



Milk Production

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May Milk Production up 0.9 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during May totaled 17.9 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from May 2017. April revised production, at 17.3 billion pounds, was up 0.5 percent from April 2017. The April revision represented a decrease of 18 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 2,052 pounds for May, 15 pounds above May 2017. This is the highest production per cow for the month of May 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, 10,000 head more than May 2017, and 2,000 head more than April 2018.

May Milk Production in the United States up 0.8 Percent

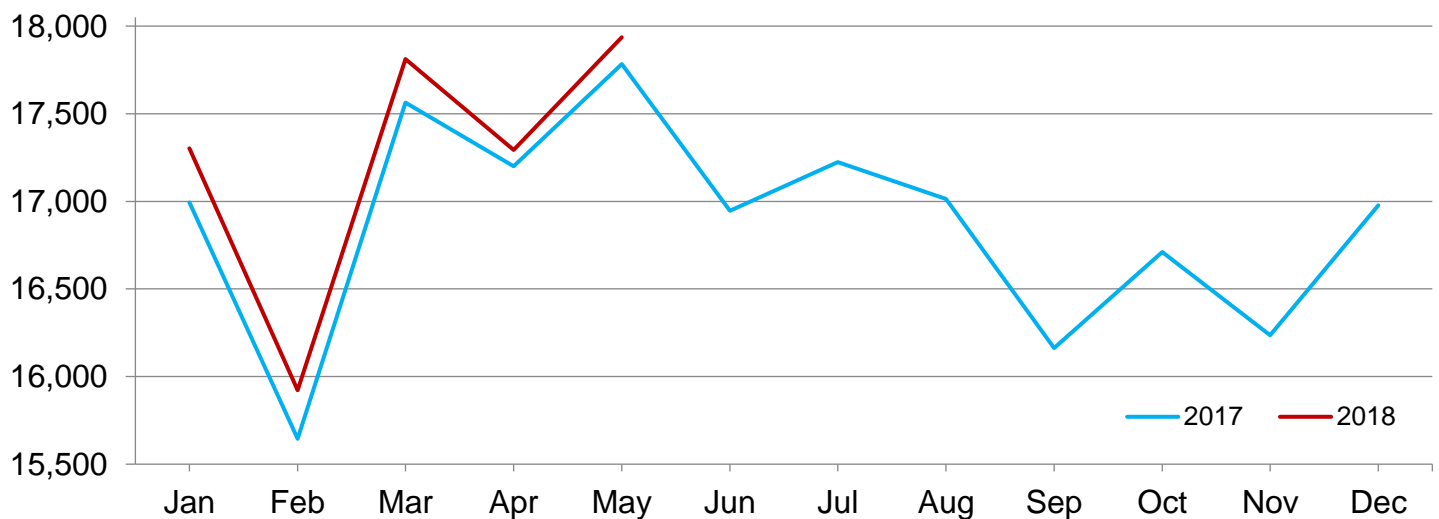
Milk production in the United States during May totaled 19.1 billion pounds, up 0.8 percent from May 2017.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,031 pounds for May, 15 pounds above May 2017.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.40 million head, 3,000 head more than May 2017, and 2,000 head more than April 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 ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² 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 ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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	8,738	1,972	1,979	17,200	17,294	0.5
May	8,730	8,740	2,037	2,052	17,783	17,936	0.9
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		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² 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 ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	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	9,402	1,952	1,959	18,332	18,417	0.5
May	9,401	9,404	2,016	2,031	18,952	19,100	0.8
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		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: May 2017 and 2018

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2017
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	204	207	2,240	2,225	457	461	0.9
California	1,753	1,735	2,005	2,035	3,515	3,531	0.5
Colorado	159	175	2,215	2,245	352	393	11.6
Florida	124	121	1,865	1,800	231	218	-5.6
Idaho	600	605	2,130	2,125	1,278	1,286	0.6
Illinois	93	93	1,860	1,850	173	172	-0.6
Indiana	187	187	2,055	2,060	384	385	0.3
Iowa	217	220	2,055	2,050	446	451	1.1
Kansas	150	157	1,930	2,025	290	318	9.7
Michigan	427	423	2,315	2,330	989	986	-0.3
Minnesota	459	454	1,870	1,890	858	858	-
New Mexico	329	332	2,210	2,190	727	727	-
New York	624	624	2,120	2,095	1,323	1,307	-1.2
Ohio	262	257	1,905	1,905	499	490	-1.8
Oregon	124	121	1,790	1,800	222	218	-1.8
Pennsylvania	525	523	1,855	1,825	974	954	-2.1
South Dakota	117	121	1,915	1,925	224	233	4.0
Texas	513	525	2,075	2,160	1,064	1,134	6.6
Utah	95	99	2,040	2,060	194	204	5.2
Vermont	129	127	1,855	1,845	239	234	-2.1
Virginia	87	84	1,775	1,725	154	145	-5.8
Washington	273	276	2,080	2,105	568	581	2.3
Wisconsin	1,279	1,274	2,050	2,080	2,622	2,650	1.1
23-State Total	8,730	8,740	2,037	2,052	17,783	17,936	0.9

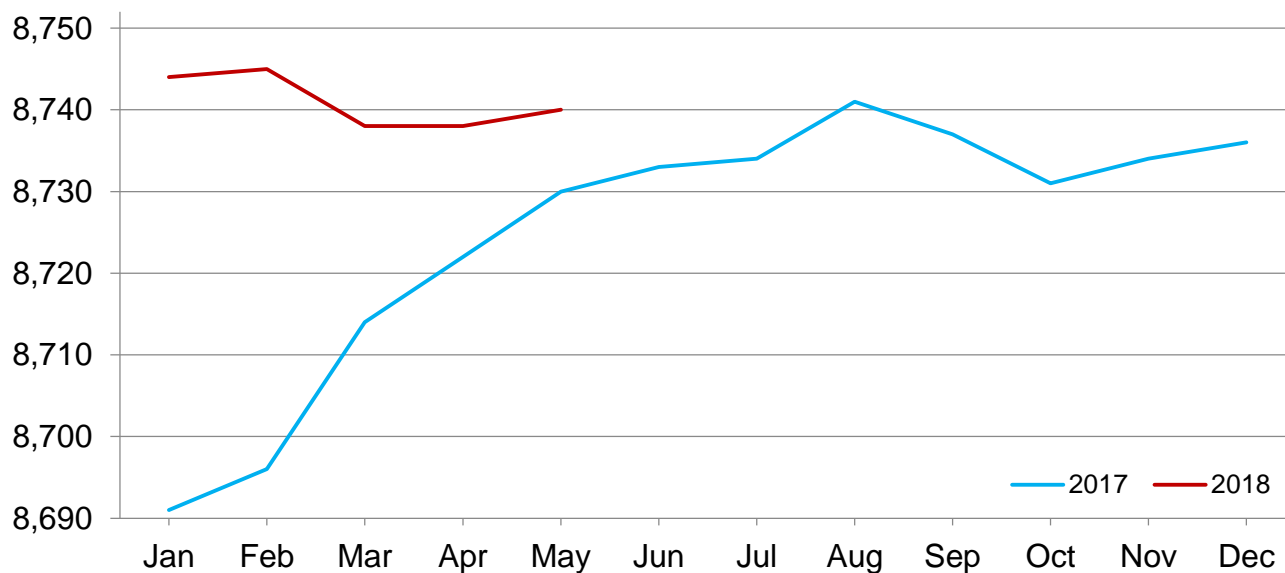
- Represents zero.

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: April 2017 and 2018

[May not add due to rounding]

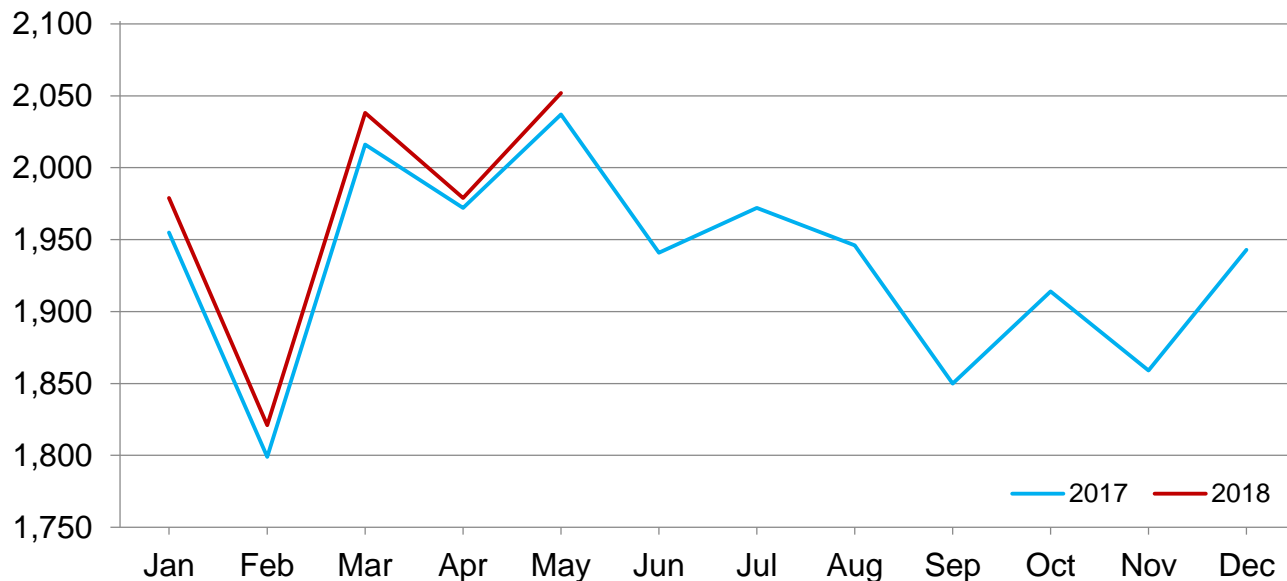
	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2017
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	204	207	2,205	2,200	450	455	1.1
California	1,755	1,735	1,960	1,990	3,440	3,453	0.4
Colorado	159	173	2,165	2,185	344	378	9.9
Florida	124	122	1,830	1,780	227	217	-4.4
Idaho	596	605	2,000	2,015	1,192	1,219	2.3
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	1,990	433	438	1.2
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	1,805	831	819	-1.4
New Mexico	328	334	2,150	2,165	705	723	2.6
New York	623	624	2,035	1,980	1,268	1,236	-2.5
Ohio	262	257	1,835	1,825	481	469	-2.5
Oregon	124	121	1,725	1,740	214	211	-1.4
Pennsylvania	525	524	1,805	1,775	948	930	-1.9
South Dakota	117	120	1,855	1,855	217	223	2.8
Texas	510	522	2,010	2,105	1,025	1,099	7.2
Utah	94	98	1,940	1,955	182	192	5.5
Vermont	129	127	1,785	1,755	230	223	-3.0
Virginia	87	85	1,765	1,710	154	145	-5.8
Washington	273	276	1,990	2,030	543	560	3.1
Wisconsin	1,279	1,274	1,985	1,980	2,539	2,523	-0.6
23-State Total	8,722	8,738	1,972	1,979	17,200	17,294	0.5

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 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 17.9 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	14	8

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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