



Milk Production

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March Milk Production up 2.4 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 15.8 billion pounds, up 2.4 percent from March 2010. February revised production at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 2.3 percent from February 2010. The February revision represented a decrease of 14 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,872 pounds for March, 24 pounds above March 2010.

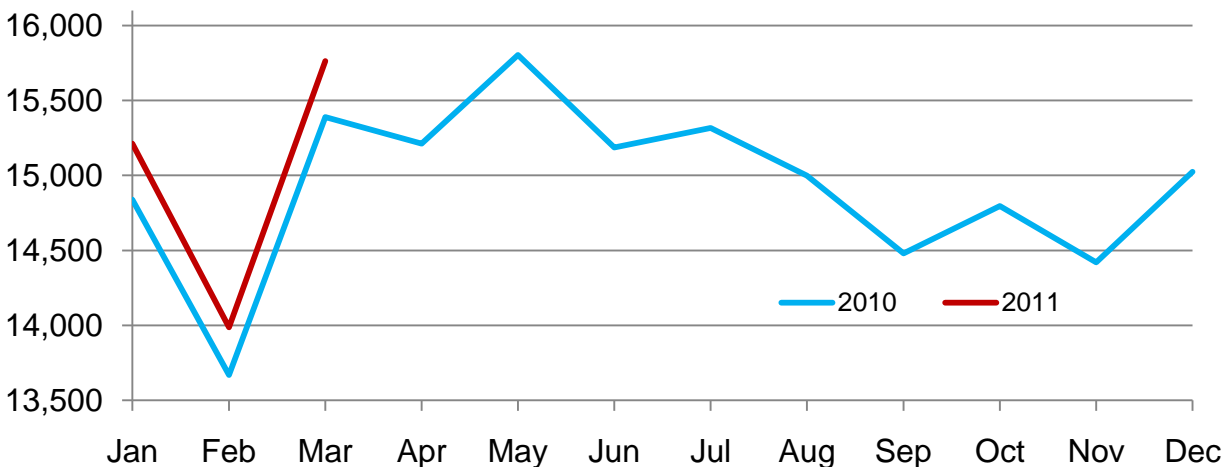
The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.42 million head, 93,000 head more than March 2010, and 17,000 head more than February 2011.

January - March Milk Production up 2.2 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 48.4 billion pounds, up 2.2 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.16 million head, 70,000 head more than the same period last year.

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	9,163	5,212	5,286	47,392	48,432	2.2
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	8,405	1,642	1,664	13,670	13,987	2.3
March	8,329	8,422	1,848	1,872	15,389	15,763	2.4
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	9,157	1,763	1,790	16,020	16,387	2.3
February	9,092	9,158	1,623	1,645	14,758	15,066	2.1
March	9,099	9,175	1,826	1,851	16,614	16,979	2.2
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.

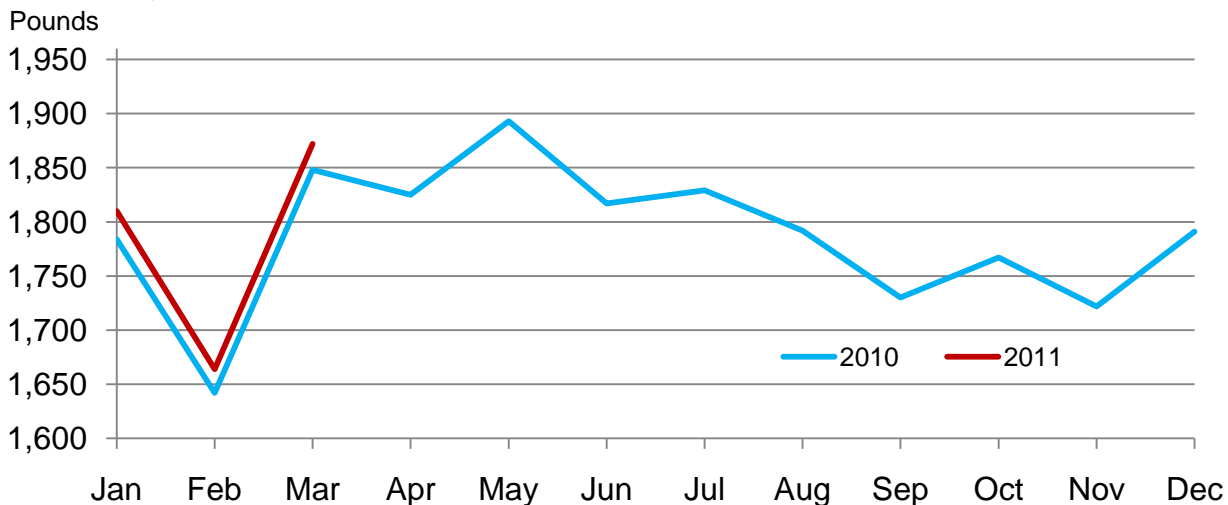
Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: March 2010 and 2011

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	187	2,180	2,155	371	403	8.6
California	1,758	1,759	1,980	2,040	3,481	3,588	3.1
Colorado	116	125	2,000	2,015	232	252	8.6
Florida	113	118	1,820	1,860	206	219	6.3
Idaho	554	575	1,880	1,880	1,042	1,081	3.7
Illinois	101	98	1,715	1,715	173	168	-2.9
Indiana	169	171	1,765	1,770	298	303	1.7
Iowa	210	209	1,775	1,825	373	381	2.1
Kansas	116	121	1,820	1,845	211	223	5.7
Michigan	357	362	1,990	1,975	710	715	0.7
Minnesota	470	471	1,675	1,645	787	775	-1.5
Missouri	101	94	1,295	1,340	131	126	-3.8
New Mexico	321	325	2,105	2,150	676	699	3.4
New York	610	610	1,755	1,810	1,071	1,104	3.1
Ohio	272	271	1,690	1,680	460	455	-1.1
Oregon	115	119	1,760	1,760	202	209	3.5
Pennsylvania	541	543	1,730	1,710	936	929	-0.7
Texas	410	426	1,890	1,945	775	829	7.0
Utah	85	87	1,810	1,770	154	154	0.0
Vermont	136	135	1,595	1,635	217	221	1.8
Virginia	95	96	1,570	1,615	149	155	4.0
Washington	249	254	2,025	2,025	504	514	2.0
Wisconsin	1,260	1,266	1,770	1,785	2,230	2,260	1.3
23-State Total	8,329	8,422	1,848	1,872	15,389	15,763	2.4

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: February 2010 and 2011

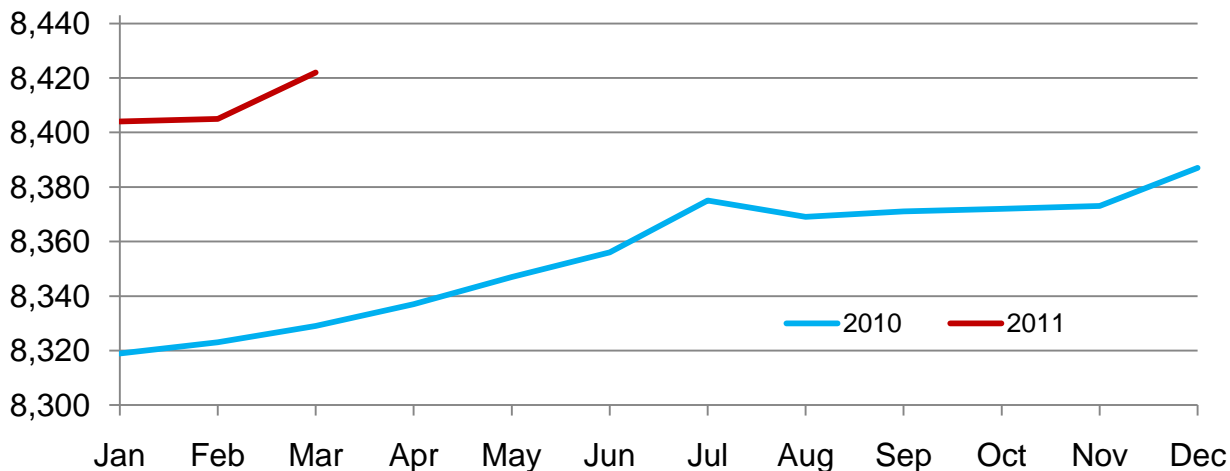
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	170	185	1,940	1,915	330	354	7.3
California	1,760	1,755	1,755	1,800	3,089	3,159	2.3
Colorado	116	123	1,800	1,795	209	221	5.7
Florida	113	118	1,595	1,690	180	199	10.6
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	121	1,620	1,635	188	198	5.3
Michigan	355	362	1,765	1,780	627	644	2.7
Minnesota	470	471	1,510	1,485	710	699	-1.5
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	271	1,490	1,500	405	407	0.5
Oregon	115	119	1,565	1,555	180	185	2.8
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	1,440	133	137	3.0
Washington	246	251	1,825	1,820	449	457	1.8
Wisconsin	1,260	1,266	1,585	1,585	1,997	2,007	0.5
23-State Total	8,323	8,405	1,642	1,664	13,670	13,987	2.3

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Revised October-December 2009 and 2010

[May not add due to rounding]

State	October-December milk cows ¹		October-December milk production ²		Change from 2009
	2009	2010	2009	2010	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	11.0	11.0	36.0	35.0	-2.8
Alaska	0.6	0.5	1.5	1.6	6.7
Arizona	167.0	183.0	949.0	1,032.0	8.7
Arkansas	13.0	12.0	38.0	35.0	-7.9
California	1,765.0	1,751.0	9,626.0	9,979.0	3.7
Colorado	116.0	122.0	659.0	719.0	9.1
Connecticut	18.5	19.0	86.0	89.0	3.5
Delaware	6.0	5.0	24.0	21.0	-12.5
Florida	113.0	114.0	466.0	508.0	9.0
Georgia	78.0	78.0	323.0	329.0	1.9
Hawaii	1.6	1.9	5.3	6.3	18.9
Idaho	548.0	573.0	3,020.0	3,224.0	6.8
Illinois	101.0	98.0	472.0	466.0	-1.3
Indiana	169.0	170.0	837.0	851.0	1.7
Iowa	215.0	205.0	1,098.0	1,066.0	-2.9
Kansas	113.0	121.0	596.0	641.0	7.6
Kentucky	81.0	77.0	279.0	276.0	-1.1
Louisiana	21.0	19.0	58.0	53.0	-8.6
Maine	33.0	32.0	146.0	145.0	-0.7
Maryland	54.0	53.0	244.0	244.0	
Massachusetts	14.0	13.5	59.0	57.0	-3.4
Michigan	354.0	360.0	1,975.0	2,044.0	3.5
Minnesota	469.0	470.0	2,232.0	2,204.0	-1.3
Mississippi	17.0	16.0	55.0	50.0	-9.1
Missouri	104.0	96.0	373.0	344.0	-7.8
Montana	15.0	14.0	73.0	70.0	-4.1
Nebraska	60.0	58.0	298.0	288.0	-3.4
Nevada	28.0	28.0	152.0	157.0	3.3
New Hampshire	15.0	15.0	71.0	72.0	1.4
New Jersey	8.5	7.5	36.0	33.0	-8.3
New Mexico	317.0	319.0	1,905.0	1,949.0	2.3
New York	612.0	611.0	3,010.0	3,149.0	4.6
North Carolina	44.0	44.0	208.0	211.0	1.4
North Dakota	21.0	20.0	93.0	93.0	
Ohio	274.0	270.0	1,269.0	1,288.0	1.5
Oklahoma	57.0	54.0	239.0	234.0	-2.1
Oregon	114.0	121.0	547.0	600.0	9.7
Pennsylvania	539.0	542.0	2,574.0	2,645.0	2.8
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	4.6	4.8	4.3
South Carolina	17.5	16.0	78.0	66.0	-15.4
South Dakota	93.0	90.0	468.0	463.0	-1.1
Tennessee	54.0	51.0	209.0	202.0	-3.3
Texas	412.0	417.0	2,154.0	2,238.0	3.9
Utah	83.0	85.0	442.0	451.0	2.0
Vermont	134.0	136.0	603.0	622.0	3.2
Virginia	95.0	95.0	423.0	421.0	-0.5
Washington	241.0	253.0	1,386.0	1,458.0	5.2
West Virginia	10.0	10.0	38.0	39.0	2.6
Wisconsin	1,258.0	1,265.0	6,305.0	6,343.0	0.6
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	29.3	30.9	5.5
United States	9,092.0	9,130.0	46,273.0	47,548.0	2.8

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary January-March 2010 and 2011

[May not add due to rounding]

State	January-March milk cows ¹		January-March milk production ²		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	11.0	11.0	45.0	43.0	-4.4
Alaska	0.6	0.6	1.5	1.8	20.0
Arizona	170.0	186.0	1,048.0	1,130.0	7.8
Arkansas	13.0	12.0	41.0	38.0	-7.3
California	1,759.0	1,755.0	9,940.0	10,137.0	2.0
Colorado	116.0	124.0	665.0	716.0	7.7
Connecticut	18.5	18.5	92.0	92.0	
Delaware	5.5	5.0	24.0	24.3	1.3
Florida	113.0	117.0	567.0	624.0	10.1
Georgia	78.0	80.0	369.0	380.0	3.0
Hawaii	1.9	1.9	6.1	6.9	13.1
Idaho	553.0	574.0	3,003.0	3,115.0	3.7
Illinois	101.0	98.0	491.0	481.0	-2.0
Indiana	169.0	171.0	846.0	865.0	2.2
Iowa	212.0	209.0	1,079.0	1,093.0	1.3
Kansas	116.0	122.0	604.0	641.0	6.1
Kentucky	79.0	76.0	296.0	289.0	-2.4
Louisiana	20.0	19.0	67.0	69.0	3.0
Maine	32.0	32.0	144.0	147.0	2.1
Maryland	54.0	53.0	257.0	255.0	-0.8
Massachusetts	14.0	13.5	62.0	58.0	-6.5
Michigan	355.0	362.0	2,017.0	2,063.0	2.3
Minnesota	470.0	471.0	2,270.0	2,240.0	-1.3
Mississippi	17.0	15.0	63.0	58.0	-7.9
Missouri	101.0	95.0	366.0	352.0	-3.8
Montana	14.0	14.0	72.0	69.0	-4.2
Nebraska	59.0	57.0	290.0	290.0	
Nevada	28.0	28.0	151.0	151.0	
New Hampshire	15.0	15.0	75.0	75.0	
New Jersey	8.5	8.0	37.0	35.0	-5.4
New Mexico	319.0	324.0	1,912.0	1,991.0	4.1
New York	610.0	610.0	3,060.0	3,175.0	3.8
North Carolina	43.0	44.0	216.0	225.0	4.2
North Dakota	21.0	20.0	94.0	88.0	-6.4
Ohio	272.0	271.0	1,300.0	1,299.0	-0.1
Oklahoma	57.0	54.0	249.0	241.0	-3.2
Oregon	115.0	119.0	576.0	596.0	3.5
Pennsylvania	541.0	543.0	2,640.0	2,640.0	
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	4.6	4.7	2.2
South Carolina	17.0	16.0	82.0	77.0	-6.1
South Dakota	93.0	91.0	466.0	468.0	0.4
Tennessee	53.0	50.0	222.0	214.0	-3.6
Texas	410.0	425.0	2,187.0	2,357.0	7.8
Utah	84.0	87.0	443.0	442.0	-0.2
Vermont	135.0	135.0	622.0	636.0	2.3
Virginia	95.0	95.0	428.0	439.0	2.6
Washington	247.0	252.0	1,440.0	1,469.0	2.0
West Virginia	10.0	10.0	39.0	39.0	
Wisconsin	1,260.0	1,266.0	6,394.0	6,462.0	1.1
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	28.6	30.4	6.3
United States	9,093.0	9,163.0	47,392.0	48,432.0	2.2

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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 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 20 quarters is 0.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 9.16 million head by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 percent.

Reliability of Quarterly Milk Production Estimates

[Based on data for the past 20 quarters]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Quarters	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Milk production	0.1	0.2	42	1	95	15	5
All milk cows	0.3	0.5	22	0	52	18	0

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

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Dairy Products Prices	(202) 690-2168
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(515) 284-4340
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
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
Lorie Warren – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236

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