995
	---- 1,000 ----		-- Million Pounds --		Percent
AL	32	31	112	102	91
AK	0.7	0.8	3.07	3.52	115
AZ	113	120	555	593	107
AR	59	56	174	165	95
CA	1,258	1,267	6,252	6,544	105
CO	82	84	389	413	106
CT	31	29	129	116	90
DE	10	10.4	36.2	39.3	109
FL	156	157	547	578	106
GA	98	98	363	364	100
HI	10.3	9.6	31.3	27.8	89
ID	242	266	1,089	1,226	113
IL	162	154	617	608	99
IN	142	140	539	535	99
IA	250	250	990	966	98
KS	83	81	295	305	103
KY	159	151	477	450	94
LA	79	78	210	204	97
ME	39	39	156	157	101
MD	91	85	329	321	98
MA	27	27	110	106	96
MI	326	325	1,349	1,363	101
MN	600	595	2,277	2,300	101
MS	53	49	161	158	98
MO	186	175	628	566	90
MT	20	20	77	77	100
NE	72	69	273	264	97
NV	23	25.5	103.2	119.9	116
NH	20	18	82	74	90
NJ	23	23	76	71	93
NM	195	196	883	932	106
NY	702	701	2,864	2,733	95
NC	86	79	335	314	94
ND	63	62	198	187	94
OH	287	285	1,113	1,085	97
OK	97	95	320	300	94
OR	96	93	400	388	97
PA	647	643	2,624	2,587	99
RI	2.1	1.9	7.9	7.7	97
SC	26	26	94	97	103
SD	116	110	371	352	95
TN	122	112	414	390	94
TX	400	393	1,485	1,461	98
UT	88	92	363	392	108
VT	158	155	626	616	98
VA	128	126	473	452	96
WA	265	266	1,280	1,308	102
WV	21	19	64	60	94
WI	1,480	1,424	5,491	5,367	98
WY	5.9	6.2	21.5	22.9	107
US 3/	9,432	9,318	37,857	37,868	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.

Grain and Other Concentrates: Quantity Fed Daily and Value
By State and United States, January 1, 1996-97

State	: Grain and Other Concentrates : : Fed Daily per Milk Cow :		: Value per 100 Pounds of Concentrate : Ration Fed to Milk Cows :	
	: 1996	: 1997	: 1996	: 1997
	: Pounds		: Dollars	
AL	18.9	19.4	9.60	9.80
AK	19.5	19.5	13.80	14.60
AZ	22.0	24.0	8.75	8.25
AR	17.9	18.6	9.05	9.40
CA	20.0	20.5	8.70	8.50
CO	22.0	20.9	8.20	7.90
CT	17.5	17.5	10.20	11.00
DE	16.3	16.3	8.80	8.70
FL	23.0	28.0	8.30	7.70
GA	23.3	24.0	9.10	9.40
ID	24.0	24.0	7.80	7.70
IL	17.6	17.2	8.45	9.00
IN	16.9	16.9	8.15	9.40
IA	17.3	16.8	7.70	7.90
KS	20.0	19.0	8.50	8.00
KY	16.3	17.2	9.35	10.00
LA	20.0	19.0	9.15	9.90
ME	16.0	15.5	10.20	10.90
MD	16.2	16.4	8.80	8.90
MA	16.0	17.0	10.20	10.95
MI	18.5	18.5	7.80	7.80
MN	17.4	17.3	8.20	9.00
MS	17.1	18.1	8.80	9.70
MO	19.0	19.0	8.80	8.60
MT	18.0	17.7	7.80	8.40
NE	16.9	16.9	7.90	7.90
NV	20.0	21.9	8.80	9.75
NH	16.5	16.5	10.00	10.85
NJ	14.2	14.4	9.15	11.75
NM	26.0	27.0	7.60	7.50
NY	15.4	14.8	9.90	10.60
NC	18.3	18.7	9.90	10.10
ND	16.2	16.5	7.05	6.45
OH	16.8	17.7	8.80	9.10
OK	20.0	20.5	8.50	9.00
OR	20.0	18.5	9.40	9.70
PA	16.8	18.0	9.90	10.20
RI	15.0	15.5	10.50	11.00
SC	19.0	22.5	8.95	9.15
SD	16.0	17.9	7.40	7.10
TN	16.0	18.0	10.00	10.60
TX	23.1	21.6	8.60	9.30
UT	17.7	17.1	8.40	8.35
VT	16.0	17.0	10.20	10.65
VA	16.7	15.0	9.60	11.00
WA	19.5	21.0	8.90	9.30
WV	14.0	14.5	9.70	10.80
WI	17.9	18.1	7.60	7.50
WY	14.1	13.4	7.70	7.50
US	18.8	19.2	8.51	8.79

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 9.32 million head by more than 1.3 percent, or about 121,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.3 percent, or about 214,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

Reliability of October-December Milk Estimates 1/

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level	Difference Between First and Final Estimates 1/				Number of Quarters	
			Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Final	First Below Final	
	Percent		Mil Lbs.				Number	
			1,000 Head					
Milk Production	0.8	1.4	530	218	22	565	10	0
All Milk Cows	1.3	2.3	214	123	42	195	10	0

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

The next **"Milk Production"** report will be released at 3 P.M. ET on February 14, 1997.

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