



Milk Production

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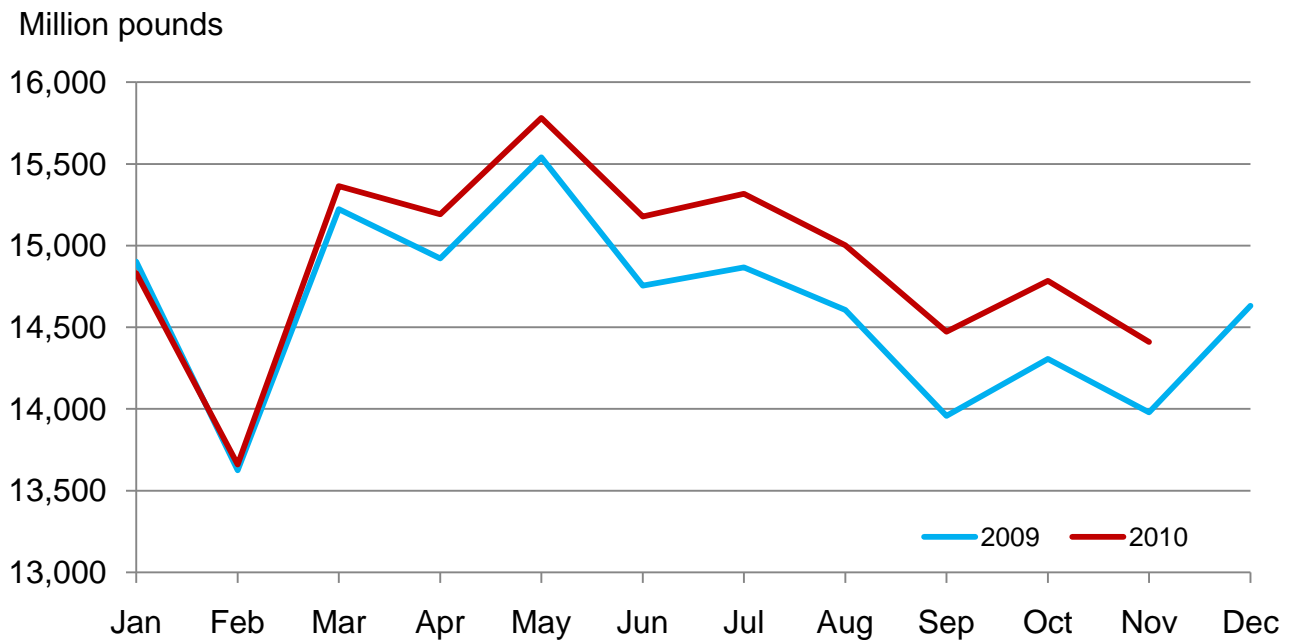
November Milk Production up 3.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during November totaled 14.4 billion pounds, up 3.1 percent from November 2009. October production, unrevised at 14.8 billion pounds, was up 3.3 percent from October 2009.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,722 pounds for November, 41 pounds above November 2009.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.37 million head, 57,000 head more than November 2009, but unchanged from October 2010.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2009-2010

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	Change from 2009
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,295	9,091	5,097	5,209	47,374	47,352	
April-June	9,262	9,111	5,278	5,461	48,888	49,753	1.8
July-September	9,155	9,123	5,111	5,270	46,793	48,077	2.7
October-December	9,090		5,090		46,265		
Annual	9,201		20,576		189,320		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 23 Selected States: 2009-2010

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	Change from 2009
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,506	8,315	1,752	1,784	14,902	14,831	-0.5
February	8,486	8,319	1,605	1,642	13,624	13,660	0.3
March	8,482	8,322	1,795	1,846	15,222	15,364	0.9
April	8,480	8,328	1,760	1,824	14,922	15,192	1.8
May	8,475	8,337	1,834	1,893	15,541	15,781	1.5
June	8,434	8,352	1,749	1,817	14,754	15,177	2.9
July	8,397	8,370	1,771	1,830	14,867	15,316	3.0
August	8,372	8,362	1,745	1,794	14,606	15,001	2.7
September	8,335	8,368	1,675	1,729	13,957	14,472	3.7
October	8,316	8,371	1,720	1,766	14,306	14,784	3.3
November	8,314	8,371	1,681	1,722	13,979	14,411	3.1
December	8,311		1,761		14,632		
Annual	8,409		20,848		175,312		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2009-2010

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	Change from 2009
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,312	9,087	1,733	1,763	16,135	16,016	-0.7
February	9,289	9,091	1,588	1,622	14,754	14,749	
March	9,283	9,094	1,776	1,824	16,485	16,587	0.6
April	9,282	9,100	1,740	1,802	16,148	16,394	1.5
May	9,274	9,109	1,812	1,868	16,805	17,015	1.2
June	9,230	9,124	1,726	1,791	15,935	16,344	2.6
July	9,187	9,134	1,744	1,800	16,018	16,441	2.6
August	9,159	9,118	1,718	1,766	15,737	16,102	2.3
September	9,120	9,118	1,649	1,704	15,038	15,534	3.3
October	9,096	9,121	1,695	1,740	15,420	15,868	2.9
November	9,091	9,121	1,658	1,696	15,070	15,470	2.7
December	9,082		1,737		15,775		
Annual	9,201		20,576		189,320		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

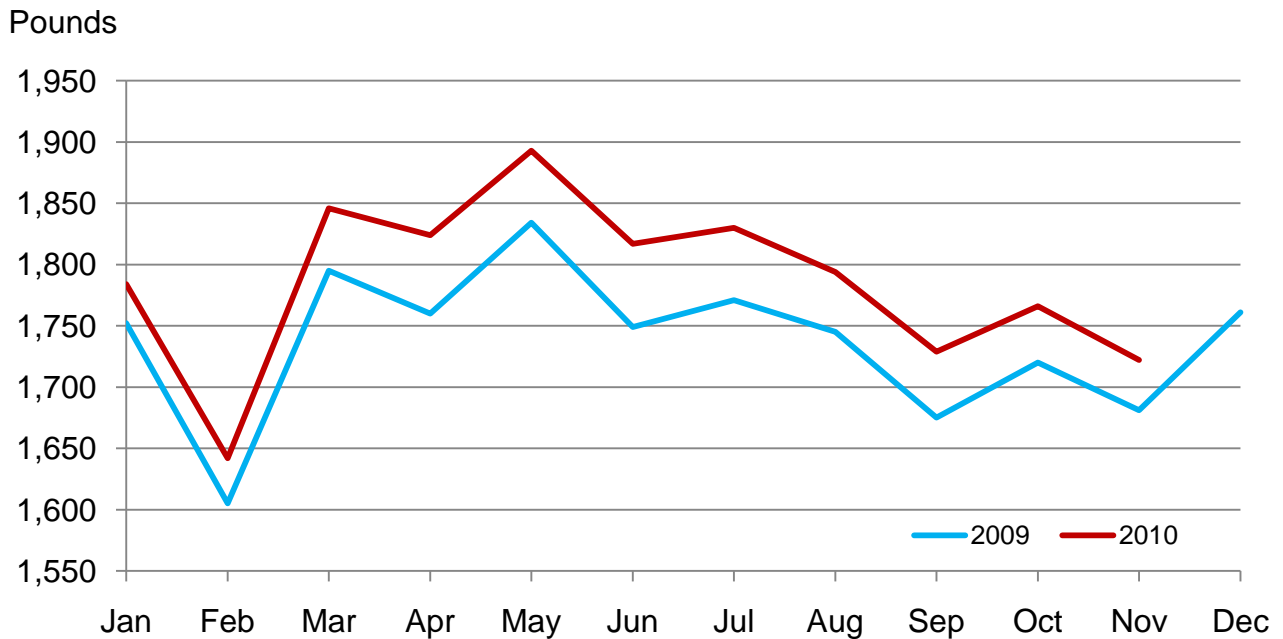
Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: November 2009 and 2010

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	Change from 2009
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	168	182	1,840	1,845	309	336	8.7
California	1,765	1,750	1,775	1,870	3,133	3,273	4.5
Colorado	116	122	1,860	1,905	216	232	7.4
Florida	113	113	1,360	1,370	154	155	0.6
Idaho	548	572	1,790	1,840	981	1,052	7.2
Illinois	101	98	1,510	1,550	153	152	-0.7
Indiana	169	169	1,610	1,640	272	277	1.8
Iowa	215	204	1,670	1,700	359	347	-3.3
Kansas	113	121	1,725	1,730	195	209	7.2
Michigan	354	360	1,805	1,830	639	659	3.1
Minnesota	469	470	1,545	1,520	725	714	-1.5
Missouri	105	96	1,170	1,180	123	113	-8.1
New Mexico	317	319	1,970	1,995	624	636	1.9
New York	611	611	1,605	1,680	981	1,026	4.6
Ohio	274	270	1,510	1,560	414	421	1.7
Oregon	114	121	1,560	1,595	178	193	8.4
Pennsylvania	538	541	1,560	1,600	839	866	3.2
Texas	413	415	1,710	1,750	706	726	2.8
Utah	83	85	1,740	1,720	144	146	1.4
Vermont	134	138	1,460	1,470	196	203	3.6
Virginia	95	95	1,455	1,440	138	137	-0.7
Washington	241	254	1,865	1,875	449	476	6.0
Wisconsin	1,258	1,265	1,630	1,630	2,051	2,062	0.5
23-State Total	8,314	8,371	1,681	1,722	13,979	14,411	3.1

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: October 2009 and 2010

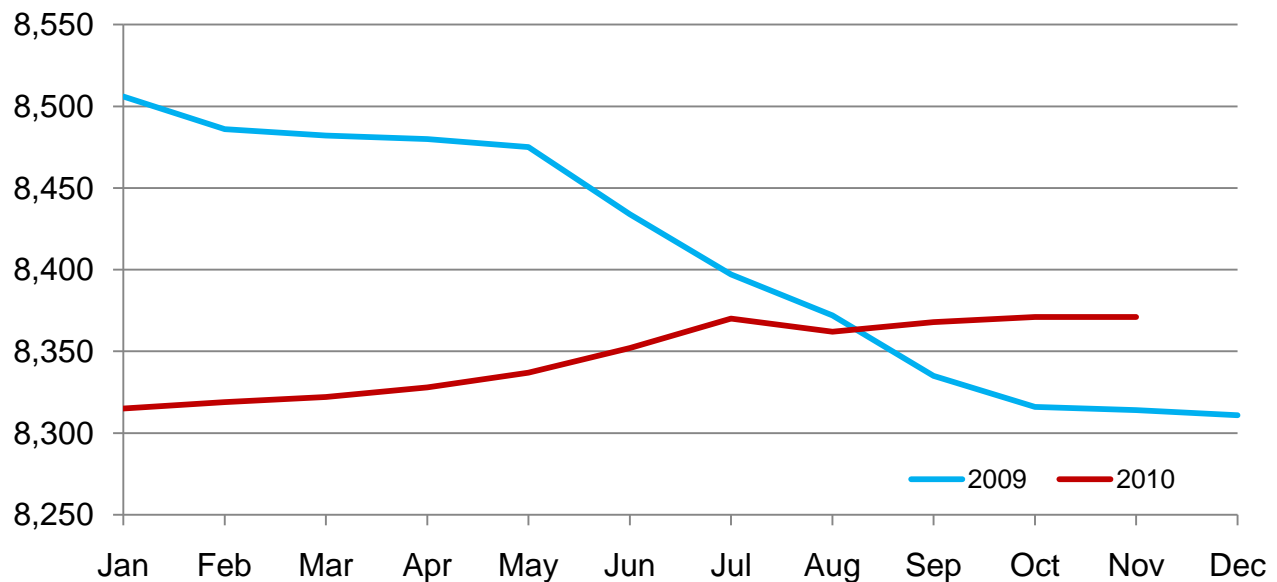
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2009
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	166	183	1,840	1,825	305	334	9.5
California	1,767	1,749	1,815	1,910	3,207	3,341	4.2
Colorado	116	122	1,920	1,975	223	241	8.1
Florida	113	114	1,230	1,325	139	151	8.6
Idaho	546	572	1,870	1,930	1,021	1,104	8.1
Illinois	101	98	1,550	1,560	157	153	-2.5
Indiana	168	169	1,680	1,690	282	286	1.4
Iowa	215	204	1,690	1,725	363	352	-3.0
Kansas	112	121	1,750	1,750	196	212	8.2
Michigan	355	360	1,860	1,895	660	682	3.3
Minnesota	469	470	1,580	1,555	741	731	-1.3
Missouri	105	97	1,170	1,180	123	114	-7.3
New Mexico	317	318	2,020	2,055	640	653	2.0
New York	614	611	1,640	1,725	1,007	1,054	4.7
Ohio	276	270	1,540	1,600	425	432	1.6
Oregon	114	121	1,615	1,680	184	203	10.3
Pennsylvania	539	541	1,600	1,640	862	887	2.9
Texas	413	415	1,720	1,775	710	737	3.8
Utah	83	85	1,780	1,790	148	152	2.7
Vermont	134	138	1,495	1,500	200	207	3.5
Virginia	95	95	1,475	1,465	140	139	-0.7
Washington	240	254	1,940	1,950	466	495	6.2
Wisconsin	1,258	1,264	1,675	1,680	2,107	2,124	0.8
23-State Total	8,316	8,371	1,720	1,766	14,306	14,784	3.3

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



Statistical Methodology

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 the 23 State milk cow inventory estimates over the past 24 months is 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 8.37 million head by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 percent.

Reliability of Monthly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.2	0.3	19	0	58	19	3
All milk cows	0.2	0.3	6	0	53	12	7

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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Joe Gaynor – Dairy Products Prices	(202) 690-2168
Jason Hardegree – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Everett Olbert – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4751
Nick Streff – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Lorie Warren – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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