

Milk Production



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February Milk Production Up 4.3 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 10.8 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from production in these same States in February 1998. January revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds was up 3.5 percent from January 1998.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,407 pounds for February, 60 pounds above February 1998.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.70 million head, 16,000 head less than February 1998 and 4,000 head less than January 1999.

Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, United States, 1998-99 ¹

Quarter	Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	Change From 1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan-Mar	9,176		4,268		39,164		
Apr-Jun	9,171		4,451		40,821		
Jul-Sep	9,149		4,210		38,519		
Oct-Dec	9,137		4,261		38,937		
Annual	9,158		17,192		157,441		

¹ May not add due to rounding.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 20 Selected States, 1998-99

Month	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	Change From 1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	7,728	7,704	1,466	1,521	11,327	11,720	3.5
Feb	7,716	7,700	1,347	1,407	10,394	10,836	4.3
Mar	7,709		1,515		11,678		
Apr	7,713		1,501		11,579		
May	7,719		1,556		12,011		
Jun	7,718		1,477		11,396		
Jul	7,709		1,468		11,314		
Aug	7,708		1,443		11,124		
Sep	7,701		1,386		10,672		
Oct	7,695		1,446		11,125		
Nov	7,697		1,407		10,829		
Dec	7,708		1,489		11,481		
Annual	7,710		17,501		134,930		

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Production: United States, 1998-99

Month	By Month			Cumulative		
	1998	1999	Change From 1998	1998	1999	Change From 1998
	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan	13,282	13,743	3.5	13,282	13,743	3.5
Feb	12,188	12,706	4.3	25,470	26,449	3.8
Mar	13,694			39,164		
Apr	13,510			52,674		
May	14,015			66,689		
Jun	13,296			79,985		
Jul	13,162			93,147		
Aug	12,942			106,089		
Sep	12,415			118,504		
Oct	12,956			131,460		
Nov	12,611			144,071		
Dec	13,370			157,441		

Milk Cows and Production: By State, February 1998-99

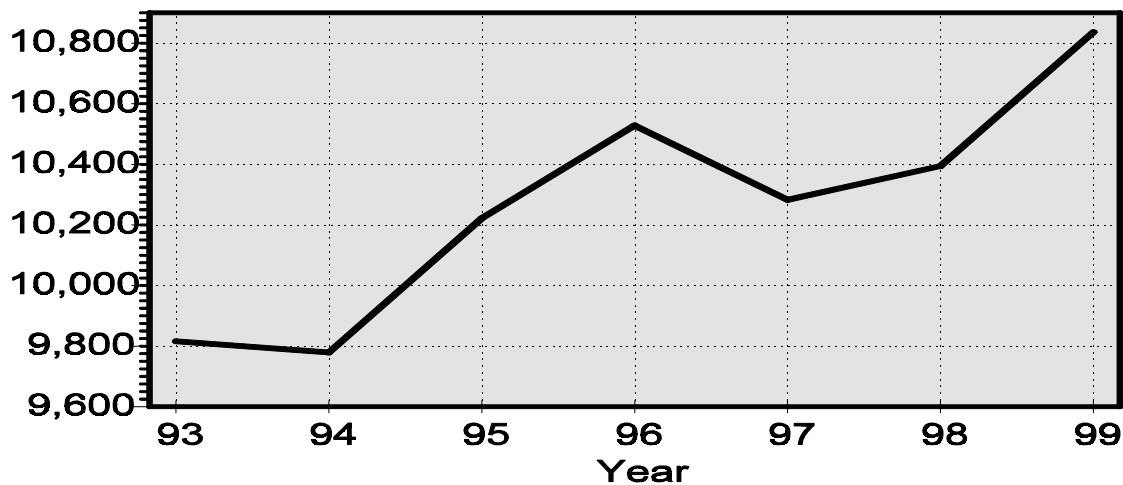
Month	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		Change From 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	130	132	1,660	1,835	216	242	12.0
CA	1,405	1,448	1,480	1,560	2,079	2,259	8.7
FL	160	158	1,300	1,335	208	211	1.4
ID	283	306	1,490	1,490	422	456	8.1
IL	129	125	1,310	1,310	169	164	-3.0
IN	134	136	1,260	1,300	169	177	4.7
IA	224	215	1,320	1,380	296	297	0.3
KY	143	135	965	970	138	131	-5.1
MI	296	301	1,370	1,415	406	426	4.9
MN	555	545	1,320	1,400	733	763	4.1
MO	175	164	1,090	1,150	191	189	-1.0
NM	216	220	1,480	1,615	320	355	10.9
NY	698	702	1,280	1,340	893	941	5.4
OH	265	260	1,310	1,340	347	348	0.3
PA	625	615	1,365	1,375	853	846	-0.8
TX	365	340	1,290	1,400	471	476	1.1
VT	162	162	1,285	1,320	208	214	2.9
VA	125	122	1,175	1,190	147	145	-1.4
WA	250	248	1,605	1,695	401	420	4.7
WI	1,376	1,366	1,255	1,300	1,727	1,776	2.8
20-State Total	7,716	7,700	1,347	1,407	10,394	10,836	4.3

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

February Milk Production, 1993-1999 20 States

Million Pounds



Milk Cows and Production: By State, January 1998-99 ¹

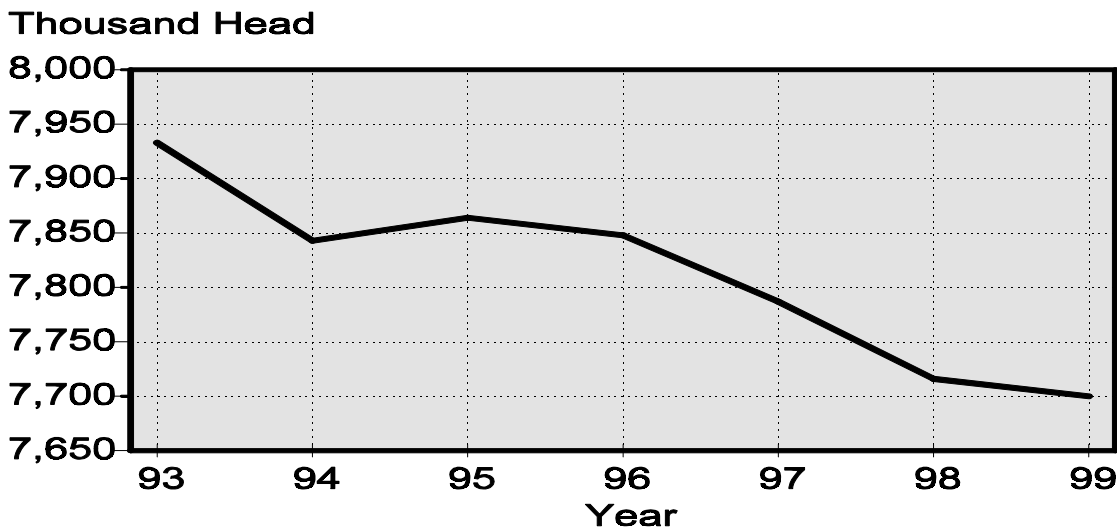
State	Milk Cows ²		Milk per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		Change From 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	130	132	1,800	1,910	234	252	7.7
CA	1,402	1,443	1,670	1,690	2,341	2,439	4.2
FL	160	158	1,375	1,410	220	223	1.4
ID	283	304	1,640	1,660	464	505	8.8
IL	130	125	1,400	1,430	182	179	-1.6
IN	135	137	1,370	1,380	185	189	2.2
IA	225	220	1,440	1,515	324	333	2.8
KY	145	135	1,035	1,045	150	141	-6.0
MI	298	301	1,480	1,545	441	465	5.4
MN	555	545	1,420	1,505	788	820	4.1
MO	175	165	1,155	1,240	202	205	1.5
NM	216	220	1,510	1,740	326	383	17.5
NY	700	702	1,380	1,440	966	1,011	4.7
OH	265	260	1,430	1,440	379	374	-1.3
PA	625	617	1,495	1,475	934	910	-2.6
TX	368	340	1,340	1,480	493	503	2.0
VT	163	162	1,385	1,440	226	233	3.1
VA	125	122	1,295	1,295	162	158	-2.5
WA	250	248	1,745	1,860	436	461	5.7
WI	1,378	1,368	1,360	1,415	1,874	1,936	3.3
20-State Total	7,728	7,704	1,466	1,521	11,327	11,720	3.5

¹ 1999 revised.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

February Milk Cows, 1993-1999 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 9.14 million head by more than 1.3 percent, or about 119,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.3 percent, or about 210,000 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 Latest Estimates			Quarters	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Milk Production	0.6	1.1	428	183	1	385	10	0
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
All Milk Cows	1.3	2.3	210	102	2	195	9	1

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, 1999.

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