

Milk Production

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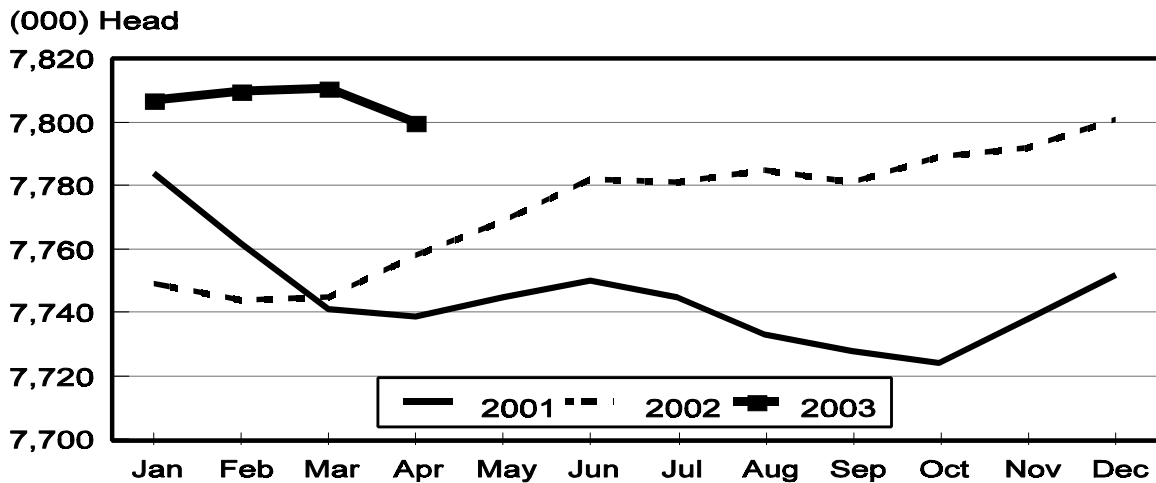
April Milk Production Up 0.8 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.7 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from April 2002. March revised production, at 13.0 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from March 2002. The March revision represented a decrease of 0.2 percent or 27 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,625 pounds for April, 4 pounds above April 2002.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.80 million head, 42,000 head more than April 2002, but 11,000 head less than March 2003.

Monthly Milk Cows 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	9,154	4,653	4,690	42,397	42,931	1.3
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	1,484	11,401	11,588	1.6
Mar	7,745	7,811	1,654	1,660	12,810	12,969	1.2
Apr	7,758	7,800	1,621	1,625	12,575	12,675	0.8
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	1,586	14,304	14,517	1.5
Feb	9,109	9,155	1,452	1,464	13,229	13,406	1.3
Mar	9,110	9,155	1,632	1,639	14,864	15,008	1.0
Apr	9,132	9,140	1,597	1,605	14,580	14,668	0.6
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.

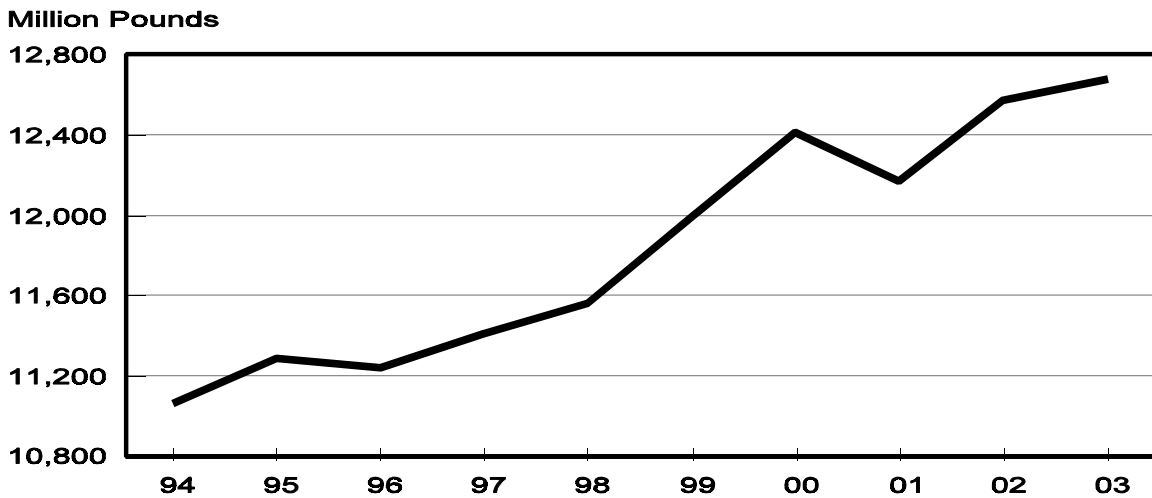
Milk Cows and Production: By State, April 2002-2003

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	144	150	2,195	2,115	316	317	0.3
CA	1,635	1,695	1,795	1,785	2,935	3,026	3.1
FL	151	146	1,455	1,465	220	214	-2.7
ID	382	395	1,740	1,800	665	711	6.9
IL	115	111	1,610	1,610	185	179	-3.2
IN	152	145	1,480	1,530	225	222	-1.3
IA	209	203	1,585	1,610	331	327	-1.2
KY	123	120	1,240	1,130	153	136	-11.1
MI	296	300	1,675	1,695	496	509	2.6
MN	490	475	1,510	1,485	740	705	-4.7
MO	138	130	1,325	1,325	183	172	-6.0
NM	295	315	1,815	1,810	535	570	6.5
NY	680	684	1,520	1,510	1,034	1,033	-0.1
OH	262	261	1,470	1,490	385	389	1.0
PA	581	582	1,600	1,575	930	917	-1.4
TX	309	312	1,585	1,640	490	512	4.5
VT	154	150	1,495	1,495	230	224	-2.6
VA	120	118	1,410	1,330	169	157	-7.1
WA	247	248	1,910	1,900	472	471	-0.2
WI	1,275	1,260	1,475	1,495	1,881	1,884	0.2
20-State Total	7,758	7,800	1,621	1,625	12,575	12,675	0.8

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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



Milk Cows and Production: By State, March 2002-2003¹

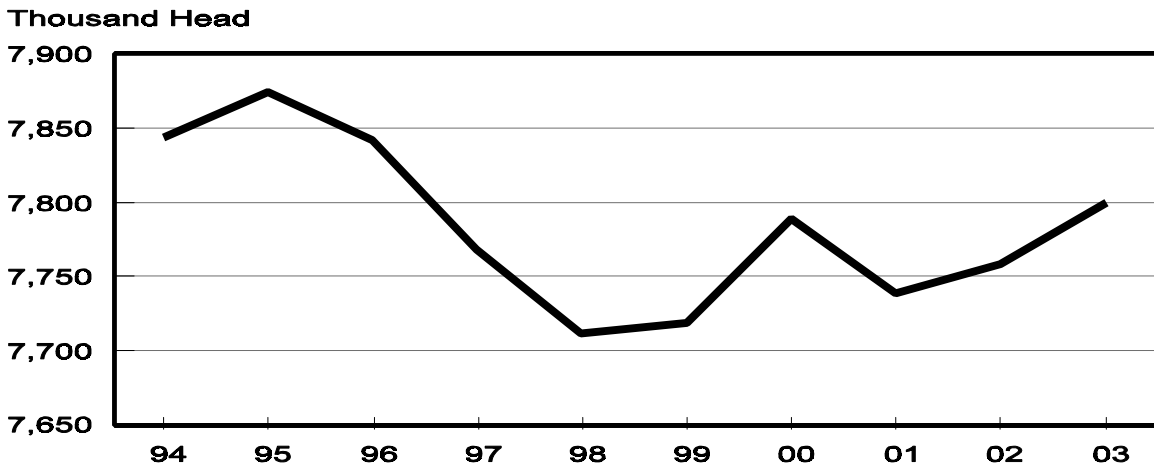
State	Milk Cows ²		Milk per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	Change From 2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	143	150	2,250	2,155	322	323	0.3
CA	1,631	1,691	1,830	1,830	2,985	3,095	3.7
FL	151	147	1,505	1,515	227	223	-1.8
ID	381	395	1,760	1,850	671	731	8.9
IL	115	113	1,620	1,670	186	189	1.6
IN	153	145	1,495	1,565	229	227	-0.9
IA	209	203	1,615	1,640	338	333	-1.5
KY	123	120	1,245	1,135	153	136	-11.1
MI	295	299	1,730	1,755	510	525	2.9
MN	490	480	1,560	1,540	764	739	-3.3
MO	138	131	1,335	1,340	184	176	-4.3
NM	293	315	1,830	1,835	536	578	7.8
NY	675	685	1,565	1,530	1,056	1,048	-0.8
OH	261	260	1,500	1,500	392	390	-0.5
PA	581	585	1,630	1,600	947	936	-1.2
TX	309	312	1,605	1,650	496	515	3.8
VT	154	151	1,530	1,530	236	231	-2.1
VA	120	118	1,450	1,340	174	158	-9.2
WA	247	248	1,930	1,950	477	484	1.5
WI	1,276	1,263	1,510	1,530	1,927	1,932	0.3
20-State Total	7,745	7,811	1,654	1,660	12,810	12,969	1.2

¹ 2003 revised.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**April 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 January-March quarters is 0.7 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 9.15 million head by more than 0.7 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.2 percent.

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>
	0.4	0.7	301	125	18	329	6	4
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>
	0.7	1.2	110	39	0	143	6	3

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 June 17, 2003.

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