

Milk Production



USDA
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February Milk Production Down 2 Percent, Up 2 Percent on a Daily Basis

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 10.4 billion pounds, 2 percent below production in these same States in February 1996. The monthly decrease is due to 1996 being a leap year with February 1996 having 29 days. On a daily basis, February 1997 production increased 2 percent versus February 1996. January revised production, at 11.2 billion pounds was 1 percent above January 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,337 pounds for February, 10 pounds below February 1996. Again, the leap year in 1996 caused the monthly rate decline.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.75 million head, 81,000 head less than February 1996 and 10,000 head less than January 1996.

Note:

A new table with U.S. milk production by month is published beginning this month. U.S. estimates are based on data from the 20 major States. The estimates are created by dividing the 20 State estimate by the percentage of the U.S. total for the same quarter, previous year.

Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, United States, 1996-97

Quarter	Milk Cows 1/		Milk per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	---- 1,000 ----		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
Jan-Mar	9,397		4,155		39,042		
Apr-Jun	9,369		4,229		39,621		
Jul-Sep	9,338		4,033		37,658		
Oct-Dec	9,300		4,080		37,947		
Annual	9,351		16,498		154,268		

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

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 20 Selected States, 1996-97

Month	Milk Cows 1/		Milk per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	---- 1,000 ----		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
Jan	7,846	7,757	1,415	1,439	11,100	11,163	101
Feb	7,828	7,747	1,347	1,337	10,545	10,355	98
Mar	7,822		1,468		11,483		
Apr	7,818		1,440		11,260		
May	7,816		1,478		11,554		
Jun	7,818		1,397		10,920		
Jul	7,815		1,400		10,939		
Aug	7,802		1,382		10,780		
Sep	7,795		1,341		10,454		
Oct	7,788		1,390		10,825		
Nov	7,775		1,350		10,493		
Dec	7,765		1,417		11,006		
Annual	7,807		16,825		131,359		

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

Estimated Milk Production, United States, 1996-97

Month	by Month			Cumulative		
	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996	1996	1997	1997 as % of 1996
	Million Pounds		Percent	Million Pounds		Percent
Jan	13,082	13,156	101	13,082	13,156	101
Feb	12,427	12,204	98	25,509	25,360	99
Mar	13,533			39,042		
Apr	13,225			52,267		
May	13,570			65,837		
Jun	12,826			78,663		
Jul	12,804			91,467		
Aug	12,618			104,085		
Sep	12,236			116,321		
Oct	12,708			129,029		
Nov	12,318			141,347		
Dec	12,921			154,268		

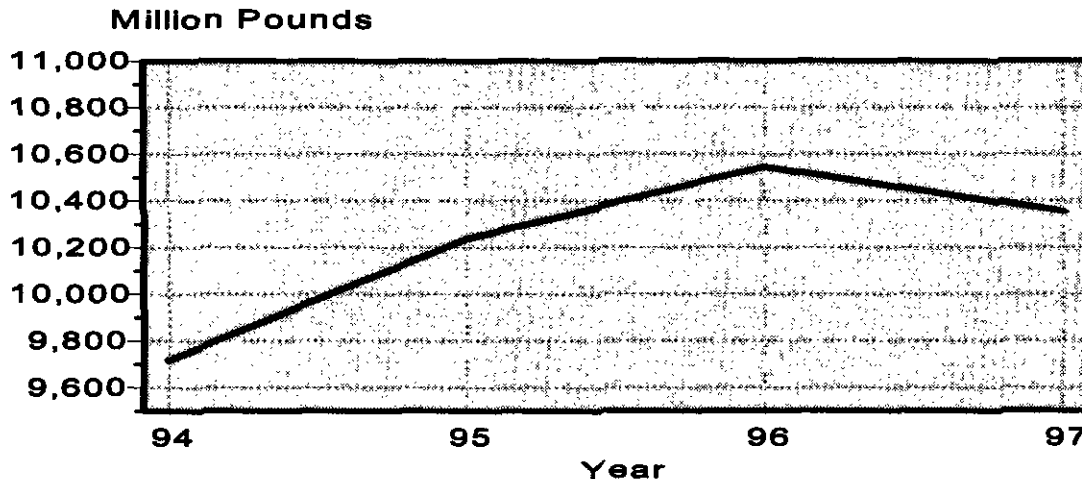
Milk Cows and Production: By State, February 1996-97

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		1997 as % of 1996
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	
	--- 1,000 ---		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
AZ	118	124	1,735	1,840	205	228	111
CA	1,260	1,271	1,585	1,630	1,997	2,072	104
FL	155	159	1,405	1,445	218	230	106
ID	246	268	1,370	1,370	337	367	109
IL	157	149	1,260	1,270	198	189	95
IN	140	140	1,260	1,180	176	165	94
IA	250	250	1,180	1,180	295	295	100
KY	157	150	980	965	154	145	94
MI	322	310	1,365	1,370	440	425	97
MN	600	590	1,285	1,250	771	738	96
MO	183	175	1,125	1,080	206	189	92
NM	193	197	1,520	1,575	293	310	106
NY	700	700	1,340	1,250	938	875	93
OH	285	285	1,290	1,260	368	359	98
PA	645	639	1,345	1,290	868	824	95
TX	400	390	1,345	1,295	538	505	94
VT	157	156	1,320	1,305	207	204	99
VA	127	124	1,165	1,180	148	146	99
WA	263	266	1,530	1,520	402	404	100
WI	1,470	1,404	1,215	1,200	1,786	1,685	94
20 State:							
Total	7,828	7,747	1,347	1,337	10,545	10,355	98

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

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

February Milk Production, 1994-1997
20 States

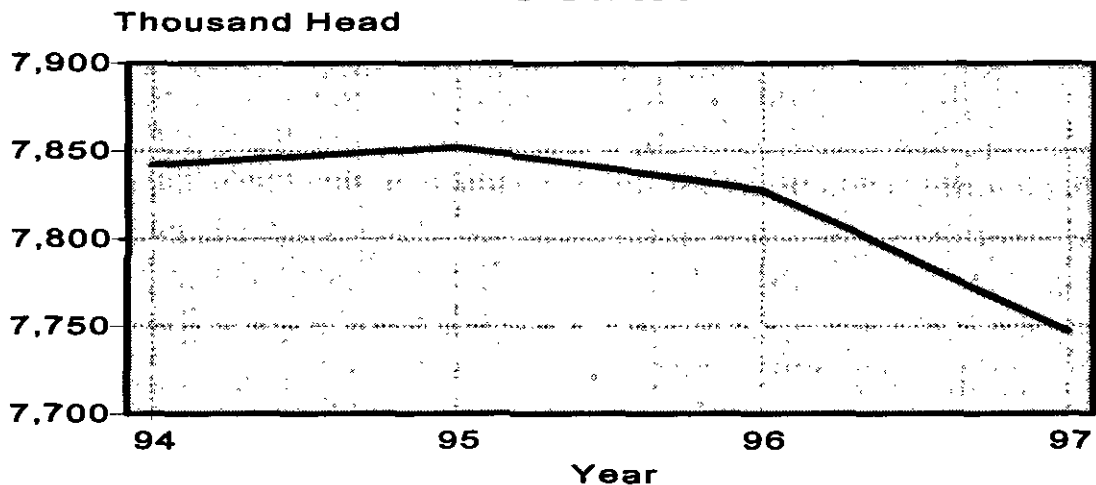


Milk Cows and Production: By State, January 1996-97 1/

State	Milk Cows 2/		Milk per Cow 3/		Milk Production 3/		1997 as % of 1996
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	
	---- 1,000 ----		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
AZ	118	122	1,765	1,820	208	222	107
CA	1,260	1,270	1,675	1,720	2,111	2,184	103
FL	155	159	1,405	1,515	218	241	111
ID	245	268	1,490	1,500	365	402	110
IL	158	149	1,300	1,290	205	192	94
IN	140	140	1,290	1,320	181	185	102
IA	250	250	1,260	1,300	315	325	103
KY	159	150	1,025	1,065	163	160	98
MI	325	311	1,425	1,480	463	460	99
MN	600	595	1,360	1,360	816	809	99
MO	185	175	1,175	1,210	217	212	98
NM	193	197	1,570	1,675	303	330	109
NY	700	700	1,400	1,380	980	966	99
OH	286	285	1,320	1,335	378	380	101
PA	648	641	1,405	1,385	910	888	98
TX	400	390	1,380	1,390	552	542	98
VT	158	156	1,385	1,375	219	215	98
VA	128	125	1,235	1,270	158	159	101
WA	263	266	1,655	1,650	435	439	101
WI	1,475	1,408	1,290	1,315	1,903	1,852	97
20 State:							
Total	7,846	7,757	1,415	1,439	11,100	11,163	101

1/ 1997 revised. 2/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.
3/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

February Milk Cows, 1994-1997
20 States



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 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 on the next page. 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 9.30 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 2.5 percent, or about 233,000 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	Above Final	Below Final	
Milk Production	0.8	1.5	569	229	22	565	10	0
All Milk Cows	1.3	2.5	233	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 April 15, 1997.

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