UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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MONTHLY ESTIMATE OF CREAMERY BUTTER AND AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION
JANUARY 1938

Creamery Butter Increasing Slowly

The volume of creamery butter produced in the United States in January 1938 is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at 114,499,000 pounds. This is an increase of 7.5 percent over the abnormally low production (106,500,000 lbs.) recorded in January of last year when short feed supplies and high feed prices curtailed milk production in the main butter producing states. It is also above the January production in 1935 and 1936, but it is well below the January average (120,000,000 lbs.) during the 5-year period (1930-34) previous to recent droughts.

Butter production from December to January increased about 4 million pounds. This was considerably less than the average increase between these months that occurred in years (at that season) prior to recent droughts. A year ago, due to the acute shortage of feed, butter production decreased two million pounds during the same period.

In comparing production in January with production in that month last year the principal increases are in the states lying between the Mississippi River

(Cont'd on p.2)

ESTIMATED CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION

States	Estimated Production Jan. 1938	Estimated Production Dec. 1937	Estimated Production Jan. 1937	January 1938 Estimate Compared with Dec. 1937	January 1938 Estimate Compared with Jan. 1937
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent
Minnesota	22,750,000	21,150,700	19,542,000	+ 7.6	+16.4
Iowa	15,120,000	14,335,900	13,496,000	+ 5.5	+12.0
Wisconsin	11,850,000	10,973,700	12,646,000	+ 8.0	- 6.3
Nebraska	4,559,000	4,123,500	3,978,000	+10.6	+14.6
Kansas	5,350,000	5,082,900	4,332,000	+ 5.2	+23.5
Missouri	5,700,000	5,640,100	4,393,000	+ 1.1	+29.8
North Dakota	2,200,000	2,043,000	1,704,000	+ 7.7	+29.1
South Dakota	2,250,000	1,998,500	1,524,000	+12.6	+47.6
Montana	655,000	669,300	588,000	- 2.1	+11.4
Michigan	5,225,000	5,130,400	5,535,000	+ 1.8	- 5.6
Illinois	4,679,000	4,517,700	4,498,000	+ 3.6	+ 4.0
Indiana	4,030,000	4,535,500	4,417,000	-11.2	- 8.8
Ohio	4,485,000	4,562,600	4,884,000	- 1.7	- 8.2
Kentucky	1,179,000	1,275,000	1,033,000	- 7.5	+14.1
Virginia	343,000	415,300	305,000	-17.4	+12.5
Tennessee	1,050,000	971,700	929,000	+ 8.1	+13.0
Mississippi	385,000	464,100	417,000	-17.0	- 7.7
Texas	2,125,000	2,229,200	1,794,000	- 4.7	+18.4
Oklahoma	2,580,000	2,526,900	2,057,000	+ 2.1	+25.4
New York	698,000	767,000	1,901,000	- 9.0	-63.3
Vermont	125,000	172,300	250,000	-27.5	-50.0
Pennsylvania	595,000	621,500	615,000	- 4.3	- 3.3
Colorado	1,550,000	1,492,800	1,451,000	+ 3.8	+ 6.8
Utah	702,000	674,000	746,000	+ 4.2	- 5.9
California	5,150,000	5,217,000	5,315,000	- 1.3	- 3.1
Washington	2,571,000	2,481,400	2,374,000	+ 3.6	+ 8.3
Oregon	2,000,000	2,043,300	1,805,000	- 2.1	+10.8
Idaho	2,473,000	2,237,500	2,345,000	+10.5	+ 5.5
Other States	2,120,000	1,958,600	1,654,000	+ 8.2	+28.2
Total	114,499,000	110,311,400	106,528,000	+ 3.8	+ 7.5

All above figures are subject to revision when final reports become available.

MONTHLY ESTIMATE OF CREAMERY BUTTER AND AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION
JANUARY 1938

Estimated Creamery Butter Production by Regions

Month 1938	New England	Per-cent change 1937	Middle Atlantic	Per-cent change 1937	South Atlantic	Per-cent change 1937	East North Central	Per-cent change 1937
	Pounds	Pct.	Pounds	Pct.	Pounds	Pct.	Pounds	Pct.
January	186,000	-41.3	1,295,000	-48.6	946,000	+16.4	30,269,000	- 5.4

Month 1938	West North Central	Per-cent change 1937	South Central	Per-cent change 1937	Mountain	Per-cent change 1937	Pacific	Per-cent change 1937
January	57,929,000	+18.3	8,075,000	+19.4	6,078,000	+ 7.1	9,721,000	+ 2.4

All above figures are subject to revision when final reports become available.

and the Rocky Mountains where production a year ago was abnormally low. In most of these states January production was still relatively low compared with production in the several years prior to the drought of 1934. Production was particularly low in Nebraska and South Dakota. The trend in this whole area appears to be upward and present feed supplies and price conditions favor somewhat more than the usual seasonal increase.

From Wisconsin and Indiana eastward butter production in January was lower than in January a year ago, and moderately low compared with other Januarys. From Indiana eastward production was actually even lower in January than in December.

A year ago production in the eastern part of this area was rather heavy because feed costs were relatively low in seaboard states compared with interior states. Dairymen therefore fed rather liberally and there was considerable surplus milk available for butter in the market milk area.

Taking the country as a whole, butter production in both December and January was close to the average for the same months during the 5 years, 1933 to 1937, a period which included the years of most severe drought. Looking ahead to the June peak the current regional changes in production and the current price conditions give the impression that production is heading for about the seasonal increase that occurred during this same 5-year period. Cheap feed and a fairly high proportion of spring freshening will tend to cause a rather rapid seasonal increase in milk production as the spring progresses, but the recent decline in the price of butter will tend to check material expansion of dairy herds.

MONTHLY ESTIMATE OF CREAMERY BUTTER AND AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION IN JANUARY LARGER THAN A YEAR EARLIER

January production of American cheese in the United States is estimated at 28,418,000 pounds by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This was an increase of 3.9 percent over production in the same month of last year, and was an increase of 2.8 percent over estimated production in December. Except for the temporary effects of droughts and feed shortages in reducing milk production, American cheese production has been increasing for 5 years and January production was the highest on record for that month for all years, except 1936 when January production was 28,881,000 pounds.

January production of American cheese was far below the relatively high levels of last year in New York and the New England States but remained well above the January 1936 production in these sections. A slight decline from a year earlier is reported for Wisconsin, which normally accounts for more than one-half of the United States' total production. The other East North Central States as a group show a slight decline. Other groups of states recorded major gains ranging from 17 percent in the West North Central group to 40 percent in the South Atlantic region where production is relatively small.

Monthly Estimate of American Cheese Production
January 1938

Geographic Section	Estimated Production Jan. 1938	Estimated Production Dec. 1937	Estimated Production Jan. 1937	Jan. 1938 Estimate compared with Dec. 1937	Jan. 1938 Estimate compared with Jan. 1937
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent
New York State	545,000	778,000	705,000	-30.0	-22.7
New England, including Pa. and N. J.	45,000	60,000	248,000	-25.0	-81.9
South Atlantic	103,000	112,000	69,000	- 8.0	+49.3
South Central	2,465,000	2,615,000	2,007,000	- 5.7	+22.8
Wisconsin*	14,767,000	14,051,000	14,924,000	+ 5.2	- 1.1
East North Central, not including Wisconsin	3,960,000	4,125,000	3,986,000	- 4.0	- 0.7
West North Central	2,530,000	2,123,000	2,170,000	+19.2	+16.6
Mountain	1,465,000	1,460,000	1,250,000	+ 0.3	+17.2
Pacific	2,538,000	2,341,000	1,987,000	+ 8.4	+27.7
U. S. TOTAL	28,418,000	27,645,000	27,346,000	+ 2.8	+ 3.9

*Estimate based on receipts of American cheese at Wisconsin warehouses.