



Milk Production

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Special Note

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February Milk Production down 3.4 Percent

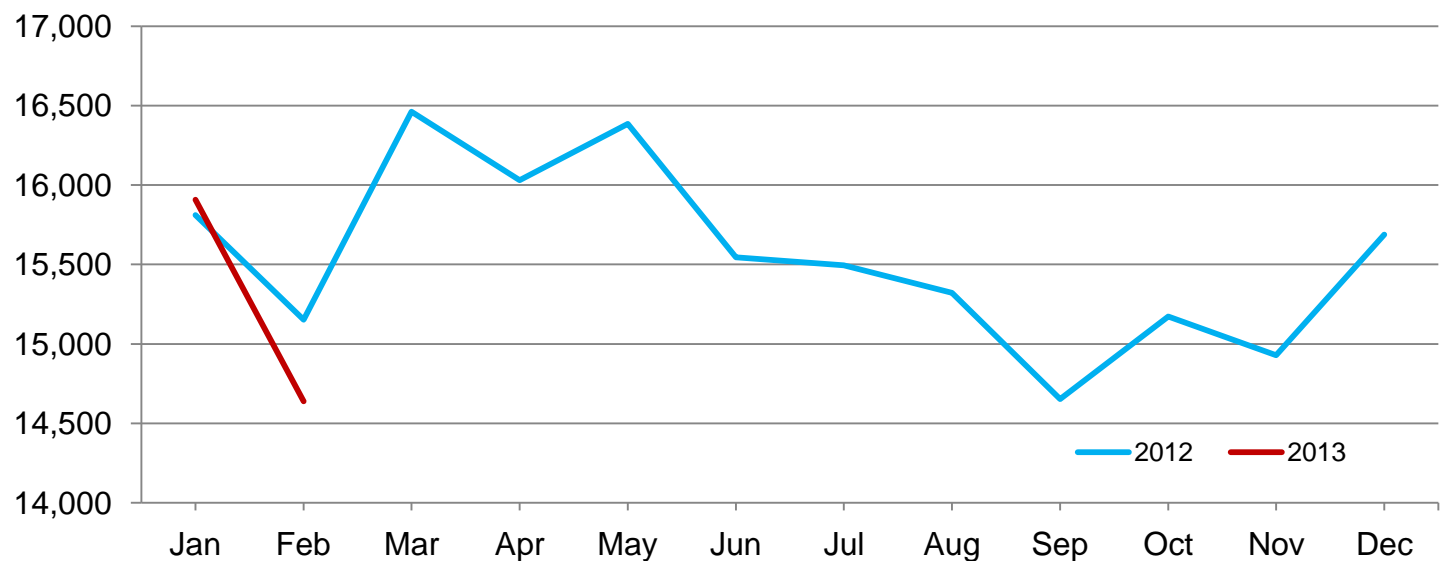
Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 14.6 billion pounds, down 3.4 percent from February 2012. However, production was 0.1 percent above last year after adjusting for the leap year. January revised production at 15.9 billion pounds, was up 0.6 percent from January 2012. The January revision represented an increase of 6 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,722 pounds for February, 58 pounds below February 2012.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.50 million head, 13,000 head less than February 2012, but 2,000 head more than January 2013.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2012-2013

[Totals may not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	Change from 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,257		5,514		51,044		
April-June	9,259		5,563		51,509		
July-September	9,211		5,284		48,675		
October-December	9,203		5,335		49,096		
Annual	9,233		21,697		200,324		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 23 Selected States: 2012-2013

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	Change from 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,502	8,498	1,860	1,872	15,810	15,907	0.6
February	8,513	8,500	1,780	1,722	15,153	14,638	-3.4
March	8,525		1,931		16,462		
April	8,529		1,880		16,031		
May	8,525		1,922		16,384		
June	8,509		1,827		15,544		
July	8,494		1,824		15,495		
August	8,492		1,804		15,322		
September	8,473		1,729		14,653		
October	8,467		1,792		15,172		
November	8,478		1,761		14,929		
December	8,494		1,847		15,688		
Annual	8,500		21,957		186,643		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2012-2013

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	Change from 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,242	9,223	1,841	1,855	17,016	17,105	0.5
February	9,257	9,225	1,762	1,706	16,310	15,740	-3.5
March	9,271		1,911		17,718		
April	9,273		1,858		17,232		
May	9,263		1,900		17,601		
June	9,241		1,805		16,676		
July	9,222		1,798		16,585		
August	9,217		1,780		16,403		
September	9,195		1,706		15,687		
October	9,189		1,770		16,267		
November	9,201		1,740		16,008		
December	9,218		1,825		16,821		
Annual	9,233		21,697		200,324		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: February 2012 and 2013

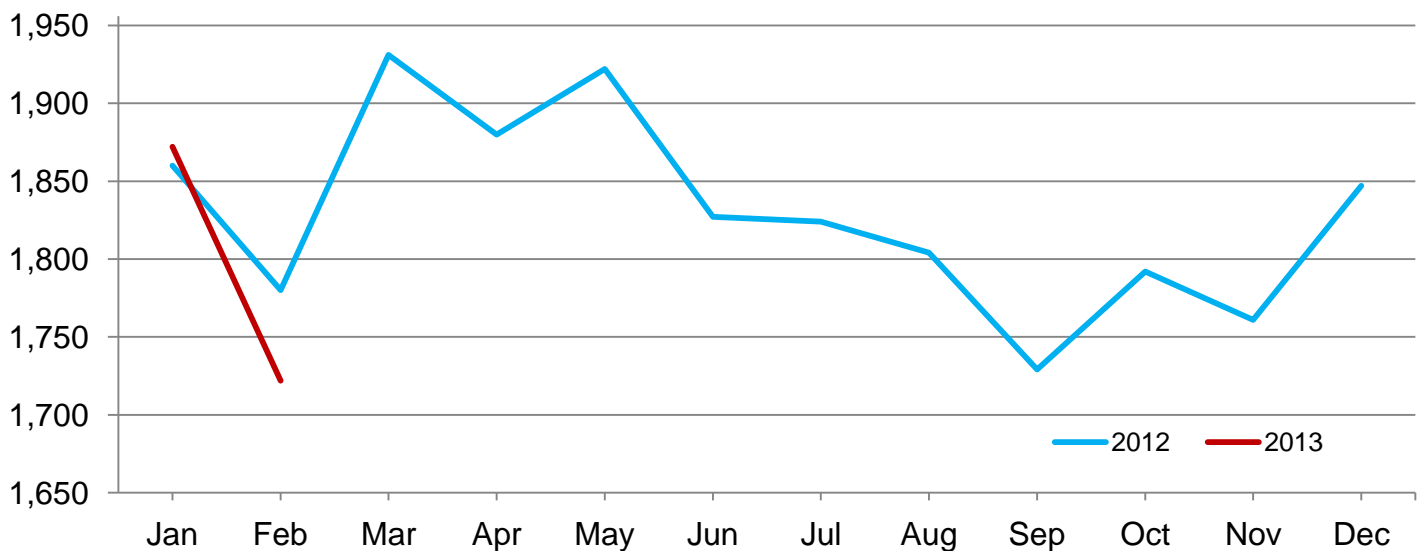
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	Change from 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	192	190	2,060	1,940	396	369	-6.8
California	1,784	1,782	1,965	1,810	3,506	3,225	-8.0
Colorado	133	135	1,865	1,865	248	252	1.6
Florida	122	122	1,720	1,655	210	202	-3.8
Idaho	581	579	1,800	1,730	1,046	1,002	-4.2
Illinois	100	100	1,630	1,600	163	160	-1.8
Indiana	176	175	1,740	1,735	306	304	-0.7
Iowa	205	204	1,760	1,730	361	353	-2.2
Kansas	124	132	1,725	1,680	214	222	3.7
Michigan	374	377	1,875	1,870	701	705	0.6
Minnesota	465	465	1,580	1,565	735	728	-1.0
Missouri	93	93	1,215	1,160	113	108	-4.4
New Mexico	335	322	1,985	1,985	665	639	-3.9
New York	610	610	1,730	1,695	1,055	1,034	-2.0
Ohio	270	271	1,610	1,590	435	431	-0.9
Oregon	123	123	1,600	1,570	197	193	-2.0
Pennsylvania	541	534	1,570	1,560	849	833	-1.9
Texas	436	435	1,835	1,740	800	757	-5.4
Utah	91	89	1,690	1,620	154	144	-6.5
Vermont	133	134	1,535	1,500	204	201	-1.5
Virginia	96	94	1,510	1,460	145	137	-5.5
Washington	263	264	1,895	1,820	498	480	-3.6
Wisconsin	1,266	1,270	1,700	1,700	2,152	2,159	0.3
23-State Total	8,513	8,500	1,780	1,722	15,153	14,638	-3.4

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 2012 and 2013

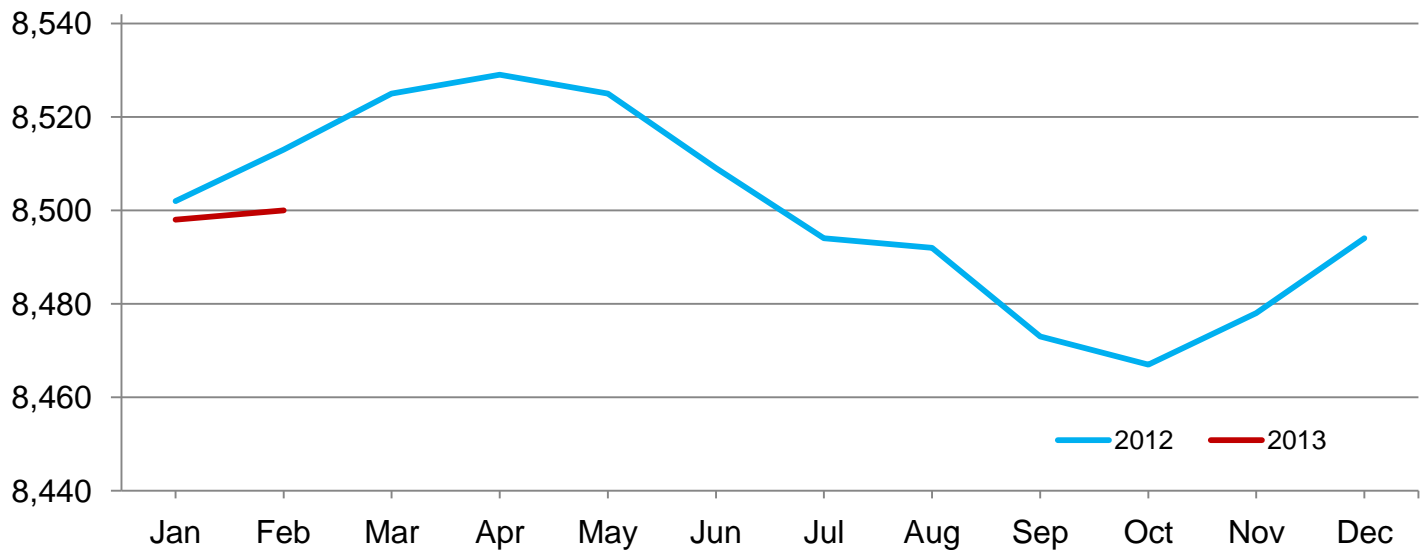
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2012
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	190	190	2,100	2,075	399	394	-1.3
California	1,782	1,780	2,030	1,945	3,617	3,462	-4.3
Colorado	133	135	1,970	2,040	262	275	5.0
Florida	122	122	1,780	1,730	217	211	-2.8
Idaho	581	579	1,920	1,910	1,116	1,106	-0.9
Illinois	100	100	1,710	1,730	171	173	1.2
Indiana	175	175	1,800	1,840	315	322	2.2
Iowa	205	205	1,865	1,905	382	391	2.4
Kansas	123	132	1,800	1,855	221	245	10.9
Michigan	372	377	1,990	2,060	740	777	5.0
Minnesota	465	465	1,660	1,715	772	797	3.2
Missouri	93	93	1,270	1,235	118	115	-2.5
New Mexico	335	320	2,045	2,150	685	688	0.4
New York	610	610	1,800	1,855	1,098	1,132	3.1
Ohio	270	271	1,655	1,710	447	463	3.6
Oregon	123	123	1,685	1,675	207	206	-0.5
Pennsylvania	540	535	1,660	1,690	896	904	0.9
Texas	435	435	1,900	1,880	827	818	-1.1
Utah	91	89	1,805	1,780	164	158	-3.7
Vermont	133	134	1,625	1,650	216	221	2.3
Virginia	96	94	1,575	1,600	151	150	-0.7
Washington	263	264	1,995	1,985	525	524	-0.2
Wisconsin	1,265	1,270	1,790	1,870	2,264	2,375	4.9
23-State Total	8,502	8,498	1,860	1,872	15,810	15,907	0.6

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 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 8.50 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	0	58	12	11
All milk cows	0.1	0.1	5	1	12	12	12

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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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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