



Milk Production

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April Milk Production Up 3.3 Percent

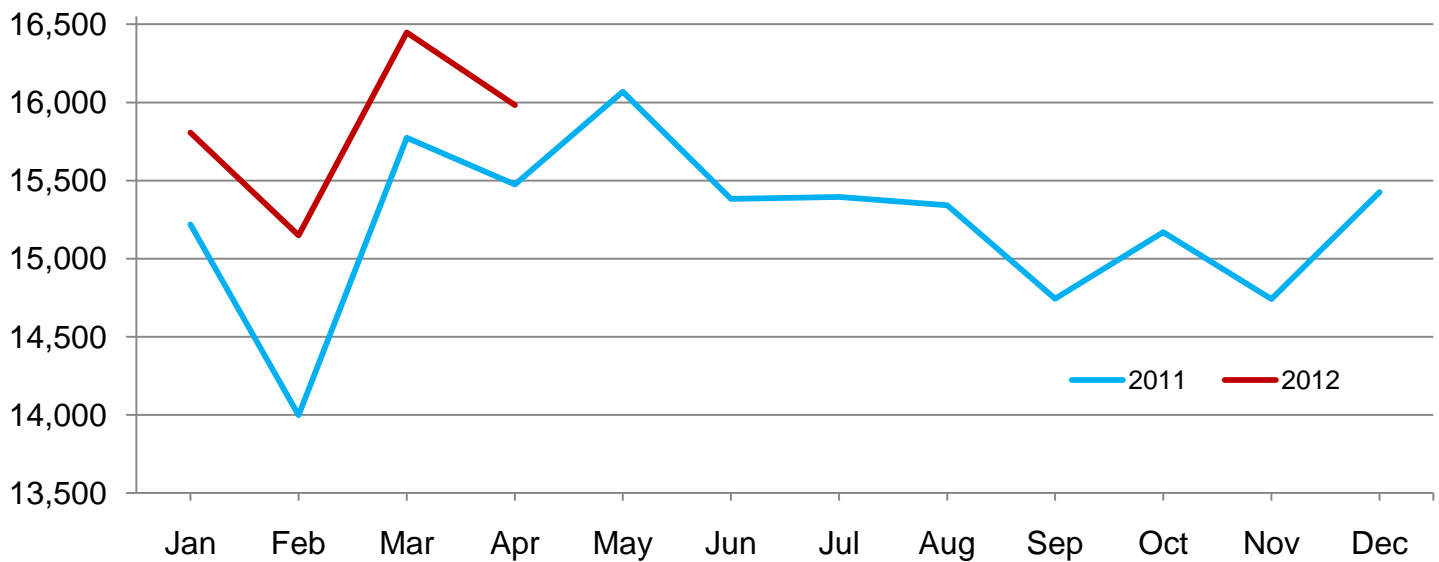
Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 16.0 billion pounds, up 3.3 percent from April 2011. March revised production at 16.4 billion pounds, was up 4.3 percent from March 2011. The March revision represented a decrease of 5 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,875 pounds for April, 40 pounds above April 2011.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.53 million head, 94,000 head more than April 2011, and 4,000 head more than March 2012.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2011-2012

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,168	9,254	5,286	5,510	48,459	50,990	5.2
April-June	9,191		5,489		50,448		
July-September	9,200		5,292		48,684		
October-December	9,216		5,279		48,654		
Annual	9,194		21,345		196,245		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production: By Month, 23 Selected States, 2011-2012

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,405	8,502	1,811	1,859	15,219	15,806	3.9
February	8,408	8,510	1,665	1,780	13,997	15,149	8.2
March	8,425	8,521	1,872	1,930	15,773	16,447	4.3
April	8,431	8,525	1,835	1,875	15,475	15,983	3.3
May	8,447		1,902		16,069		
June	8,450		1,820		15,382		
July	8,459		1,820		15,395		
August	8,463		1,813		15,342		
September	8,466		1,742		14,744		
October	8,475		1,790		15,170		
November	8,475		1,739		14,742		
December	8,485		1,818		15,426		
Annual	8,449		21,627		182,734		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2011-2012

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	Change from 2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,160	9,242	1,790	1,840	16,393	17,001	3.7
February	9,163	9,254	1,645	1,761	15,077	16,297	8.1
March	9,180	9,267	1,851	1,909	16,989	17,692	4.1
April	9,182	9,272	1,814	1,854	16,652	17,190	3.2
May	9,194		1,879		17,278		
June	9,196		1,796		16,518		
July	9,198		1,792		16,479		
August	9,200		1,785		16,422		
September	9,201		1,715		15,783		
October	9,212		1,767		16,278		
November	9,213		1,717		15,820		
December	9,223		1,795		16,556		
Annual	9,194		21,345		196,245		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: April 2011 and 2012

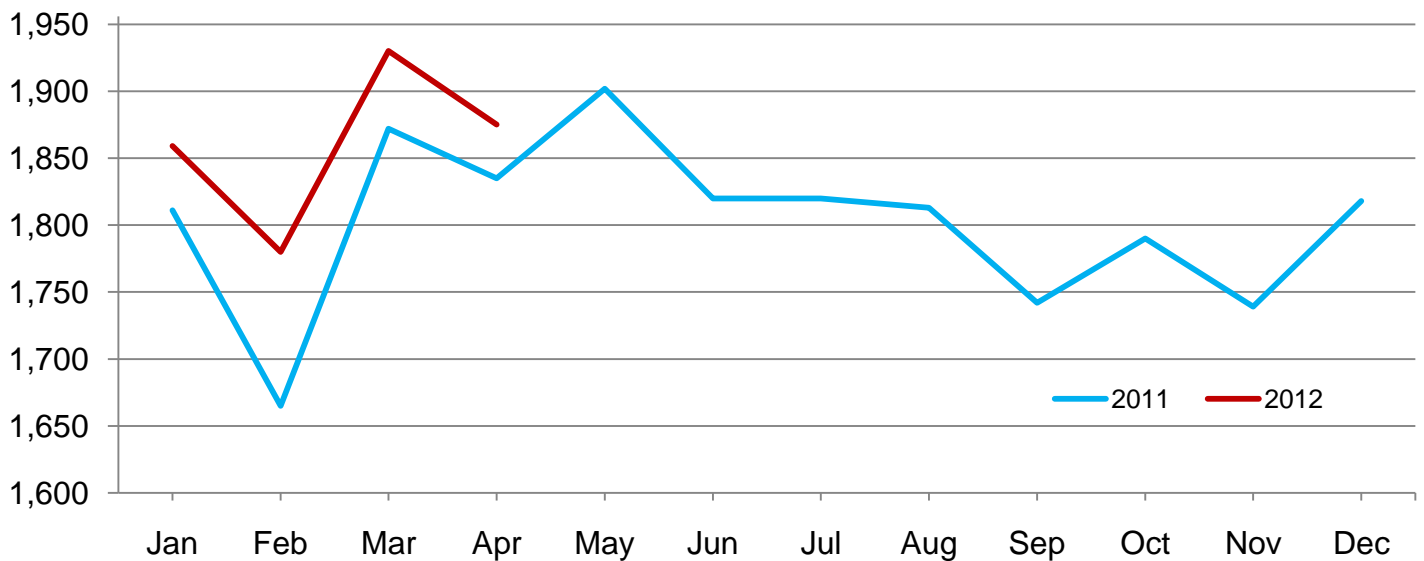
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	187	194	2,125	2,155	397	418	5.3
California	1,764	1,787	1,995	2,030	3,519	3,628	3.1
Colorado	126	132	1,985	2,020	250	267	6.8
Florida	119	122	1,740	1,760	207	215	3.9
Idaho	576	577	1,870	1,920	1,077	1,108	2.9
Illinois	98	100	1,680	1,730	165	173	4.8
Indiana	172	176	1,775	1,830	305	322	5.6
Iowa	209	207	1,780	1,855	372	384	3.2
Kansas	122	123	1,805	1,820	220	224	1.8
Michigan	362	376	1,955	2,000	708	752	6.2
Minnesota	469	465	1,620	1,655	760	770	1.3
Missouri	95	94	1,380	1,435	131	135	3.1
New Mexico	326	337	2,125	2,130	693	718	3.6
New York	610	610	1,770	1,835	1,080	1,119	3.6
Ohio	268	271	1,620	1,680	434	455	4.8
Oregon	119	123	1,730	1,730	206	213	3.4
Pennsylvania	543	538	1,690	1,690	918	909	-1.0
Texas	426	440	1,915	1,915	816	843	3.3
Utah	87	91	1,740	1,790	151	163	7.9
Vermont	135	133	1,595	1,625	215	216	0.5
Virginia	96	96	1,585	1,605	152	154	1.3
Washington	256	263	1,990	2,015	509	530	4.1
Wisconsin	1,266	1,270	1,730	1,785	2,190	2,267	3.5
23-State Total	8,431	8,525	1,835	1,875	15,475	15,983	3.3

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: March 2011 and 2012

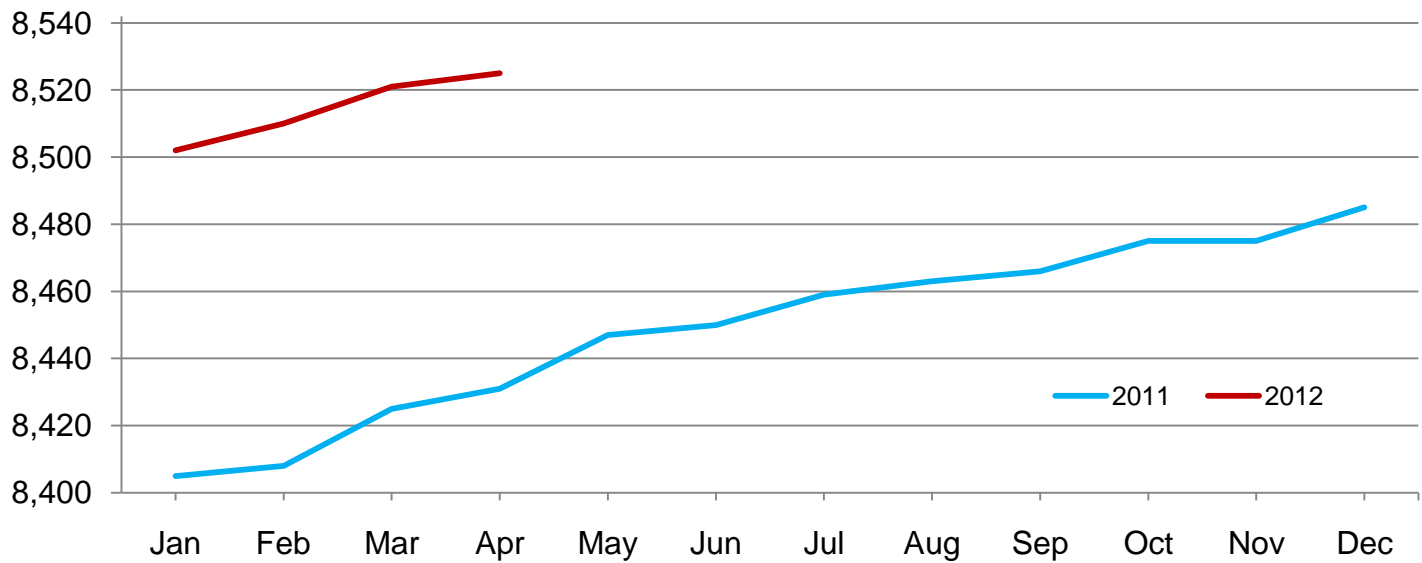
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	187	194	2,180	2,240	408	435	6.6
California	1,760	1,785	2,040	2,130	3,590	3,802	5.9
Colorado	125	132	2,015	2,045	252	270	7.1
Florida	119	122	1,865	1,865	222	228	2.7
Idaho	576	580	1,880	1,940	1,083	1,125	3.9
Illinois	98	100	1,715	1,770	168	177	5.4
Indiana	172	176	1,795	1,845	309	325	5.2
Iowa	209	205	1,825	1,895	381	388	1.8
Kansas	122	123	1,830	1,885	223	232	4.0
Michigan	364	375	1,985	2,070	723	776	7.3
Minnesota	469	465	1,660	1,705	779	793	1.8
Missouri	94	94	1,365	1,435	128	135	5.5
New Mexico	325	336	2,150	2,190	699	736	5.3
New York	610	610	1,810	1,865	1,104	1,138	3.1
Ohio	269	270	1,660	1,710	447	462	3.4
Oregon	119	123	1,750	1,750	208	215	3.4
Pennsylvania	543	540	1,710	1,710	929	923	-0.6
Texas	426	439	1,945	1,995	829	876	5.7
Utah	87	91	1,770	1,825	154	166	7.8
Vermont	135	133	1,635	1,660	221	221	
Virginia	96	96	1,615	1,645	155	158	1.9
Washington	254	263	2,025	2,040	514	537	4.5
Wisconsin	1,266	1,269	1,775	1,835	2,247	2,329	3.6
23-State Total	8,425	8,521	1,872	1,930	15,773	16,447	4.3

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 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 8.53 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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	0.1	0.2	17	1	60	15	9
All milk cows	0.1	0.2	6	0	17	14	9

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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