

Milk Production



USDA
Washington, D.C.

Released April 15, 1999, 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 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

March Milk Production Up 4.0 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during March totaled 12.1 billion pounds, up 4.0 percent from production in these same States in March 1998. February revised production, at 10.8 billion pounds was up 4.0 percent from February 1998.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,577 pounds for March, 62 pounds above March 1998.

The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.70 million head, 5,000 head less than March 1998, but 2,000 head more than February 1999.

January-March Milk Production Up 3.3 Percent

The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 40.5 billion pounds, 3.3 percent above the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the January-March quarter was 9.13 million head, 42,000 head less than the same period last year.

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	9,134	4,268	4,431	39,164	40,471	3.3
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	7,702	1,347	1,403	10,394	10,809	4.0
Mar	7,709	7,704	1,515	1,577	11,678	12,147	4.0
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	13,679	3.0	13,282	13,679	3.0
Feb	12,188	12,616	3.5	25,470	26,295	3.2
Mar	13,694	14,176	3.5	39,164	40,471	3.3
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		

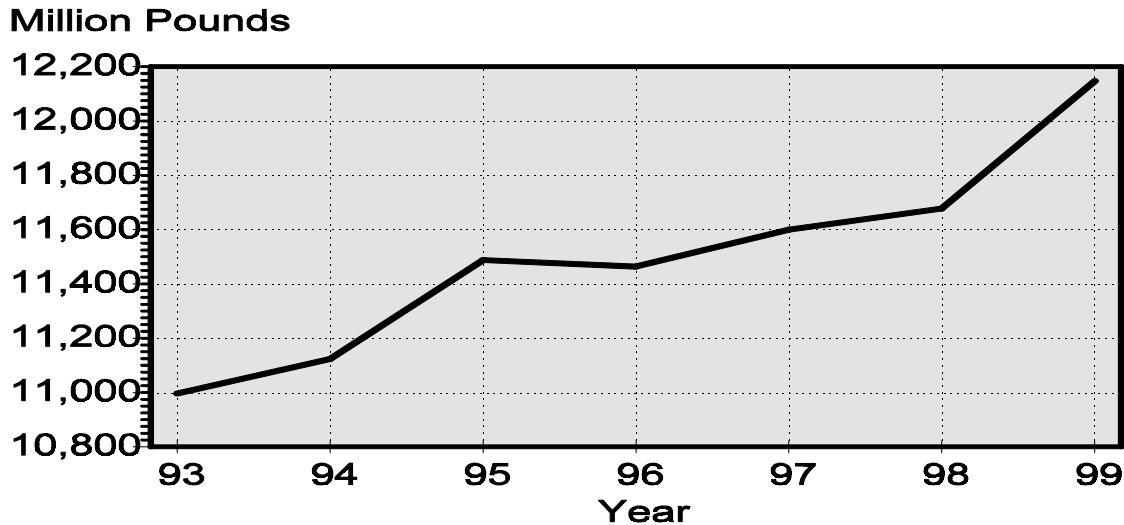
Milk Cows and Production: By State, March 1998-99

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	1,885	2,135	245	282	15.1
CA	1,408	1,452	1,665	1,785	2,344	2,592	10.6
FL	162	159	1,415	1,490	229	237	3.5
ID	283	307	1,660	1,650	470	507	7.9
IL	129	125	1,510	1,480	195	185	-5.1
IN	134	136	1,430	1,330	192	181	-5.7
IA	224	215	1,472	1,540	330	331	0.3
KY	141	134	1,105	1,110	156	149	-4.5
MI	297	297	1,530	1,580	454	469	3.3
MN	555	545	1,465	1,555	813	847	4.2
MO	174	162	1,240	1,320	216	214	-0.9
NM	216	225	1,705	1,755	368	395	7.3
NY	697	700	1,440	1,490	1,004	1,043	3.9
OH	265	260	1,460	1,460	387	380	-1.8
PA	624	614	1,535	1,565	958	961	0.3
TX	362	342	1,475	1,585	534	542	1.5
VT	161	162	1,430	1,470	230	238	3.5
VA	125	122	1,345	1,350	168	165	-1.8
WA	249	249	1,805	1,885	449	469	4.5
WI	1,373	1,366	1,410	1,435	1,936	1,960	1.2
20-State Total	7,709	7,704	1,515	1,577	11,678	12,147	4.0

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

March Milk Production, 1993-1999 20 States



Milk Cows and Production: By State, February 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	1,660	1,835	216	242	12.0
CA	1,405	1,448	1,480	1,550	2,079	2,244	7.9
FL	160	158	1,300	1,355	208	214	2.9
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	985	138	133	-3.6
MI	296	299	1,370	1,415	406	423	4.2
MN	555	545	1,320	1,390	733	758	3.4
MO	175	164	1,090	1,150	191	189	-1.0
NM	216	223	1,480	1,615	320	360	12.5
NY	698	702	1,280	1,320	893	927	3.8
OH	265	260	1,310	1,340	347	348	0.3
PA	625	615	1,365	1,375	853	846	-0.8
TX	365	341	1,290	1,430	471	488	3.6
VT	162	162	1,285	1,320	208	214	2.9
VA	125	122	1,175	1,205	147	147	0.0
WA	250	248	1,605	1,695	401	420	4.7
WI	1,376	1,366	1,255	1,290	1,727	1,762	2.0
20-State Total	7,716	7,702	1,347	1,403	10,394	10,809	4.0

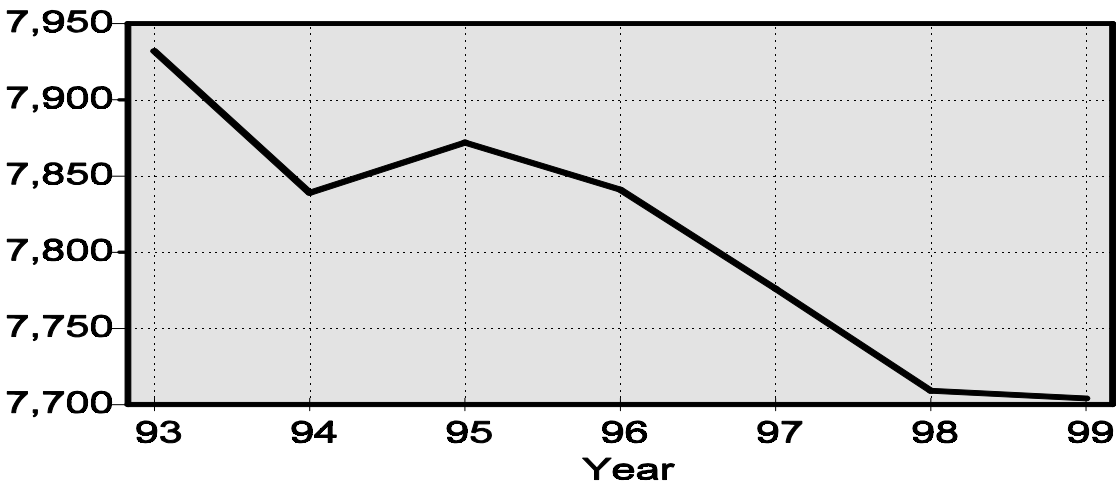
¹ 1999 revised.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**March Milk Cows, 1993-1999
20 States**

Thousand Head



**Milk Cows and Production: By State and United States,
Revised October-December, 1997-98**

State	Oct-Dec Milk Cows ¹		Oct-Dec Milk Production ²		Change From 1997
	1997	1998	1997	1998	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	29	27	100	92	-8.0
AK	0.9	0.8	3.80	3.51	-7.6
AZ	130	132	632	676	7.0
AR	51	46	150	154	2.7
CA	1,397	1,436	6,917	7,020	1.5
CO	83	83	395	421	6.6
CT	30	30	128	129	0.8
DE	10.0	11.0	36.8	37.3	1.4
FL	159	158	570	546	-4.2
GA	96	90	357	343	-3.9
HI	8.9	8.8	27.7	29.5	6.5
ID	279	299	1,336	1,473	10.3
IL	131	126	527	517	-1.9
IN	135	137	544	547	0.6
IA	226	224	915	972	6.2
KS	80	83	315	320	1.6
KY	146	136	423	404	-4.5
LA	65	63	184	176	-4.3
ME	41	42	161	166	3.1
MD	86	86	331	320	-3.3
MA	26	25	105	106	1.0
MI	302	299	1,313	1,343	2.3
MN	560	545	2,192	2,291	4.5
MS	44	41	142	132	-7.0
MO	176	166	552	573	3.8
MT	18	18	70	73	4.3
NE	69	70	261	266	1.9
NV	26	25	122	115	-5.7
NH	20	20	80	79	-1.3
NJ	20	19	71	70	-1.4
NM	209	218	1,002	1,093	9.1
NY	699	702	2,794	2,879	3.0
NC	78	73	318	312	-1.9
ND	53	50	167	172	3.0
OH	266	262	1,062	1,062	
OK	91	92	307	304	-1.0
OR	88	88	388	394	1.5
PA	625	620	2,633	2,623	-0.4
RI	2.0	2.0	7.6	7.8	2.6
SC	25	24	94	88	-6.4
SD	102	102	338	366	8.3
TN	110	101	380	357	-6.1
TX	371	341	1,350	1,345	-0.4
UT	89	93	366	381	4.1
VT	162	161	640	666	4.1
VA	125	123	466	449	-3.6
WA	251	247	1,276	1,326	3.9
WV	18	18	68	68	
WI	1,385	1,368	5,394	5,630	4.4
WY	6.4	5.9	19.2	19.5	1.6
US ³	9,200	9,137	38,031	38,937	2.4

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ May not add due to rounding.

**Milk Cows and Production: By State and United States,
Preliminary January-March, 1998-99**

State	Jan-Mar Milk Cows ¹		Jan-Mar Milk Production ²		Change From 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	28	27	109	104	-4.6
AK	0.9	1.0	3.52	3.47	-1.4
AZ	130	132	695	776	11.7
AR	51	45	164	130	-20.7
CA	1,405	1,448	6,764	7,275	7.6
CO	83	82	407	420	3.2
CT	30	29	136	134	-1.5
DE	11.0	11.0	44.0	43.9	-0.2
FL	161	158	657	674	2.6
GA	95	89	403	396	-1.7
HI	9.0	8.8	31.5	29.9	-5.1
ID	283	306	1,356	1,468	8.3
IL	129	125	546	528	-3.3
IN	134	136	546	547	0.2
IA	224	217	950	961	1.2
KS	80	85	335	350	4.5
KY	143	135	444	423	-4.7
LA	64	62	216	208	-3.7
ME	40	42	165	177	7.3
MD	87	86	348	350	0.6
MA	26	25	109	105	-3.7
MI	297	299	1,301	1,357	4.3
MN	555	545	2,334	2,425	3.9
MS	43	39	169	160	-5.3
MO	175	164	609	608	-0.2
MT	18	18	72	74	2.8
NE	70	72	259	292	12.7
NV	25	25	113	118	4.4
NH	19	19	83	82	-1.2
NJ	19	18	75	70	-6.7
NM	216	223	1,014	1,138	12.2
NY	698	701	2,863	2,981	4.1
NC	77	73	332	317	-4.5
ND	53	50	179	176	-1.7
OH	265	260	1,113	1,102	-1.0
OK	92	92	322	325	0.9
OR	88	88	384	403	4.9
PA	625	615	2,745	2,717	-1.0
RI	2.1	2.0	8.3	7.9	-4.8
SC	25	24	105	104	-1.0
SD	102	102	341	367	7.6
TN	108	100	401	379	-5.5
TX	365	341	1,498	1,533	2.3
UT	88	91	361	379	5.0
VT	162	162	664	685	3.2
VA	125	122	477	470	-1.5
WA	250	248	1,286	1,350	5.0
WV	18	18	71	71	
WI	1,376	1,367	5,537	5,658	2.2
WY	6.2	5.9	19.2	18.9	-1.6
US ³	9,176	9,134	39,164	40,471	3.3

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

³ May not add due to rounding.

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 9.13 million head by more than 1.1 percent, or about 100,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.0 percent, or about 183,000 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 Latest Estimates			Quarters	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
				<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Milk Production	<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>
	0.5	0.9	364	170	47	315	8	2
All Milk Cows	<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>
	1.1	2.0	183	89	2	187	8	2

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 May 17, 1999.

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