



Milk Production

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October Milk Production down slightly

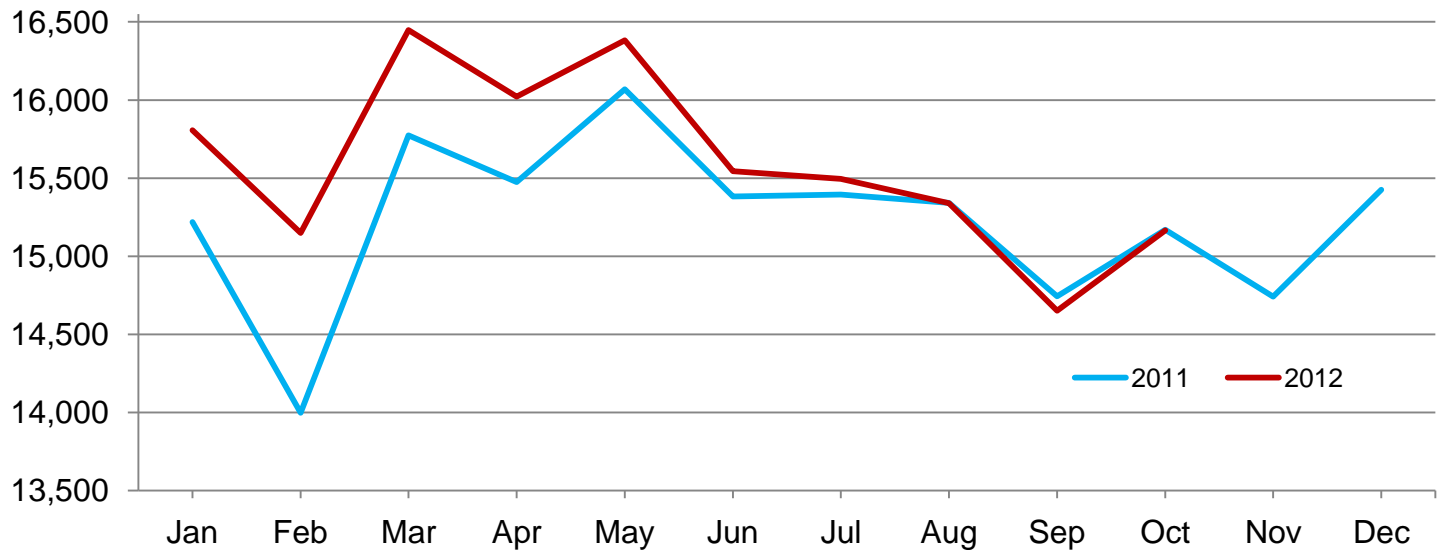
Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 15.2 billion pounds, down slightly from October 2011. September revised production at 14.7 billion pounds, was down 0.6 percent from September 2011. The September revision represented a decrease of 19 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,791 pounds for October, 1 pound above October 2011.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.47 million head, 10,000 head less than October 2011, and 8,000 head less than September 2012.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



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

[Totals 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	5,513	48,459	51,017	5.3
April-June	9,191	9,257	5,489	5,562	50,448	51,484	2.1
July-September	9,200	9,215	5,292	5,285	48,684	48,705	-
October-December	9,216		5,279		48,654		
Annual	9,194		21,345		196,245		

- Represents zero.

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	8,527	1,835	1,879	15,475	16,021	3.5
May	8,447	8,521	1,902	1,923	16,069	16,382	1.9
June	8,450	8,507	1,820	1,827	15,382	15,545	1.1
July	8,459	8,499	1,820	1,823	15,395	15,496	0.7
August	8,463	8,496	1,813	1,805	15,342	15,339	-
September	8,466	8,473	1,742	1,729	14,744	14,651	-0.6
October	8,475	8,465	1,790	1,791	15,170	15,165	-
November	8,475		1,739		14,742		
December	8,485		1,818		15,426		
Annual	8,449		21,627		182,734		

- Represents zero.

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	1,841	16,393	17,011	3.8
February	9,163	9,254	1,645	1,762	15,077	16,305	8.1
March	9,180	9,267	1,851	1,910	16,989	17,701	4.2
April	9,182	9,271	1,814	1,857	16,652	17,220	3.4
May	9,194	9,260	1,879	1,900	17,278	17,592	1.8
June	9,196	9,239	1,796	1,805	16,518	16,672	0.9
July	9,198	9,228	1,792	1,798	16,479	16,592	0.7
August	9,200	9,222	1,785	1,781	16,422	16,424	-
September	9,201	9,196	1,715	1,706	15,783	15,689	-0.6
October	9,212	9,187	1,767	1,769	16,278	16,255	-0.1
November	9,213		1,717		15,820		
December	9,223		1,795		16,556		
Annual	9,194		21,345		196,245		

- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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

State	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)
Arizona	192	180	1,865	1,900	358	342	-4.5
California	1,776	1,778	1,930	1,860	3,428	3,307	-3.5
Colorado	131	135	1,955	2,005	256	271	5.9
Florida	120	123	1,350	1,310	162	161	-0.6
Idaho	581	577	1,930	1,960	1,121	1,131	0.9
Illinois	98	100	1,600	1,580	157	158	0.6
Indiana	173	173	1,720	1,750	298	303	1.7
Iowa	199	203	1,805	1,795	359	364	1.4
Kansas	123	126	1,765	1,810	217	228	5.1
Michigan	369	374	1,925	1,950	710	729	2.7
Minnesota	466	465	1,555	1,605	725	746	2.9
Missouri	95	93	1,180	1,180	112	110	-1.8
New Mexico	332	324	2,100	2,025	697	656	-5.9
New York	610	610	1,725	1,770	1,052	1,080	2.7
Ohio	268	270	1,600	1,630	429	440	2.6
Oregon	122	123	1,705	1,690	208	208	-
Pennsylvania	538	533	1,620	1,630	872	869	-0.3
Texas	435	430	1,870	1,795	813	772	-5.0
Utah	87	88	1,800	1,810	157	159	1.3
Vermont	134	133	1,560	1,595	209	212	1.4
Virginia	96	95	1,450	1,455	139	138	-0.7
Washington	266	261	1,965	1,960	523	512	-2.1
Wisconsin	1,264	1,271	1,715	1,785	2,168	2,269	4.7
23-State Total	8,475	8,465	1,790	1,791	15,170	15,165	-

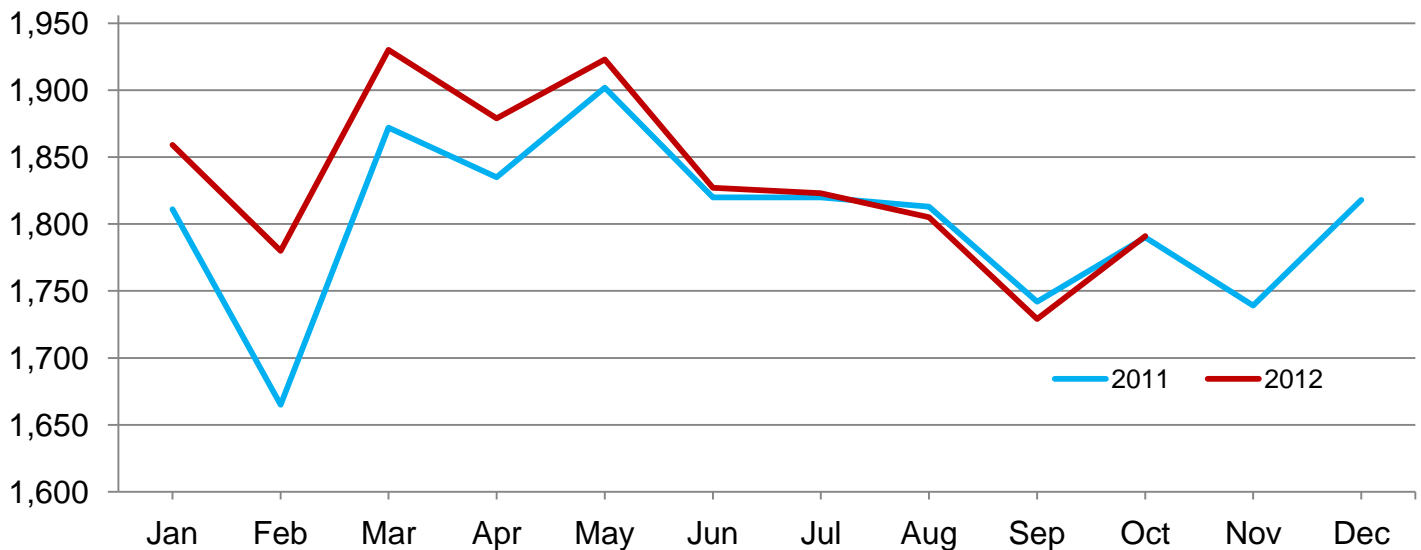
- Represents zero.

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: September 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	189	181	1,765	1,745	334	316	-5.4
California	1,776	1,779	1,865	1,790	3,312	3,184	-3.9
Colorado	130	135	1,930	1,955	251	264	5.2
Florida	119	123	1,300	1,250	155	154	-0.6
Idaho	582	580	1,920	1,930	1,117	1,119	0.2
Illinois	98	100	1,520	1,490	149	149	-
Indiana	173	173	1,640	1,650	284	285	0.4
Iowa	198	201	1,750	1,720	347	346	-0.3
Kansas	123	126	1,705	1,740	210	219	4.3
Michigan	367	374	1,870	1,885	686	705	2.8
Minnesota	466	465	1,520	1,550	708	721	1.8
Missouri	95	93	1,110	1,110	105	103	-1.9
New Mexico	331	326	2,020	1,960	669	639	-4.5
New York	610	610	1,700	1,740	1,037	1,061	2.3
Ohio	268	270	1,550	1,540	415	416	0.2
Oregon	122	123	1,680	1,665	205	205	-
Pennsylvania	537	533	1,590	1,560	854	831	-2.7
Texas	435	433	1,780	1,705	774	738	-4.7
Utah	88	88	1,760	1,760	155	155	-
Vermont	134	133	1,515	1,550	203	206	1.5
Virginia	96	95	1,405	1,380	135	131	-3.0
Washington	265	261	1,945	1,935	515	505	-1.9
Wisconsin	1,264	1,271	1,680	1,730	2,124	2,199	3.5
23-State Total	8,466	8,473	1,742	1,729	14,744	14,651	-0.6

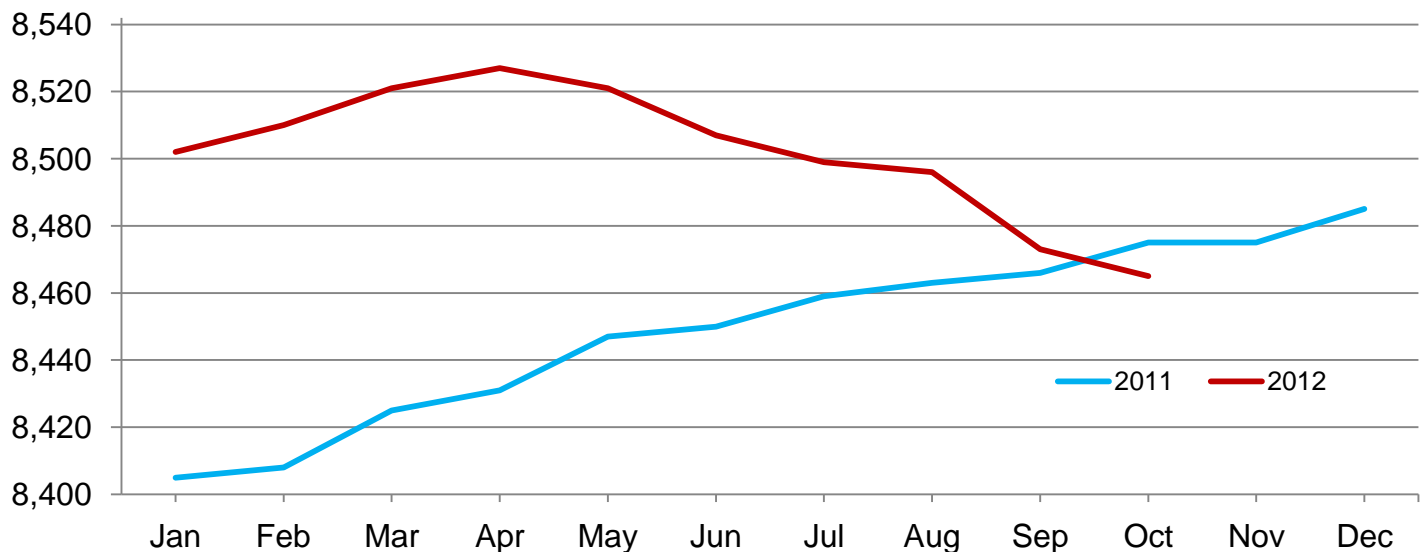
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² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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 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 8.47 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	0.1	0.2	16	1	50	13	11
All milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	0	12	11	11

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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