

Milk Production



USDA
Washington, D.C.

Released June 13, 1997, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Milk Production" call James Hand at (202) 690-3236, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

May Production Up 2.1 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during May totaled 11.8 billion pounds, up 2.1 percent from production in these same States in May 1996. April revised production, at 11.5 billion pounds was up 1.7 percent from April 1996.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,526 pounds for May, 47 pounds above May 1996.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.73 million head, 84,000 head less than May 1996 but 1,000 head more than April 1997.

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	% Change :from 1996
	----	1,000	----		Pounds	Million Pounds	
Jan-Mar	9,397	9,265	4,156	4,198	39,053	38,896	-0.4
Apr-Jun	9,369		4,231		39,638		
Jul-Sep	9,338		4,035		37,674		
Oct-Dec	9,300		4,083		37,966		
Annual	9,351		16,505		154,331		

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	% Change :from 1996
	----	1,000	----		Pounds	Million Pounds	
Jan	7,846	7,757	1,415	1,439	11,103	11,163	0.5
Feb	7,828	7,743	1,348	1,331	10,549	10,309	-2.3
Mar	7,822	7,736	1,469	1,501	11,487	11,611	1.1
Apr	7,818	7,731	1,441	1,481	11,265	11,452	1.7
May	7,816	7,732	1,479	1,526	11,560	11,798	2.1
Jun	7,818		1,398		10,926		
Jul	7,815		1,400		10,944		
Aug	7,802		1,382		10,786		
Sep	7,795		1,342		10,459		
Oct	7,788		1,391		10,831		
Nov	7,775		1,350		10,499		
Dec	7,765		1,418		11,013		
Annual	7,807		16,833		131,422		

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

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Production, United States, 1996-97

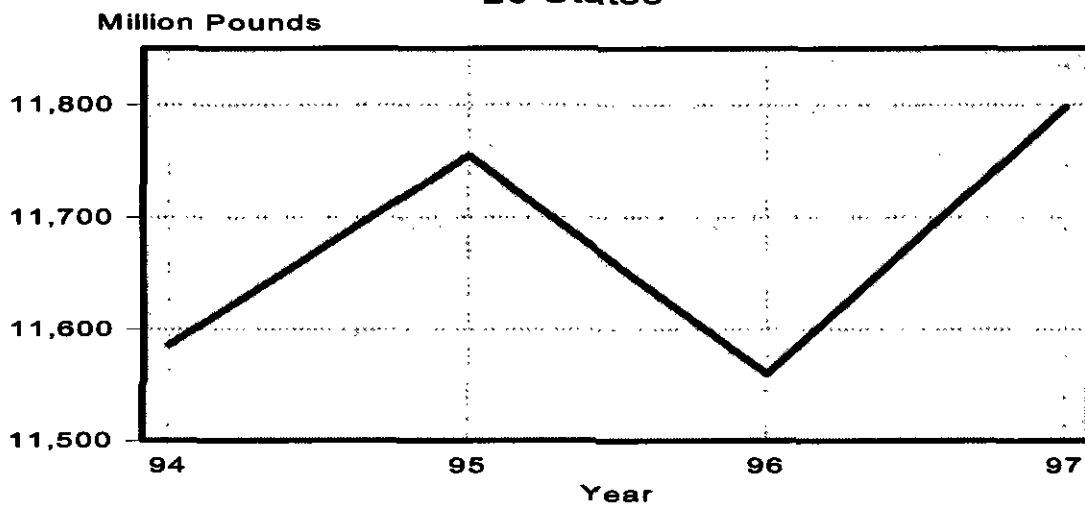
Month	by Month			Cumulative		
	1996	1997	% Change :from 1996	1996	1997	% Change :from 1996
	Million Pounds			Million Pounds		
Jan	13,085	13,129	0.3	13,085	13,129	0.3
Feb	12,431	12,125	-2.5	25,516	25,254	-1.0
Mar	13,537	13,642	0.8	39,053	38,896	-0.4
Apr	13,230	13,449	1.7	52,283	52,345	0.1
May	13,576	13,856	2.1	65,859	66,201	0.5
Jun	12,832			78,691		
Jul	12,809			91,500		
Aug	12,624			104,124		
Sep	12,241			116,365		
Oct	12,714			129,079		
Nov	12,324			141,403		
Dec	12,928			154,331		

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

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	% Change from 1996
	----- 1,000 -----		Pounds		Million Pounds		
AZ	119	128	1,905	1,915	227	245	7.9
CA	1,262	1,284	1,770	1,885	2,234	2,420	8.3
FL	157	162	1,380	1,430	217	232	6.9
ID	252	266	1,590	1,650	401	439	9.5
IL	155	148	1,320	1,350	205	200	-2.4
IN	140	140	1,350	1,380	189	193	2.1
IA	249	247	1,330	1,400	331	346	4.5
KY	155	145	1,085	1,170	168	170	1.2
MI	322	308	1,470	1,540	473	474	0.2
MN	595	585	1,395	1,395	830	816	-1.7
MO	182	173	1,255	1,295	228	224	-1.8
NM	194	200	1,735	1,750	337	350	3.9
NY	703	698	1,450	1,430	1,019	998	-2.1
OH	285	283	1,360	1,380	388	391	0.8
PA	643	639	1,460	1,480	939	946	0.7
TX	400	389	1,425	1,375	570	535	-6.1
VT	155	156	1,445	1,415	224	221	-1.3
VA	126	122	1,245	1,330	157	162	3.2
WA	262	266	1,750	1,775	459	472	2.8
WI	1,460	1,393	1,345	1,410	1,964	1,964	0.0
20 State:							
Total	7,816	7,732	1,479	1,526	11,560	11,798	2.1

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

May Milk Production, 1994-1997
 20 States

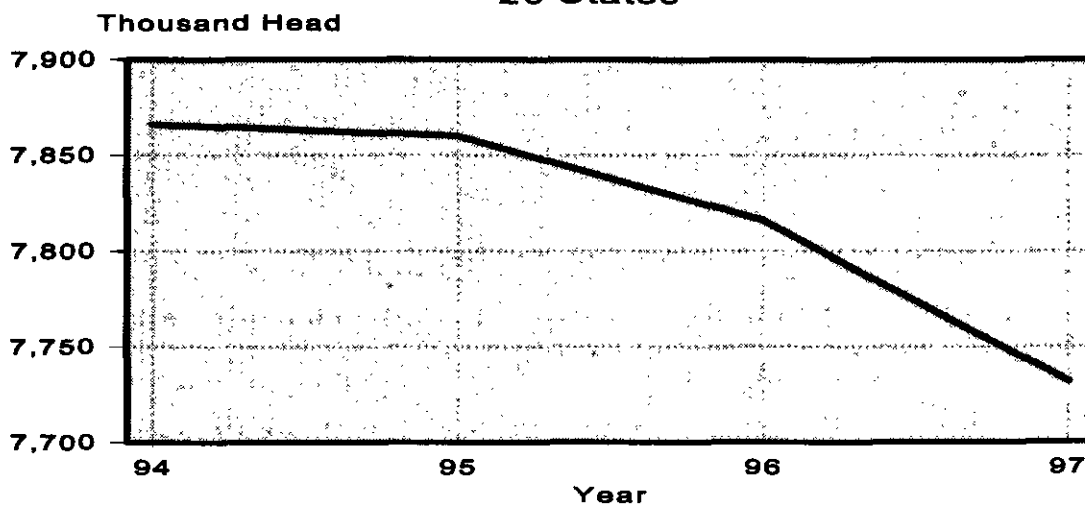


Milk Cows and Production: By State, April 1996-97 1/

State	Milk Cows 2/		Milk per Cow 3/		Milk Production 3/		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997	% Change from 1996
	----- 1,000 -----		Pounds		Million Pounds		
AZ	119	127	1,905	1,975	227	251	10.6
CA	1,261	1,280	1,720	1,845	2,169	2,362	8.9
FL	157	162	1,410	1,455	221	236	6.8
ID	249	265	1,490	1,550	371	411	10.8
IL	156	148	1,320	1,350	206	200	-2.9
IN	140	140	1,320	1,310	185	183	-1.1
IA	250	248	1,280	1,350	320	335	4.7
KY	156	145	1,075	1,145	168	166	-1.2
MI	322	306	1,440	1,485	464	454	-2.2
MN	595	590	1,350	1,335	803	788	-1.9
MO	183	174	1,260	1,270	231	221	-4.3
NM	193	199	1,670	1,705	322	339	5.3
NY	700	698	1,420	1,400	994	977	-1.7
OH	285	283	1,340	1,325	382	375	-1.8
PA	643	639	1,435	1,445	923	923	0.0
TX	400	389	1,445	1,390	578	541	-6.4
VT	155	155	1,405	1,400	218	217	-0.5
VA	127	123	1,240	1,300	157	160	1.9
WA	262	265	1,665	1,700	436	451	3.4
WI	1,465	1,395	1,290	1,335	1,890	1,862	-1.5
20 State: Total	7,818	7,731	1,441	1,481	11,265	11,452	1.7

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

May 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 1.1 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 9.27 million head by more than 1.1 percent, or about 102,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.0 percent, or about 185,000 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/				Number of Quarters	
			Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Final	First Below Final	
	- Percent -		----- Mil Lbs. -----				- Number -	
Milk Production	0.5	.9	349	169	30	315	8	2
			----- 1,000 Head -----					
All Milk Cows	1.1	2.0	185	91	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 July 15, 1997.

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