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## April Milk Production up 0.7 Percent

**Milk production** in the 23 major States during April totaled 17.3 billion pounds, up 0.7 percent from April 2017. March revised production, at 17.8 billion pounds, was up 1.4 percent from March 2017. The March revision represented a decrease of 9 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,982 pounds for April, 10 pounds above April 2017. This is the highest production per cow for the month of April since the 23 State series began in 2003.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.74 million head, 14,000 head more than April 2017, but 2,000 head less than March 2018.

## April Milk Production in the United States up 0.6 Percent

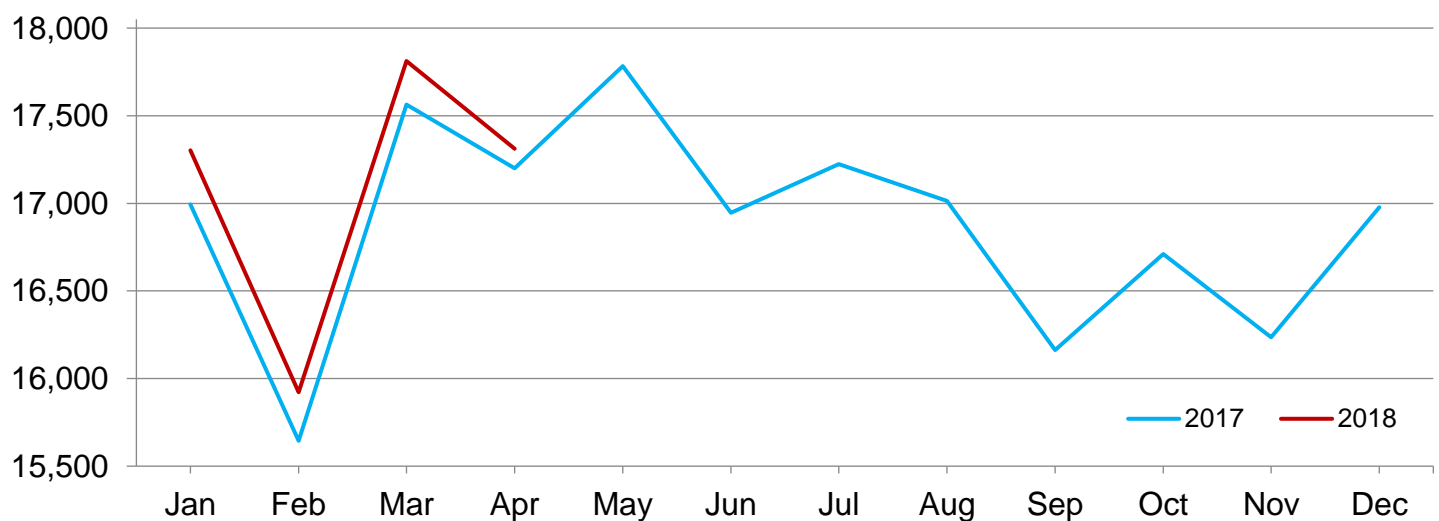
**Milk production** in the United States during April totaled 18.4 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from April 2017.

**Production per cow** in the United States averaged 1,961 pounds for April, 9 pounds above April 2017.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the United States was 9.40 million head, 8,000 head more than April 2017, but 2,000 head less than March 2018.

## Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



## Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2017-2018

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

Quarter	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change from 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March .....	9,369	9,406	5,717	5,781	53,562	54,376	1.5
April-June .....	9,399		5,888		55,344		
July-September .....	9,402		5,687		53,473		
October-December .....	9,398		5,649		53,087		
Annual .....	9,392		22,941		215,466		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production by Month – 23 Selected States: 2017-2018

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

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change from 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	8,691	8,744	1,955	1,979	16,993	17,302	1.8
February .....	8,696	8,745	1,799	1,821	15,645	15,922	1.8
March .....	8,714	8,738	2,016	2,038	17,564	17,812	1.4
April .....	8,722	8,736	1,972	1,982	17,200	17,312	0.7
May .....	8,730		2,037		17,783		
June .....	8,733		1,941		16,947		
July .....	8,734		1,972		17,224		
August .....	8,741		1,946		17,014		
September .....	8,737		1,850		16,162		
October .....	8,731		1,914		16,710		
November .....	8,734		1,859		16,235		
December .....	8,736		1,943		16,978		
Annual .....	8,725		23,204		202,455		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2017-2018

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

Month	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change from 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January .....	9,359	9,407	1,937	1,959	18,128	18,433	1.7
February .....	9,365	9,408	1,783	1,803	16,694	16,965	1.6
March .....	9,383	9,402	1,997	2,019	18,740	18,978	1.3
April .....	9,392	9,400	1,952	1,961	18,332	18,435	0.6
May .....	9,401		2,016		18,952		
June .....	9,404		1,920		18,060		
July .....	9,404		1,943		18,268		
August .....	9,404		1,919		18,049		
September .....	9,399		1,825		17,156		
October .....	9,395		1,891		17,769		
November .....	9,398		1,837		17,260		
December .....	9,400		1,921		18,058		
Annual .....	9,392		22,941		215,466		

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: April 2017 and 2018

[May not add due to rounding]

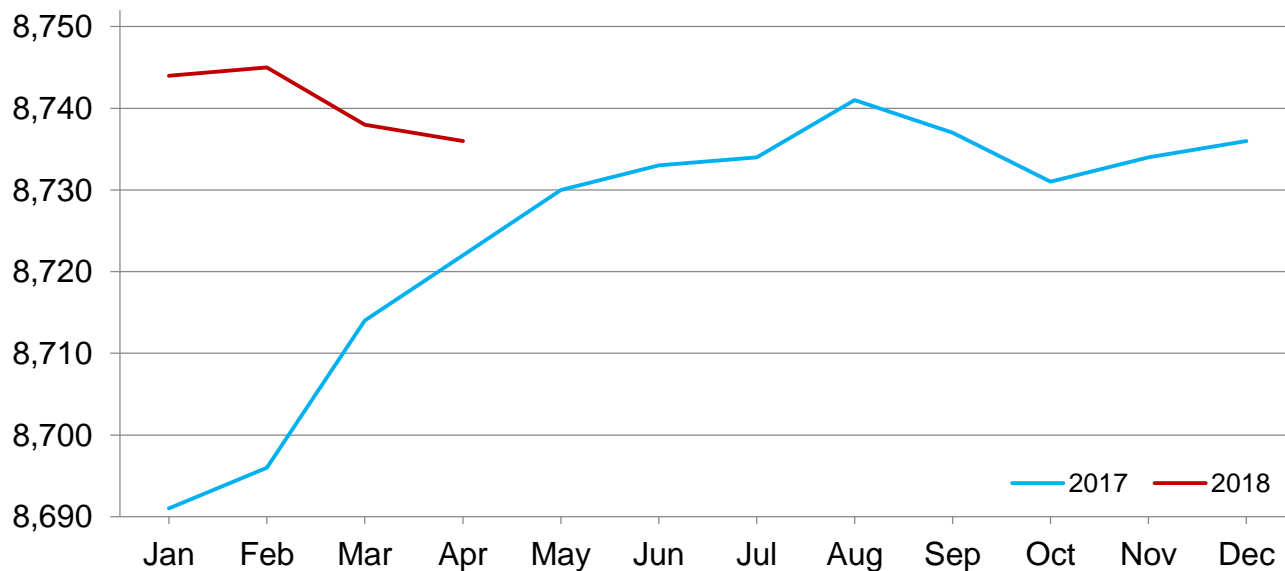
State	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	Change from 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	204	207	2,205	2,200	450	455	1.1
California .....	1,755	1,736	1,960	1,990	3,440	3,455	0.4
Colorado .....	159	171	2,165	2,210	344	378	9.9
Florida .....	124	123	1,830	1,805	227	222	-2.2
Idaho .....	596	605	2,000	2,040	1,192	1,234	3.5
Illinois .....	93	93	1,810	1,800	168	167	-0.6
Indiana .....	186	187	1,955	1,960	364	367	0.8
Iowa .....	217	220	1,995	2,000	433	440	1.6
Kansas .....	152	157	1,955	1,990	297	312	5.1
Michigan .....	426	423	2,225	2,210	948	935	-1.4
Minnesota .....	459	454	1,810	1,790	831	813	-2.2
New Mexico .....	328	334	2,150	2,165	705	723	2.6
New York .....	623	625	2,035	1,980	1,268	1,238	-2.4
Ohio .....	262	257	1,835	1,825	481	469	-2.5
Oregon .....	124	121	1,725	1,720	214	208	-2.8
Pennsylvania .....	525	525	1,805	1,775	948	932	-1.7
South Dakota .....	117	120	1,855	1,840	217	221	1.8
Texas .....	510	520	2,010	2,110	1,025	1,097	7.0
Utah .....	94	97	1,940	1,975	182	192	5.5
Vermont .....	129	127	1,785	1,755	230	223	-3.0
Virginia .....	87	85	1,765	1,740	154	148	-3.9
Washington .....	273	275	1,990	2,035	543	560	3.1
Wisconsin .....	1,279	1,274	1,985	1,980	2,539	2,523	-0.6
23-State Total .....	8,722	8,736	1,972	1,982	17,200	17,312	0.7

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



## Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: March 2017 and 2018

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows <sup>1</sup>		Milk per cow <sup>2</sup>		Milk production <sup>2</sup>		Change from 2017
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona .....	202	207	2,285	2,265	462	469	1.5
California .....	1,755	1,736	1,995	2,070	3,501	3,594	2.7
Colorado .....	158	171	2,235	2,255	353	386	9.3
Florida .....	124	123	1,925	1,895	239	233	-2.5
Idaho .....	596	605	2,025	2,075	1,207	1,255	4.0
Illinois .....	93	93	1,860	1,875	173	174	0.6
Indiana .....	186	187	1,995	2,025	371	379	2.2
Iowa .....	216	220	2,045	2,035	442	448	1.4
Kansas .....	153	156	2,030	2,050	311	320	2.9
Michigan .....	425	425	2,265	2,260	963	961	-0.2
Minnesota .....	459	454	1,855	1,865	851	847	-0.5
New Mexico .....	327	334	2,220	2,215	726	740	1.9
New York .....	622	625	2,055	2,020	1,278	1,263	-1.2
Ohio .....	262	258	1,865	1,860	489	480	-1.8
Oregon .....	124	121	1,775	1,750	220	212	-3.6
Pennsylvania .....	525	525	1,840	1,835	966	963	-0.3
South Dakota .....	117	120	1,915	1,900	224	228	1.8
Texas .....	507	518	2,100	2,155	1,065	1,116	4.8
Utah .....	94	97	1,950	1,985	183	193	5.5
Vermont .....	129	128	1,820	1,805	235	231	-1.7
Virginia .....	87	86	1,795	1,765	156	152	-2.6
Washington .....	273	275	2,020	2,070	551	569	3.3
Wisconsin .....	1,280	1,274	2,030	2,040	2,598	2,599	-
23-State Total .....	8,714	8,738	2,016	2,038	17,564	17,812	1.4

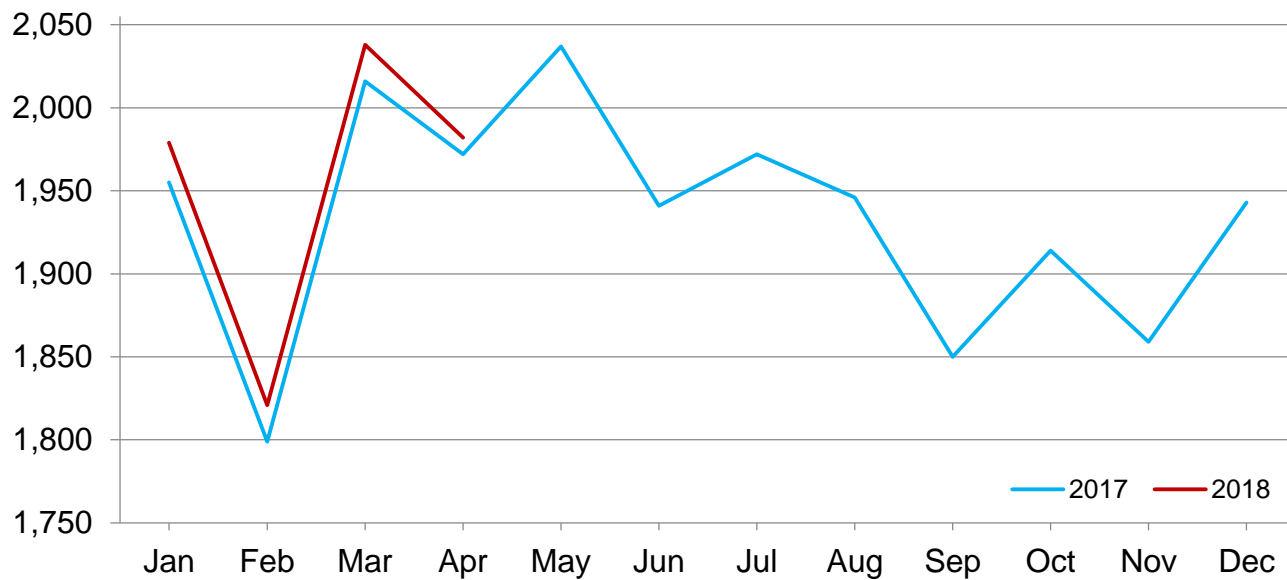
- Represents zero.

<sup>1</sup> Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

<sup>2</sup> 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 such as Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Dairy Market News. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January Cattle Survey.

**Estimation Procedures:** Regional Field 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 17.3 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	2	48	14	10
All Milk cows .....	0.1	0.1	4	0	10	13	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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 720-3240
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3236
Heidi Gleich – 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

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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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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