

Milk Production

Released March 17, 2003, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Milk Production" call Ty Kalas at 202-690-3236, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

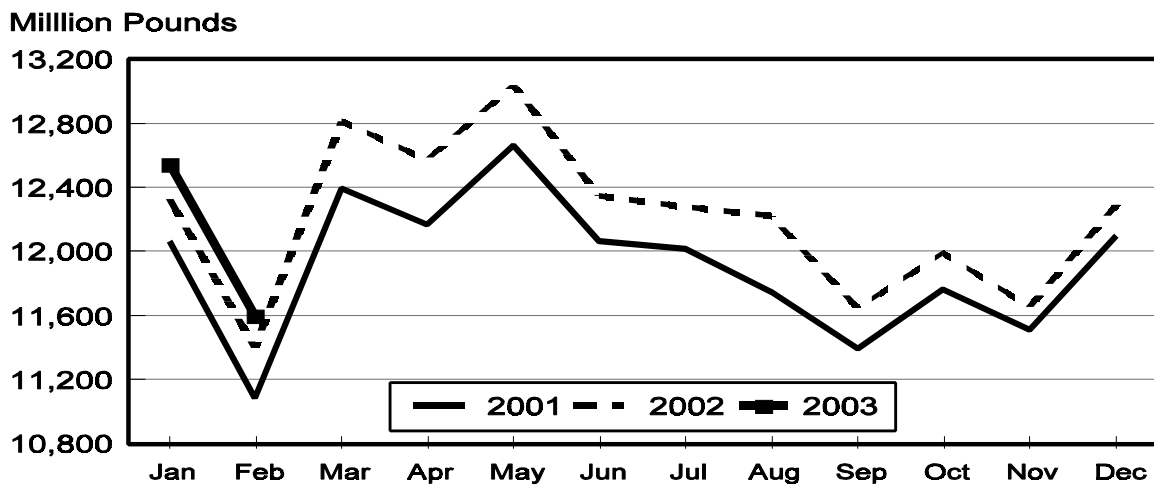
February Milk Production Up 1.7 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during February totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 1.7 percent from February 2002. January revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was up 1.8 percent from January 2002. The January revision represented an increase of 1 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,485 pounds for February, 13 pounds above February 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.81 million head, 66,000 head more than February 2002, and 3,000 head more than January 2003.

Monthly Milk Production 20 States



Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, United States, 2002-2003¹

Quarter	Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	Change From 2002
	<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	9,112		4,653		42,397		
Apr-Jun	9,149		4,811		44,015		
Jul-Sep	9,153		4,566		41,791		
Oct-Dec	9,148		4,543		41,555		
Annual	9,141		18,571		169,758		

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, 2002-2003¹

Month	Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	Change From 2002
	<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	7,749	7,807	1,591	1,607	12,327	12,548	1.8
Feb	7,744	7,810	1,472	1,485	11,401	11,596	1.7
Mar	7,745		1,654		12,810		
Apr	7,758		1,621		12,575		
May	7,769		1,678		13,039		
Jun	7,782		1,587		12,348		
Jul	7,781		1,578		12,281		
Aug	7,785		1,570		12,223		
Sep	7,781		1,497		11,648		
Oct	7,789		1,539		11,991		
Nov	7,792		1,496		11,657		
Dec	7,801		1,575		12,290		
Annual	7,773		18,858		146,590		

¹ 2003 revised.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production: By Month, United States, 2002-2003¹

Month	Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	Change From 2002
	<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	9,117	9,153	1,569	1,591	14,304	14,560	1.8
Feb	9,109	9,154	1,452	1,470	13,229	13,456	1.7
Mar	9,110		1,632		14,864		
Apr	9,132		1,597		14,580		
May	9,149		1,652		15,118		
Jun	9,166		1,562		14,317		
Jul	9,158		1,550		14,196		
Aug	9,157		1,543		14,128		
Sep	9,145		1,473		13,467		
Oct	9,147		1,516		13,866		
Nov	9,146		1,474		13,478		
Dec	9,150		1,553		14,211		
Annual	9,141		18,571		169,758		

¹ 2003 revised.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

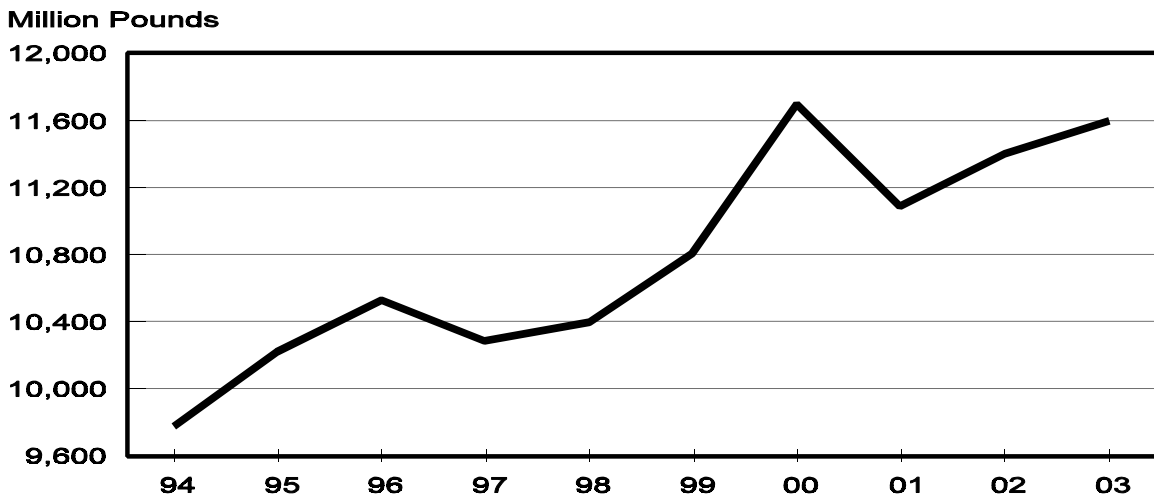
Milk Cows and Production: By State, February 2002-2003

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	Change From 2002
	<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	142	150	1,970	1,915	280	287	2.5
CA	1,626	1,686	1,620	1,635	2,634	2,757	4.7
FL	152	147	1,335	1,345	203	198	-2.5
ID	381	393	1,590	1,630	606	641	5.8
IL	115	114	1,440	1,485	166	169	1.8
IN	154	146	1,340	1,400	206	204	-1.0
IA	208	204	1,430	1,480	297	302	1.7
KY	123	120	1,100	1,040	135	125	-7.4
MI	295	299	1,545	1,560	456	466	2.2
MN	495	480	1,385	1,385	686	665	-3.1
MO	139	133	1,150	1,150	160	153	-4.4
NM	290	313	1,610	1,615	467	505	8.1
NY	672	682	1,405	1,390	944	948	0.4
OH	260	260	1,365	1,350	355	351	-1.1
PA	583	588	1,460	1,430	851	841	-1.2
TX	310	311	1,400	1,450	434	451	3.9
VT	154	153	1,375	1,360	212	208	-1.9
VA	120	118	1,290	1,250	155	148	-4.5
WA	247	248	1,735	1,790	429	444	3.5
WI	1,278	1,265	1,350	1,370	1,725	1,733	0.5
20-State Total	7,744	7,810	1,472	1,485	11,401	11,596	1.7

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**February Milk Production, 1994-2003
20 States**



Milk Cows and Production: By State, January 2002-2003 ¹

State	Milk Cows ²		Milk per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	Change From 2002
	<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	140	150	2,085	2,035	292	305	4.5
CA	1,624	1,681	1,745	1,770	2,834	2,975	5.0
FL	152	147	1,410	1,415	214	208	-2.8
ID	380	392	1,750	1,800	665	706	6.2
IL	115	114	1,550	1,580	178	180	1.1
IN	155	146	1,450	1,535	225	224	-0.4
IA	206	207	1,560	1,595	321	330	2.8
KY	123	120	1,170	1,115	144	134	-6.9
MI	297	301	1,650	1,710	490	515	5.1
MN	495	480	1,515	1,520	750	730	-2.7
MO	140	134	1,210	1,240	169	166	-1.8
NM	290	310	1,740	1,740	505	539	6.7
NY	675	680	1,530	1,505	1,033	1,023	-1.0
OH	260	260	1,480	1,445	385	376	-2.3
PA	587	590	1,570	1,540	922	909	-1.4
TX	310	311	1,490	1,550	462	482	4.3
VT	154	153	1,510	1,495	233	229	-1.7
VA	120	118	1,390	1,340	167	158	-5.4
WA	247	248	1,880	1,910	464	474	2.2
WI	1,279	1,265	1,465	1,490	1,874	1,885	0.6
20-State Total	7,749	7,807	1,591	1,607	12,327	12,548	1.8

¹ 2003 revised.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**February Milk Cows, 1994-2003
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. Where feasible, States utilize state and federal administrative data, rather than conduct a monthly or quarterly survey, to estimate milk production. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by different government agencies. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January and July Cattle Surveys.

Estimation Procedures: State offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of 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 October-December quarters is 0.9 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 9.15 million head by more than 0.9 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.6 percent.

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>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	374	163	1	385	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>
	0.9	1.6	146	60	2	164	8	2

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 17, 2003.

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