



Milk Production

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August Milk Production up 2.1 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during August totaled 17.0 billion pounds, up 2.1 percent from August 2016. July revised production, at 17.2 billion pounds, was up 2.1 percent from July 2016. The July revision represented an increase of 31 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,948 pounds for August, 26 pounds above August 2016. This is the highest production per cow for the month of August since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.73 million head, 66,000 head more than August 2016, but unchanged from July 2017.

August Milk Production in the United States up 2.0 Percent

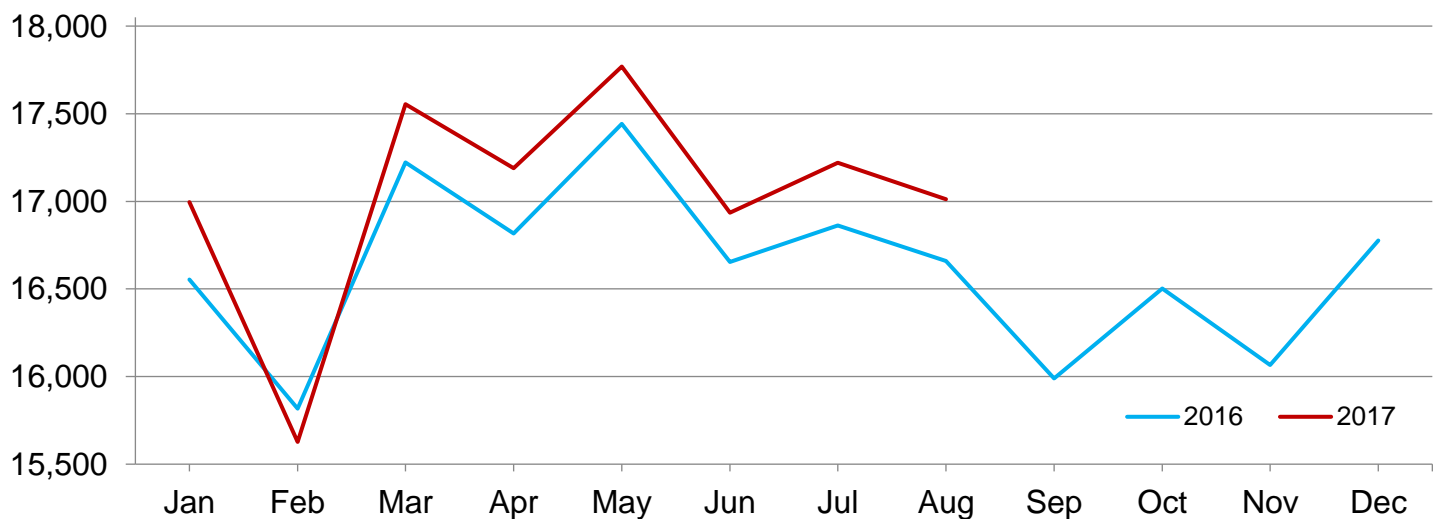
Milk production in the United States during August totaled 18.1 billion pounds, up 2.0 percent from August 2016.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,919 pounds for August, 24 pounds above August 2016.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.41 million head, 71,000 head more than August 2016, but unchanged from July 2017.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2016-2017

[May not add due to rounding. Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change from 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,312	9,370	5,691	5,717	52,998	53,568	1.1
April-June	9,323	9,399	5,828	5,885	54,331	55,313	1.8
July-September	9,331		5,636		52,590		
October-December	9,344		5,620		52,517		
Annual	9,328		22,774		212,436		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production By Month – 23 Selected States: 2016-2017

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change from 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,621	8,691	1,920	1,955	16,553	16,995	2.7
February	8,628	8,694	1,833	1,797	15,817	15,627	-1.2
March	8,637	8,711	1,994	2,015	17,222	17,554	1.9
April	8,638	8,720	1,947	1,971	16,817	17,189	2.2
May	8,641	8,727	2,019	2,036	17,442	17,769	1.9
June	8,648	8,731	1,926	1,940	16,654	16,935	1.7
July	8,658	8,732	1,948	1,972	16,863	17,220	2.1
August	8,666	8,732	1,922	1,948	16,659	17,011	2.1
September	8,664		1,845		15,989		
October	8,668		1,904		16,503		
November	8,675		1,852		16,066		
December	8,683		1,932		16,777		
Annual	8,652		23,042		199,362		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production By Month – United States: 2016-2017

[Blank data cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	Change from 2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,304	9,362	1,902	1,938	17,693	18,145	2.6
February	9,311	9,365	1,815	1,782	16,904	16,684	-1.3
March	9,321	9,382	1,974	1,997	18,401	18,739	1.8
April	9,321	9,392	1,925	1,950	17,947	18,319	2.1
May	9,322	9,400	1,997	2,015	18,613	18,942	1.8
June	9,326	9,404	1,906	1,920	17,771	18,052	1.6
July	9,329	9,405	1,920	1,943	17,908	18,270	2.0
August	9,334	9,405	1,895	1,919	17,692	18,050	2.0
September	9,331		1,821		16,990		
October	9,335		1,882		17,565		
November	9,344		1,830		17,100		
December	9,354		1,908		17,852		
Annual	9,328		22,774		212,436		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: August 2016 and 2017

[May not add due to rounding]

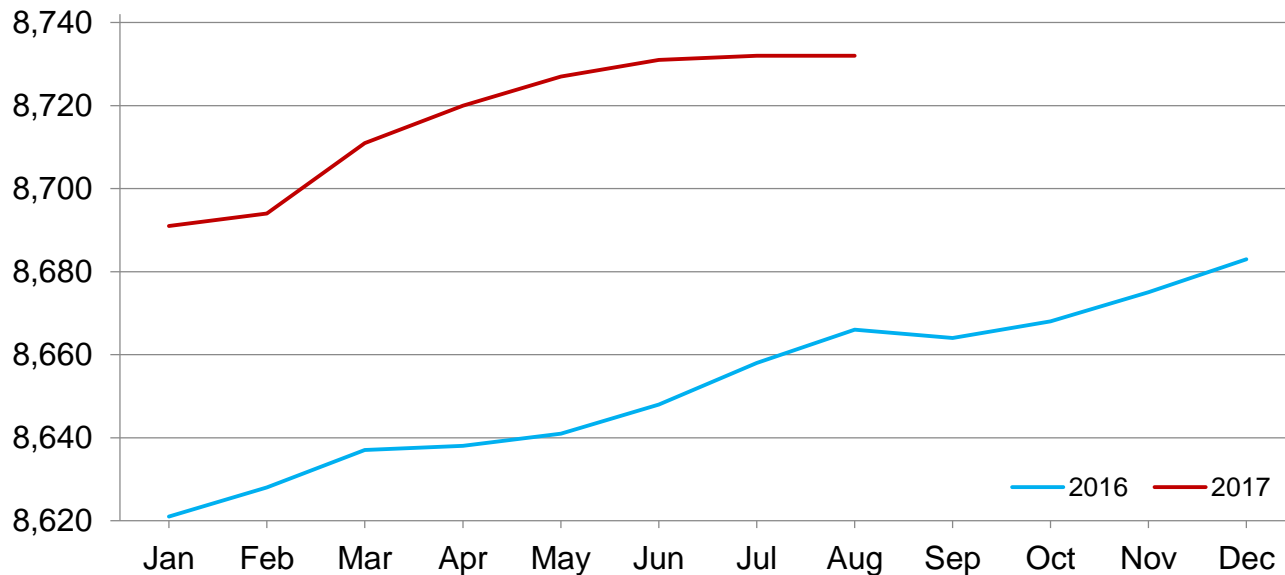
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2016
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	197	203	1,880	1,890	370	384	3.8
California	1,759	1,746	1,870	1,870	3,289	3,265	-0.7
Colorado	152	160	2,235	2,250	340	360	5.9
Florida	120	124	1,585	1,575	190	195	2.6
Idaho	599	601	2,155	2,145	1,291	1,289	-0.2
Illinois	94	93	1,615	1,675	152	156	2.6
Indiana	184	187	1,870	1,870	344	350	1.7
Iowa	214	217	1,970	2,000	422	434	2.8
Kansas	146	152	1,905	1,925	278	293	5.4
Michigan	422	427	2,180	2,220	920	948	3.0
Minnesota	462	458	1,745	1,830	806	838	4.0
New Mexico	317	331	2,085	2,065	661	684	3.5
New York	620	624	2,015	2,040	1,249	1,273	1.9
Ohio	264	262	1,730	1,785	457	468	2.4
Oregon	125	124	1,745	1,735	218	215	-1.4
Pennsylvania	529	525	1,675	1,735	886	911	2.8
South Dakota	115	118	1,880	1,905	216	225	4.2
Texas	485	515	1,895	1,950	919	1,004	9.2
Utah	90	96	1,960	2,020	176	194	10.2
Vermont	130	129	1,745	1,775	227	229	0.9
Virginia	89	87	1,540	1,620	137	141	2.9
Washington	275	275	2,065	2,060	568	567	-0.2
Wisconsin	1,278	1,278	1,990	2,025	2,543	2,588	1.8
23-State Total	8,666	8,732	1,922	1,948	16,659	17,011	2.1

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 – 23 Selected States: July 2016 and 2017

[May not add due to rounding]

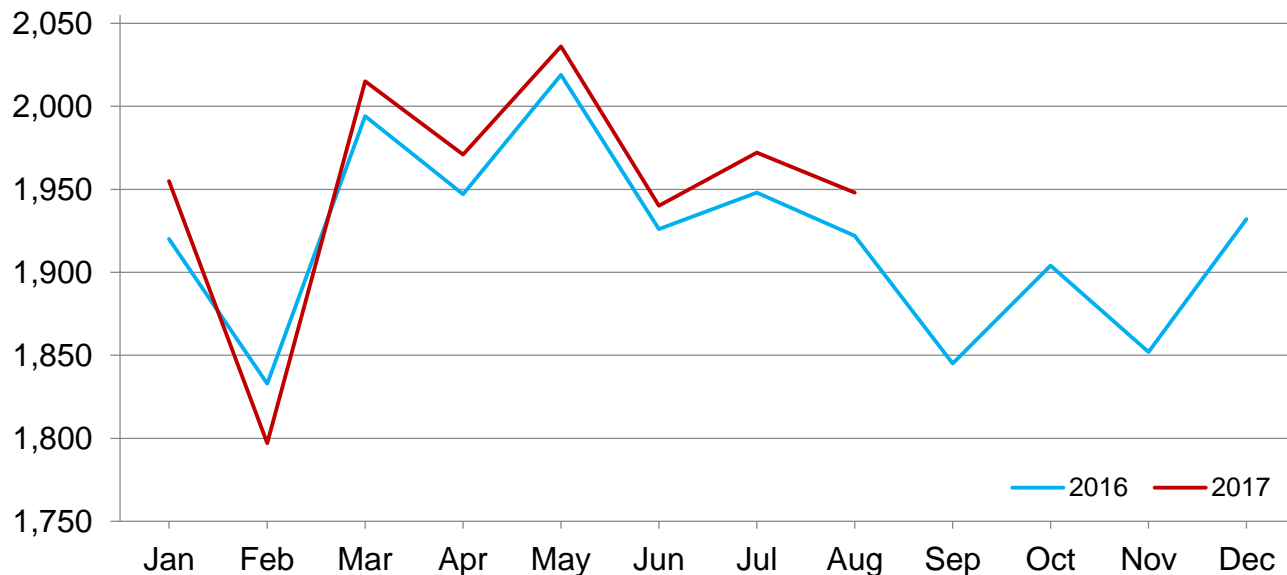
	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2016
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	196	203	1,940	1,960	380	398	4.7
California	1,760	1,747	1,920	1,930	3,379	3,372	-0.2
Colorado	152	160	2,225	2,255	338	361	6.8
Florida	121	124	1,645	1,645	199	204	2.5
Idaho	599	601	2,165	2,160	1,297	1,298	0.1
Illinois	94	93	1,660	1,690	156	157	0.6
Indiana	184	186	1,870	1,870	344	348	1.2
Iowa	214	217	1,985	2,005	425	435	2.4
Kansas	145	151	1,880	1,920	273	290	6.2
Michigan	420	427	2,220	2,255	932	963	3.3
Minnesota	462	458	1,765	1,840	815	843	3.4
New Mexico	313	332	2,080	2,125	651	706	8.4
New York	620	624	2,050	2,045	1,271	1,276	0.4
Ohio	266	262	1,770	1,790	471	469	-0.4
Oregon	125	124	1,785	1,755	223	218	-2.2
Pennsylvania	530	525	1,720	1,730	912	908	-0.4
South Dakota	115	118	1,870	1,905	215	225	4.7
Texas	480	515	1,860	1,990	893	1,025	14.8
Utah	90	96	1,970	2,030	177	195	10.2
Vermont	130	129	1,770	1,800	230	232	0.9
Virginia	89	87	1,585	1,605	141	140	-0.7
Washington	275	275	2,080	2,070	572	569	-0.5
Wisconsin	1,278	1,278	2,010	2,025	2,569	2,588	0.7
23-State Total	8,658	8,732	1,948	1,972	16,863	17,220	2.1

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



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 Cattle Survey.

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, milk per cow, and number of milk cows are subject to revision the following month after initial publication for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, administrative data from Federal Market Orders, State Departments of Agriculture, or other sources are the main basis for revisions. However, administrative data for all States may not be available in time for these revisions. 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 in the table below. 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 production 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 17.0 billion pounds 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	18	1	41	14	10
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	0	10	9	13

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.

Vacant, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
David Colwell – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-8784
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Michael Klamm – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.

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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USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting Tuesday, October 24, 2017

**Embassy Suites Hotel Kansas City Plaza
220 West 43rd Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-756-1720**

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2017 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php) or contact Zisa Lubarov-Walton (NASS) at 202-720-8141 or at zisa.lubarov-walton@nass.usda.gov.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (<http://lmic.info/page/meetings>) or contact James Robb at (303) 716-9933.