



Milk Production

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February Milk Production up 2.4 Percent

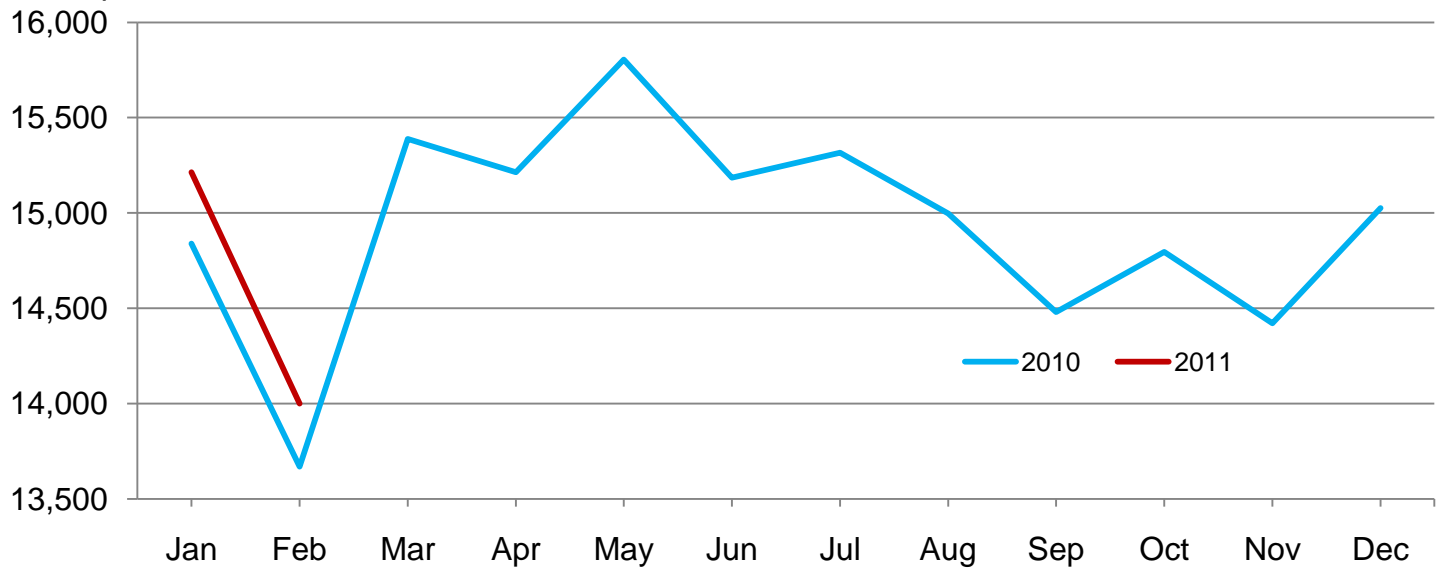
Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 14.0 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from February 2010. January revised production at 15.2 billion pounds, was up 2.5 percent from January 2010. The January revision represented a decrease of 21 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,666 pounds for February, 24 pounds above February 2010.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.40 million head, 81,000 head more than February 2010, but no change from January 2011.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2010-2011

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	Change from 2010
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,093		5,212		47,392		
April-June	9,119		5,462		49,809		
July-September	9,126		5,267		48,070		
October-December	9,130		5,208		47,548		
Annual	9,117		21,149		192,819		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 23 Selected States: 2010-2011

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	Change from 2010
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,319	8,404	1,784	1,810	14,839	15,213	2.5
February	8,323	8,404	1,642	1,666	13,670	14,001	2.4
March	8,329		1,848		15,389		
April	8,337		1,825		15,213		
May	8,347		1,893		15,804		
June	8,356		1,817		15,186		
July	8,375		1,829		15,316		
August	8,369		1,792		14,998		
September	8,371		1,730		14,481		
October	8,372		1,767		14,796		
November	8,373		1,722		14,421		
December	8,387		1,791		15,025		
Annual	8,355		21,440		179,138		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2010-2011

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	Change from 2010
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,089	9,160	1,763	1,786	16,020	16,360	2.1
February	9,092	9,160	1,623	1,644	14,758	15,055	2.0
March	9,099		1,826		16,614		
April	9,108		1,802		16,416		
May	9,119		1,869		17,040		
June	9,129		1,791		16,353		
July	9,135		1,799		16,436		
August	9,123		1,764		16,094		
September	9,121		1,704		15,540		
October	9,123		1,743		15,900		
November	9,125		1,698		15,498		
December	9,141		1,767		16,150		
Annual	9,117		21,149		192,819		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: February 2010 and 2011

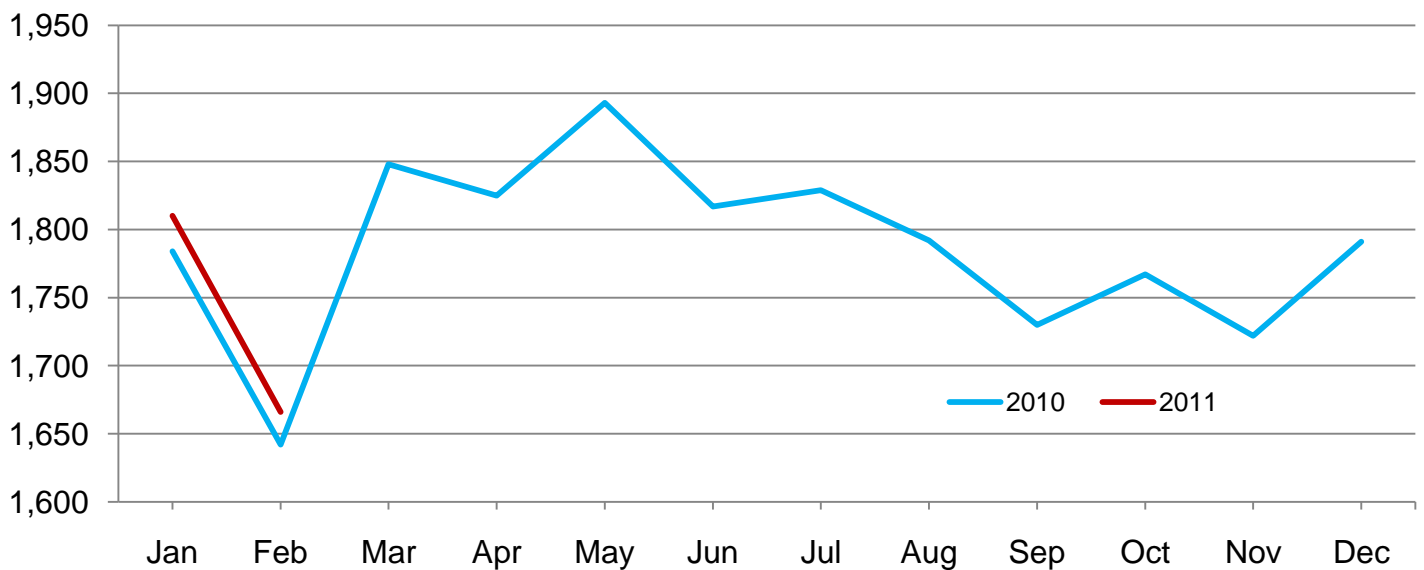
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	170	185	1,940	1,915	330	354	7.3
California	1,760	1,752	1,755	1,805	3,089	3,162	2.4
Colorado	116	123	1,800	1,795	209	221	5.7
Florida	113	118	1,595	1,715	180	202	12.2
Idaho	554	573	1,690	1,690	936	968	3.4
Illinois	101	98	1,530	1,530	155	150	-3.2
Indiana	169	171	1,560	1,575	264	269	1.9
Iowa	213	208	1,575	1,630	335	339	1.2
Kansas	116	123	1,620	1,630	188	200	6.4
Michigan	355	362	1,765	1,780	627	644	2.7
Minnesota	470	471	1,510	1,495	710	704	-0.8
Missouri	101	95	1,100	1,140	111	108	-2.7
New Mexico	318	324	1,870	1,890	595	612	2.9
New York	610	610	1,560	1,620	952	988	3.8
Ohio	272	270	1,490	1,500	405	405	
Oregon	115	119	1,565	1,570	180	187	3.9
Pennsylvania	541	543	1,520	1,510	822	820	-0.2
Texas	410	425	1,640	1,720	672	731	8.8
Utah	84	86	1,640	1,590	138	137	-0.7
Vermont	134	135	1,440	1,465	193	198	2.6
Virginia	95	95	1,400	1,430	133	136	2.3
Washington	246	252	1,825	1,820	449	459	2.2
Wisconsin	1,260	1,266	1,585	1,585	1,997	2,007	0.5
23-State Total	8,323	8,404	1,642	1,666	13,670	14,001	2.4

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: January 2010 and 2011

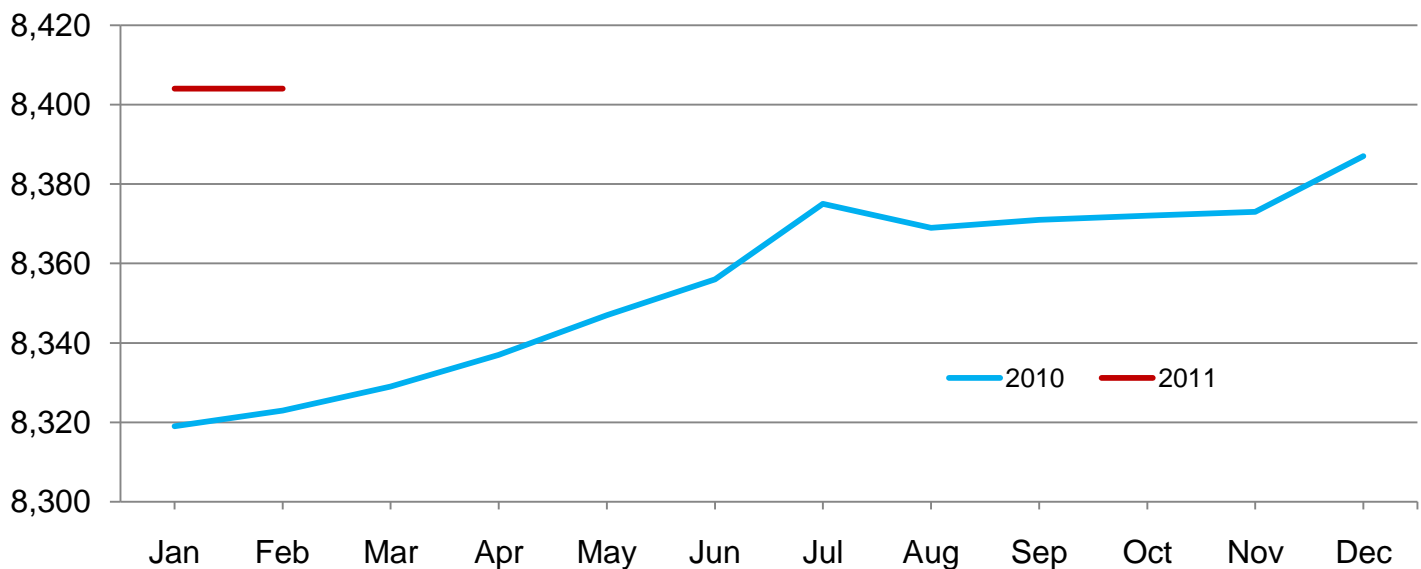
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	169	185	2,055	2,015	347	373	7.5
California	1,760	1,752	1,915	1,935	3,370	3,390	0.6
Colorado	116	123	1,930	1,975	224	243	8.5
Florida	112	116	1,615	1,775	181	206	13.8
Idaho	551	573	1,860	1,860	1,025	1,066	4.0
Illinois	101	98	1,615	1,660	163	163	
Indiana	169	172	1,680	1,705	284	293	3.2
Iowa	214	210	1,735	1,775	371	373	0.5
Kansas	116	123	1,765	1,790	205	220	7.3
Michigan	354	362	1,920	1,945	680	704	3.5
Minnesota	470	470	1,645	1,630	773	766	-0.9
Missouri	102	95	1,220	1,240	124	118	-4.8
New Mexico	318	323	2,015	2,105	641	680	6.1
New York	610	610	1,700	1,775	1,037	1,083	4.4
Ohio	272	270	1,600	1,620	435	437	0.5
Oregon	115	120	1,690	1,685	194	202	4.1
Pennsylvania	541	543	1,630	1,640	882	891	1.0
Texas	410	425	1,805	1,875	740	797	7.7
Utah	84	87	1,795	1,740	151	151	
Vermont	134	135	1,580	1,605	212	217	2.4
Virginia	95	95	1,535	1,545	146	147	0.7
Washington	246	252	1,980	1,975	487	498	2.3
Wisconsin	1,260	1,265	1,720	1,735	2,167	2,195	1.3
23-State Total	8,319	8,404	1,784	1,810	14,839	15,213	2.5

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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 8.40 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 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	23	0	63	18	5
All milk cows	0.1	0.1	5	0	15	16	5

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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