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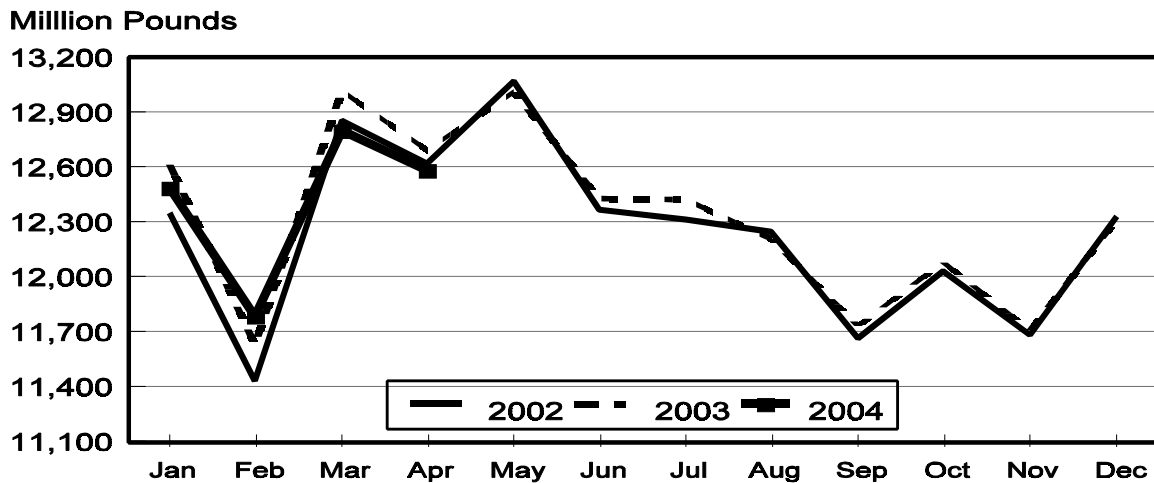
April Milk Production Down 0.9 Percent

Milk production in the 20 major States during April totaled 12.6 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from April 2003. March revised production, at 12.8 billion pounds, was down 1.7 percent from March 2003. The March revision represented an increase of 0.2 percent or 22 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,630 pounds for April, 3 pounds above April 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.72 million head, 81,000 head less than April 2003, but 2,000 head more than March 2004.

Monthly Milk Production 20 States



Milk Cows and Production: By Quarter, United States, 2003-2004¹

Quarter	Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	Change From 2003
	<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	9,144	8,991	4,710	4,750	43,069	42,710	-0.8
Apr-Jun	9,109		4,827		43,965		
Jul-Sep	9,073		4,601		41,746		
Oct-Dec	9,011		4,609		41,532		
Annual	9,084		18,749		170,312		

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, 2003-2004¹

	Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	Change From 2003
	<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	7,810	7,716	1,615	1,619	12,616	12,491	-1.0
Feb	7,811	7,716	1,489	1,528	11,628	11,787	1.4
Mar	7,810	7,717	1,666	1,658	13,014	12,798	-1.7
Apr	7,800	7,719	1,627	1,630	12,693	12,584	-0.9
May	7,787		1,671		13,013		
Jun	7,785		1,596		12,428		
Jul	7,780		1,597		12,421		
Aug	7,771		1,571		12,207		
Sep	7,764		1,511		11,731		
Oct	7,743		1,561		12,083		
Nov	7,721		1,517		11,709		
Dec	7,713		1,596		12,313		
Annual	7,775		19,017		147,856		

¹ 2004 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, 2003- 2004¹

Month	Milk Cows ²		Milk Per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	Change From 2003
	<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	9,147	8,994	1,594	1,600	14,584	14,389	-1.3
Feb	9,145	8,992	1,470	1,510	13,441	13,578	1.0
Mar	9,141	8,990	1,646	1,640	15,044	14,743	-2.0
Apr	9,125	8,989	1,604	1,609	14,634	14,465	-1.2
May	9,104		1,648		15,003		
Jun	9,097		1,575		14,328		
Jul	9,087		1,570		14,263		
Aug	9,072		1,545		14,015		
Sep	9,061		1,486		13,468		
Oct	9,034		1,538		13,898		
Nov	9,005		1,496		13,470		
Dec	8,994		1,575		14,164		
Annual	9,084		18,749		170,312		

¹ 2004 revised.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, April 2003-2004

State	Milk Cows ¹		Milk Per Cow ²		Milk Production ²		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	Change From 2003
	<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	155	155	2,045	2,055	317	319	0.6
CA	1,685	1,714	1,800	1,790	3,033	3,068	1.2
FL	144	138	1,415	1,505	204	208	2.0
ID	397	414	1,800	1,760	715	729	2.0
IL	111	108	1,610	1,580	179	171	-4.5
IN	148	147	1,685	1,660	249	244	-2.0
IA	203	194	1,610	1,580	327	307	-6.1
KY	120	110	1,140	1,190	137	131	-4.4
MI	301	297	1,730	1,750	521	520	-0.2
MN	475	465	1,500	1,480	713	688	-3.5
MO	130	124	1,325	1,370	172	170	-1.2
NM	315	327	1,810	1,735	570	567	-0.5
NY	679	658	1,505	1,480	1,022	974	-4.7
OH	261	261	1,490	1,500	389	392	0.8
PA	582	561	1,575	1,550	917	870	-5.1
TX	320	317	1,600	1,705	512	540	5.5
VT	150	144	1,495	1,495	224	215	-4.0
VA	116	102	1,355	1,460	157	149	-5.1
WA	248	240	1,895	1,905	470	457	-2.8
WI	1,260	1,243	1,480	1,500	1,865	1,865	
20-State Total	7,800	7,719	1,627	1,630	12,693	12,584	-0.9

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**April Milk Production, 1995-2004
20 States**



Milk Cows and Production: By State, March 2003-2004 ¹

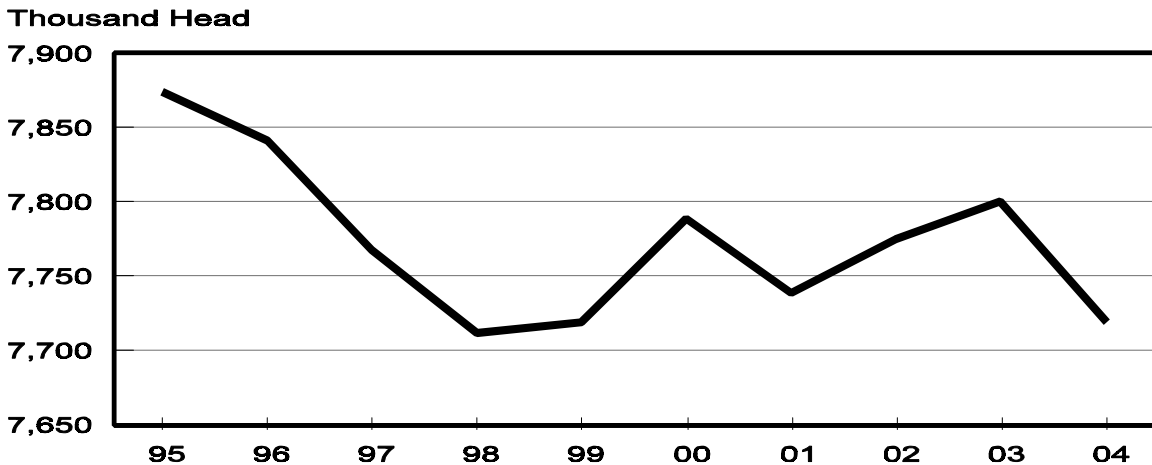
State	Milk Cows ²		Milk per Cow ³		Milk Production ³		
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	Change From 2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	155	155	2,085	2,095	323	325	0.6
CA	1,681	1,710	1,850	1,810	3,110	3,095	-0.5
FL	145	138	1,435	1,550	208	214	2.9
ID	395	413	1,850	1,780	731	735	0.5
IL	113	108	1,670	1,650	189	178	-5.8
IN	147	145	1,720	1,730	253	251	-0.8
IA	203	194	1,640	1,630	333	316	-5.1
KY	120	110	1,135	1,175	136	129	-5.1
MI	302	298	1,800	1,790	544	533	-2.0
MN	480	465	1,540	1,510	739	702	-5.0
MO	131	123	1,340	1,345	176	165	-6.3
NM	315	327	1,835	1,765	578	577	-0.2
NY	680	660	1,540	1,510	1,047	997	-4.8
OH	260	260	1,500	1,520	390	395	1.3
PA	585	564	1,600	1,570	936	885	-5.4
TX	320	317	1,610	1,735	515	550	6.8
VT	151	144	1,535	1,540	232	222	-4.3
VA	116	102	1,360	1,480	158	151	-4.4
WA	248	240	1,950	1,925	484	462	-4.5
WI	1,263	1,244	1,530	1,540	1,932	1,916	-0.8
20-State Total	7,810	7,717	1,666	1,658	13,014	12,798	-1.7

¹ 2004 revised.

² Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

³ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

**April Milk Cows, 1995-2004
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 0.5 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 8.99 million head by more than 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.9 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	299	126	18	329	5	5
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>
	0.5	0.9	81	26	0	126	6	3

¹ Based on records for the past 10 January-March quarters.

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