



Milk Production

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September Milk Production up 1.9 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during September totaled 14.8 billion pounds, up 1.9 percent from September 2010. August revised production at 15.3 billion pounds, was up 2.3 percent from August 2010. The August revision represented an increase of 17 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

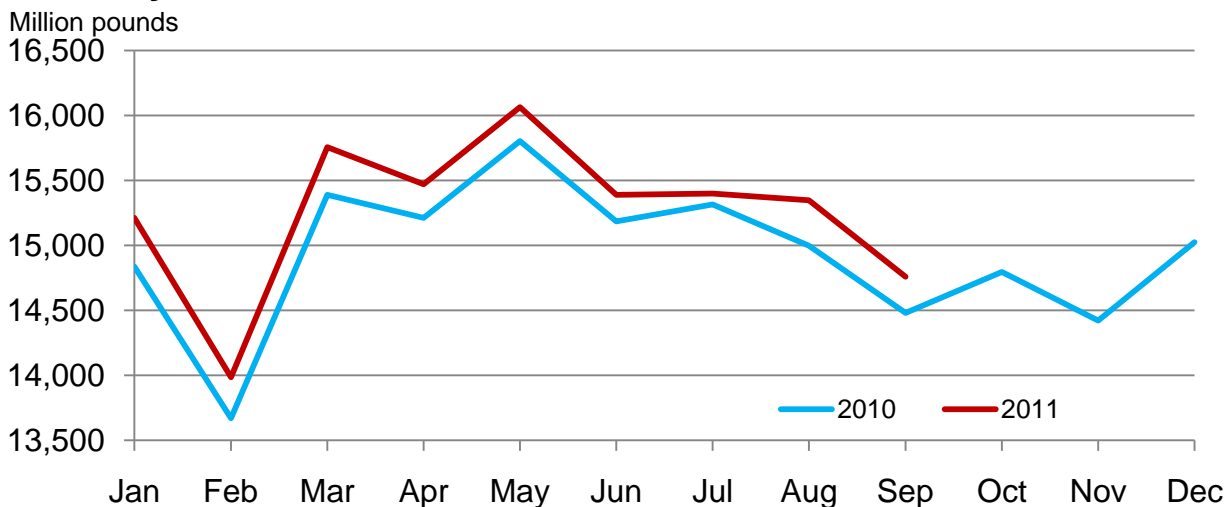
Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,742 pounds for September, 12 pounds above September 2010.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 101,000 head more than September 2010, and 1,000 head more than August 2011.

July - September Milk Production up 1.4 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the July - September quarter totaled 48.7 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.21 million head, 83,000 head more than the same period last year.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States



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	9,165	5,212	5,283	47,392	48,421	2.2
April-June	9,119	9,198	5,462	5,483	49,809	50,432	1.3
July-September	9,126	9,209	5,267	5,291	48,070	48,725	1.4
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	8,426	1,848	1,870	15,389	15,757	2.4
April	8,337	8,435	1,825	1,834	15,213	15,471	1.7
May	8,347	8,451	1,893	1,901	15,804	16,063	1.6
June	8,356	8,460	1,817	1,819	15,186	15,389	1.3
July	8,375	8,468	1,829	1,819	15,316	15,400	0.5
August	8,369	8,471	1,792	1,812	14,998	15,347	2.3
September	8,371	8,472	1,730	1,742	14,481	14,760	1.9
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	9,158	1,763	1,789	16,020	16,385	2.3
February	9,092	9,158	1,623	1,645	14,758	15,065	2.1
March	9,099	9,178	1,826	1,849	16,614	16,971	2.1
April	9,108	9,185	1,802	1,812	16,416	16,643	1.4
May	9,119	9,200	1,869	1,877	17,040	17,266	1.3
June	9,129	9,208	1,791	1,794	16,353	16,523	1.0
July	9,135	9,208	1,799	1,791	16,436	16,490	0.3
August	9,123	9,209	1,764	1,784	16,094	16,432	2.1
September	9,121	9,209	1,704	1,716	15,540	15,803	1.7
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.

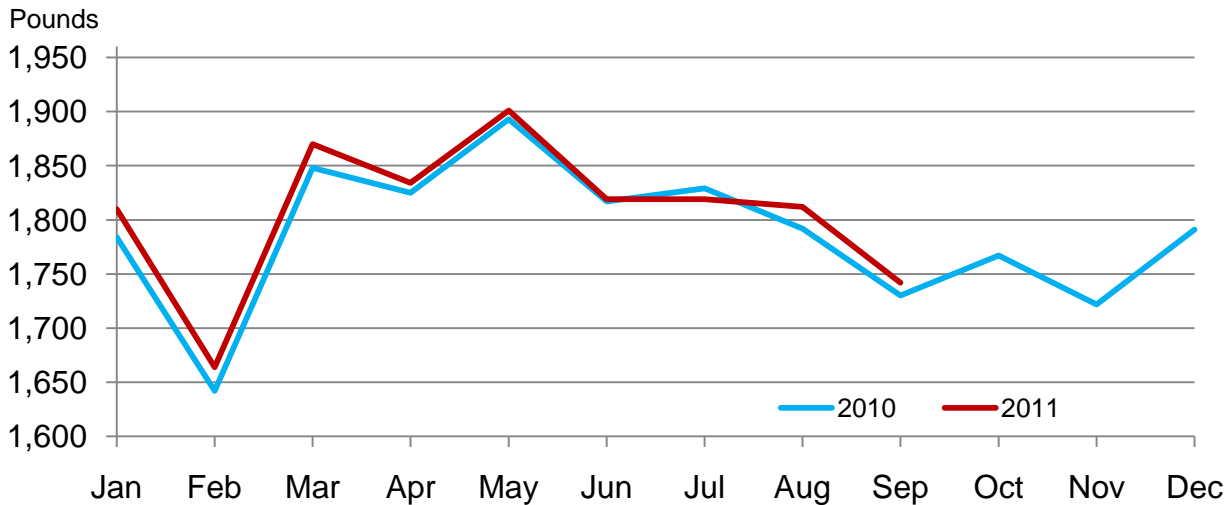
Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: September 2010 and 2011

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	182	189	1,750	1,765	319	334	4.7
California	1,752	1,777	1,880	1,865	3,294	3,314	0.6
Colorado	122	130	1,945	1,935	237	252	6.3
Florida	113	119	1,255	1,330	142	158	11.3
Idaho	571	582	1,900	1,920	1,085	1,117	2.9
Illinois	99	98	1,485	1,520	147	149	1.4
Indiana	169	171	1,610	1,645	272	281	3.3
Iowa	205	198	1,670	1,750	342	347	1.5
Kansas	121	124	1,685	1,710	204	212	3.9
Michigan	359	369	1,885	1,870	677	690	1.9
Minnesota	470	471	1,530	1,515	719	714	-0.7
Missouri	98	95	1,125	1,110	110	105	-4.5
New Mexico	318	331	2,015	2,020	641	669	4.4
New York	611	610	1,695	1,700	1,036	1,037	0.1
Ohio	270	268	1,560	1,550	421	415	-1.4
Oregon	121	122	1,660	1,680	201	205	2.0
Pennsylvania	542	537	1,600	1,590	867	854	-1.5
Texas	415	435	1,695	1,780	703	774	10.1
Utah	85	87	1,770	1,760	150	153	2.0
Vermont	136	134	1,485	1,515	202	203	0.5
Virginia	95	96	1,430	1,415	136	136	
Washington	253	265	1,935	1,950	490	517	5.5
Wisconsin	1,264	1,264	1,650	1,680	2,086	2,124	1.8
23-State Total	8,371	8,472	1,730	1,742	14,481	14,760	1.9

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: August 2010 and 2011

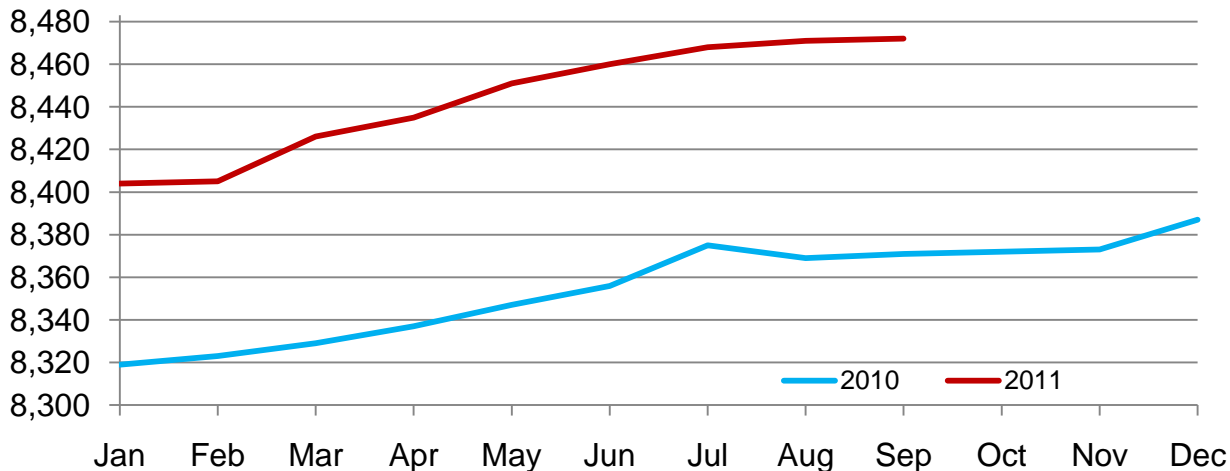
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	180	187	1,765	1,810	318	338	6.3
California	1,753	1,777	1,940	1,970	3,401	3,501	2.9
Colorado	120	129	2,025	2,000	243	258	6.2
Florida	114	119	1,335	1,400	152	167	9.9
Idaho	571	582	2,000	2,030	1,142	1,181	3.4
Illinois	99	98	1,495	1,540	148	151	2.0
Indiana	169	171	1,645	1,680	278	287	3.2
Iowa	207	199	1,700	1,770	352	352	
Kansas	120	124	1,725	1,750	207	217	4.8
Michigan	359	368	1,955	1,955	702	719	2.4
Minnesota	470	471	1,595	1,560	750	735	-2.0
Missouri	99	95	1,150	1,105	114	105	-7.9
New Mexico	318	330	2,040	2,065	649	681	4.9
New York	611	610	1,790	1,785	1,094	1,089	-0.5
Ohio	270	267	1,610	1,590	435	425	-2.3
Oregon	121	123	1,730	1,760	209	216	3.3
Pennsylvania	541	539	1,670	1,640	903	884	-2.1
Texas	415	435	1,695	1,795	703	781	11.1
Utah	85	88	1,830	1,830	156	161	3.2
Vermont	137	134	1,570	1,580	215	212	-1.4
Virginia	95	96	1,475	1,460	140	140	
Washington	252	265	2,015	2,040	508	541	6.5
Wisconsin	1,263	1,264	1,725	1,745	2,179	2,206	1.2
23-State Total	8,369	8,471	1,792	1,812	14,998	15,347	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 April-June 2010 and 2011

[May not add due to rounding]

State	April-June milk cows ¹		April-June 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	40.0	-11.1
Alaska	0.6	0.5	1.9	1.7	-10.5
Arizona	173.0	186.0	1,097.0	1,163.0	6.0
Arkansas	12.5	12.0	43.0	40.0	-7.0
California	1,755.0	1,772.0	10,370.0	10,710.0	3.3
Colorado	117.0	126.0	708.0	760.0	7.3
Connecticut	19.0	18.5	96.0	92.0	-4.2
Delaware	5.5	5.0	24.0	23.5	-2.1
Florida	115.0	118.0	582.0	606.0	4.1
Georgia	79.0	80.0	382.0	382.0	
Hawaii	1.9	1.9	6.3	7.3	15.9
Idaho	559.0	577.0	3,187.0	3,352.0	5.2
Illinois	101.0	98.0	506.0	489.0	-3.4
Indiana	169.0	170.0	895.0	896.0	0.1
Iowa	212.0	207.0	1,130.0	1,121.0	-0.8
Kansas	117.0	122.0	632.0	663.0	4.9
Kentucky	79.0	77.0	315.0	296.0	-6.0
Louisiana	20.0	18.0	66.0	61.0	-7.6
Maine	32.0	32.0	150.0	152.0	1.3
Maryland	54.0	52.0	259.0	251.0	-3.1
Massachusetts	14.0	13.0	65.0	58.0	-10.8
Michigan	358.0	364.0	2,162.0	2,170.0	0.4
Minnesota	470.0	471.0	2,372.0	2,302.0	-3.0
Mississippi	17.0	14.0	63.0	55.0	-12.7
Missouri	101.0	96.0	392.0	378.0	-3.6
Montana	14.0	14.0	75.0	72.0	-4.0
Nebraska	59.0	57.0	300.0	301.0	0.3
Nevada	28.0	29.0	154.0	163.0	5.8
New Hampshire	15.5	14.5	78.0	74.0	-5.1
New Jersey	8.0	8.0	36.0	36.0	
New Mexico	324.0	327.0	2,051.0	2,095.0	2.1
New York	610.0	610.0	3,280.0	3,285.0	0.2
North Carolina	44.0	45.0	229.0	234.0	2.2
North Dakota	21.0	19.0	99.0	88.0	-11.1
Ohio	271.0	267.0	1,383.0	1,303.0	-5.8
Oklahoma	57.0	53.0	252.0	239.0	-5.2
Oregon	116.0	121.0	605.0	634.0	4.8
Pennsylvania	541.0	543.0	2,770.0	2,735.0	-1.3
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	5.2	5.0	-3.8
South Carolina	16.5	16.0	78.0	74.0	-5.1
South Dakota	93.0	92.0	482.0	480.0	-0.4
Tennessee	53.0	49.0	232.0	212.0	-8.6
Texas	410.0	430.0	2,260.0	2,458.0	8.8
Utah	85.0	87.0	461.0	464.0	0.7
Vermont	137.0	135.0	650.0	651.0	0.2
Virginia	95.0	96.0	451.0	443.0	-1.8
Washington	250.0	260.0	1,493.0	1,569.0	5.1
West Virginia	10.0	10.0	40.0	40.0	
Wisconsin	1,261.0	1,266.0	6,766.0	6,676.0	-1.3
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	29.5	31.5	6.8
United States	9,119.0	9,198.0	49,809.0	50,432.0	1.3

¹ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – States and United States: Preliminary July-September 2010 and 2011

[May not add due to rounding]

State	July-September milk cows ¹		July-September milk production ²		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Alabama	11.0	10.5	34.0	32.0	-5.9
Alaska	0.6	0.5	2.1	1.7	-19.0
Arizona	180.0	187.0	972.0	1,023.0	5.2
Arkansas	12.0	12.0	35.0	32.0	-8.6
California	1,753.0	1,777.0	10,096.0	10,349.0	2.5
Colorado	120.0	129.0	724.0	767.0	5.9
Connecticut	19.0	18.5	89.0	88.0	-1.1
Delaware	5.0	5.0	21.0	21.4	1.9
Florida	114.0	119.0	470.0	506.0	7.7
Georgia	77.0	76.0	315.0	326.0	3.5
Hawaii	1.9	1.9	6.6	6.8	3.0
Idaho	570.0	582.0	3,365.0	3,491.0	3.7
Illinois	100.0	98.0	454.0	451.0	-0.7
Indiana	169.0	171.0	842.0	856.0	1.7
Iowa	207.0	199.0	1,062.0	1,043.0	-1.8
Kansas	120.0	124.0	622.0	648.0	4.2
Kentucky	78.0	75.0	270.0	257.0	-4.8
Louisiana	19.0	18.0	49.0	48.0	-2.0
Maine	32.0	32.0	148.0	149.0	0.7
Maryland	53.0	52.0	241.0	237.0	-1.7
Massachusetts	13.5	12.5	60.0	54.0	-10.0
Michigan	359.0	368.0	2,104.0	2,123.0	0.9
Minnesota	470.0	471.0	2,256.0	2,172.0	-3.7
Mississippi	16.0	14.0	47.0	43.0	-8.5
Missouri	99.0	95.0	343.0	317.0	-7.6
Montana	14.0	14.0	72.0	73.0	1.4
Nebraska	58.0	57.0	290.0	288.0	-0.7
Nevada	28.0	29.0	158.0	167.0	5.7
New Hampshire	15.0	14.0	73.0	69.0	-5.5
New Jersey	7.5	7.5	34.0	33.0	-2.9
New Mexico	320.0	330.0	1,969.0	2,045.0	3.9
New York	611.0	610.0	3,224.0	3,218.0	-0.2
North Carolina	44.0	45.0	206.0	213.0	3.4
North Dakota	21.0	19.0	98.0	85.0	-13.3
Ohio	270.0	267.0	1,299.0	1,260.0	-3.0
Oklahoma	54.0	52.0	224.0	218.0	-2.7
Oregon	121.0	123.0	618.0	641.0	3.7
Pennsylvania	541.0	539.0	2,679.0	2,618.0	-2.3
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	4.9	4.8	-2.0
South Carolina	16.0	16.0	60.0	61.0	1.7
South Dakota	91.0	90.0	473.0	458.0	-3.2
Tennessee	52.0	49.0	194.0	182.0	-6.2
Texas	415.0	435.0	2,143.0	2,353.0	9.8
Utah	85.0	88.0	464.0	476.0	2.6
Vermont	136.0	134.0	628.0	629.0	0.2
Virginia	95.0	96.0	419.0	414.0	-1.2
Washington	252.0	265.0	1,510.0	1,603.0	6.2
West Virginia	10.0	10.0	39.0	39.0	
Wisconsin	1,263.0	1,264.0	6,532.0	6,504.0	-0.4
Wyoming	6.0	6.0	31.4	31.2	-0.6
United States	9,126.0	9,209.0	48,070.0	48,725.0	1.4

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 9.21 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	39	0	95	13	6
All milk cows	0.3	0.5	20	0	52	17	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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