



Milk Production

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Special Note

NASS added Georgia to the monthly estimating program beginning with this report. For comparison purposes, historic estimates for Georgia and the 24 States from January 2018 to March 2019 were populated to Quick Stats. The change to a 24-State total accounted for 157 million of the 195 million pound revision to the 23-State production total for April 2019. The remaining 38 million pounds, or 0.2 percent, were a result of the normal revision process.

May Milk Production down 0.1 Percent

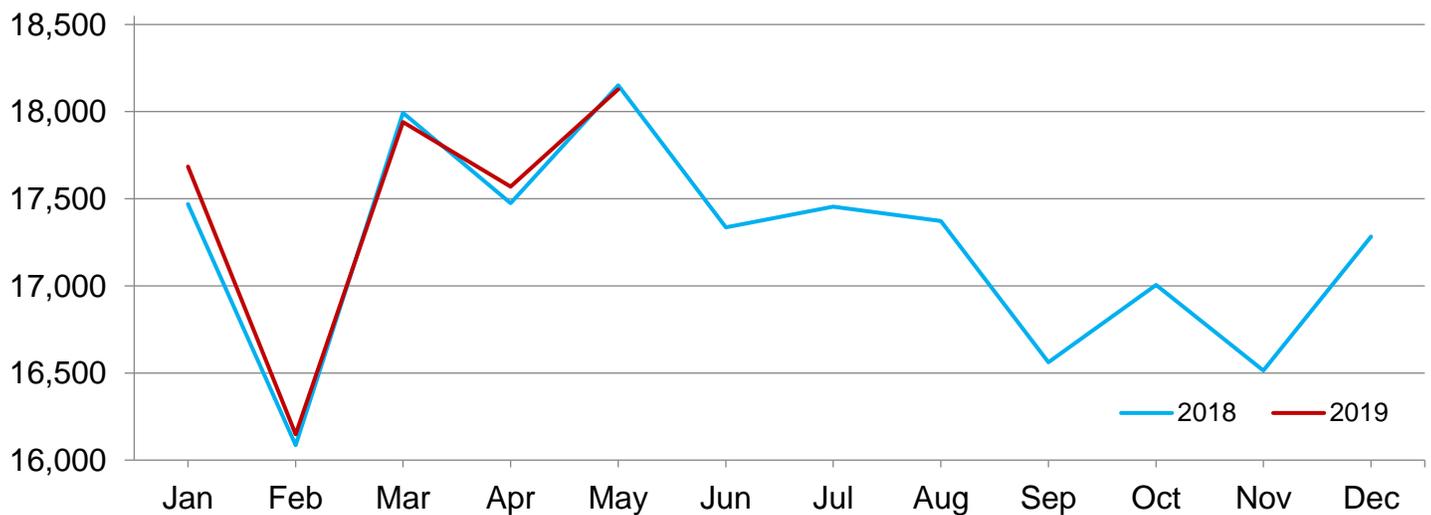
Milk production in the 24 major States during May totaled 18.1 billion pounds, down 0.1 percent from May 2018. April revised production, at 17.6 billion pounds, was up 0.5 percent from April 2018. The April revision represented an increase of 195 million pounds or 1.1 percent from last month's preliminary 23-State production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,062 pounds for May, 11 pounds above May 2018.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.79 million head, 55,000 head less than May 2018, but 5,000 head more than April 2019.

Monthly Milk Production – 24 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2018-2019

[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		
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	Change from 2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,435	9,346	5,766	5,827	54,399	54,462	0.1
April-June	9,418		5,928		55,831		
July-September	9,383		5,752		53,969		
October-December	9,359		5,703		53,376		
Annual	9,399		23,149		217,575		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2018-2019

[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		
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	Change from 2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,856	8,805	1,973	2,009	17,469	17,685	1.2
February	8,855	8,805	1,817	1,834	16,086	16,148	0.4
March	8,849	8,788	2,033	2,041	17,994	17,940	-0.3
April	8,844	8,788	1,976	1,999	17,475	17,570	0.5
May	8,848	8,793	2,051	2,062	18,151	18,128	-0.1
June	8,840		1,961		17,336		
July	8,829		1,977		17,454		
August	8,826		1,968		17,372		
September	8,807		1,880		16,561		
October	8,807		1,931		17,005		
November	8,802		1,876		16,514		
December	8,798		1,964		17,282		
Annual	8,830		23,407		206,699		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2018-2019

[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		
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	Change from 2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,438	9,356	1,953	1,988	18,437	18,604	0.9
February	9,436	9,354	1,799	1,816	16,973	16,985	0.1
March	9,430	9,329	2,014	2,023	18,989	18,873	-0.6
April	9,418	9,328	1,955	1,980	18,412	18,468	0.3
May	9,422	9,333	2,030	2,042	19,131	19,055	-0.4
June	9,414		1,943		18,288		
July	9,392		1,952		18,329		
August	9,389		1,943		18,245		
September	9,368		1,857		17,395		
October	9,367		1,908		17,873		
November	9,358		1,854		17,348		
December	9,353		1,941		18,155		
Annual	9,399		23,149		217,575		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: May 2018 and 2019

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2018
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	208	199	2,145	2,145	446	427	-4.3
California	1,735	1,728	2,035	2,070	3,531	3,577	1.3
Colorado	177	183	2,215	2,220	392	406	3.6
Florida	122	115	1,830	1,845	223	212	-4.9
Georgia	83	83	1,885	1,880	156	156	-
Idaho	610	619	2,170	2,170	1,324	1,343	1.4
Illinois	93	84	1,890	1,860	176	156	-11.4
Indiana	184	179	2,010	2,010	370	360	-2.7
Iowa	220	217	2,060	2,085	453	452	-0.2
Kansas	158	162	2,050	2,020	324	327	0.9
Michigan	423	425	2,330	2,330	986	990	0.4
Minnesota	454	448	1,895	1,915	860	858	-0.2
New Mexico	332	324	2,190	2,225	727	721	-0.8
New York	624	627	2,100	2,110	1,310	1,323	1.0
Ohio	262	250	1,900	1,905	498	476	-4.4
Oregon	121	122	1,810	1,820	219	222	1.4
Pennsylvania	523	493	1,825	1,800	954	887	-7.0
South Dakota	121	123	1,940	1,920	235	236	0.4
Texas	535	565	2,120	2,115	1,134	1,195	5.4
Utah	101	98	2,015	2,020	204	198	-2.9
Vermont	127	126	1,845	1,855	234	234	-
Virginia	84	76	1,760	1,750	148	133	-10.1
Washington	277	278	2,110	2,110	584	587	0.5
Wisconsin	1,274	1,269	2,090	2,090	2,663	2,652	-0.4
24-State Total	8,848	8,793	2,051	2,062	18,151	18,128	-0.1

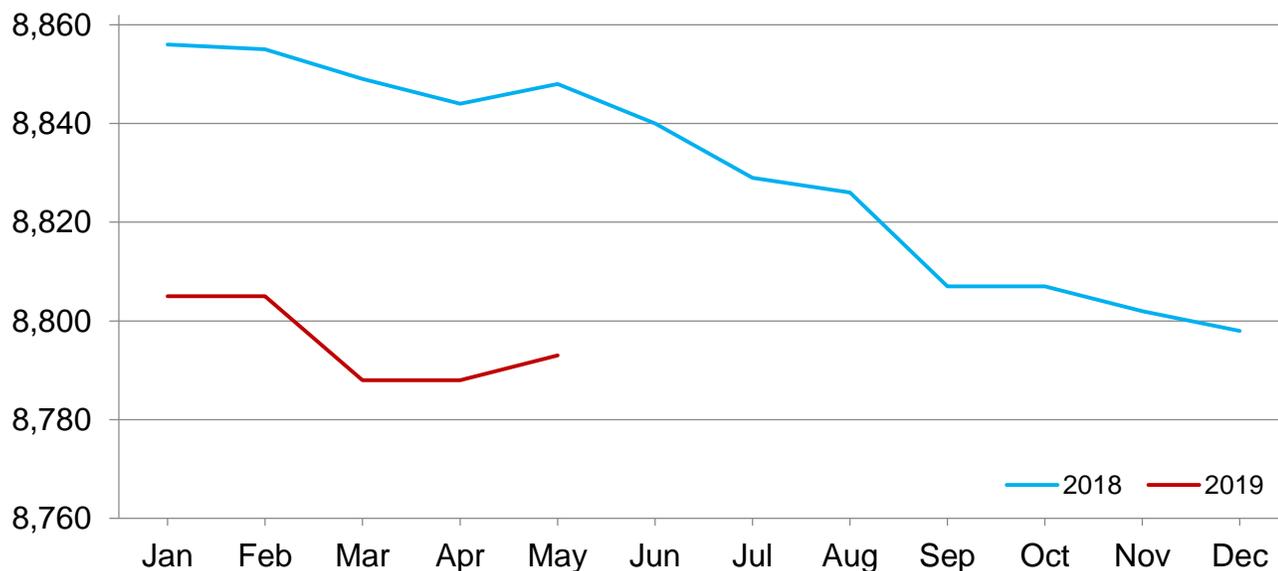
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 24 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: April 2018 and 2019

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2018
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	210	199	2,135	2,125	448	423	-5.6
California	1,735	1,728	1,990	2,050	3,453	3,542	2.6
Colorado	175	182	2,160	2,155	378	392	3.7
Florida	122	115	1,780	1,790	217	206	-5.1
Georgia	84	83	1,870	1,890	157	157	-
Idaho	607	618	2,035	2,070	1,235	1,279	3.6
Illinois	93	84	1,800	1,800	167	151	-9.6
Indiana	185	179	1,950	1,940	361	347	-3.9
Iowa	220	217	2,010	2,010	442	436	-1.4
Kansas	157	163	1,990	1,965	312	320	2.6
Michigan	423	425	2,210	2,235	935	950	1.6
Minnesota	454	448	1,805	1,835	819	822	0.4
New Mexico	334	321	2,165	2,165	723	695	-3.9
New York	624	627	1,980	2,020	1,236	1,267	2.5
Ohio	262	250	1,830	1,830	479	458	-4.4
Oregon	121	122	1,740	1,760	211	215	1.9
Pennsylvania	524	495	1,775	1,745	930	864	-7.1
South Dakota	120	123	1,855	1,835	223	226	1.3
Texas	533	562	2,060	2,085	1,098	1,172	6.7
Utah	99	98	1,945	1,930	193	189	-2.1
Vermont	127	126	1,755	1,800	223	227	1.8
Virginia	85	76	1,715	1,715	146	130	-11.0
Washington	276	278	2,030	2,030	560	564	0.7
Wisconsin	1,274	1,269	1,985	2,000	2,529	2,538	0.4
24-State Total	8,844	8,788	1,976	1,999	17,475	17,570	0.5

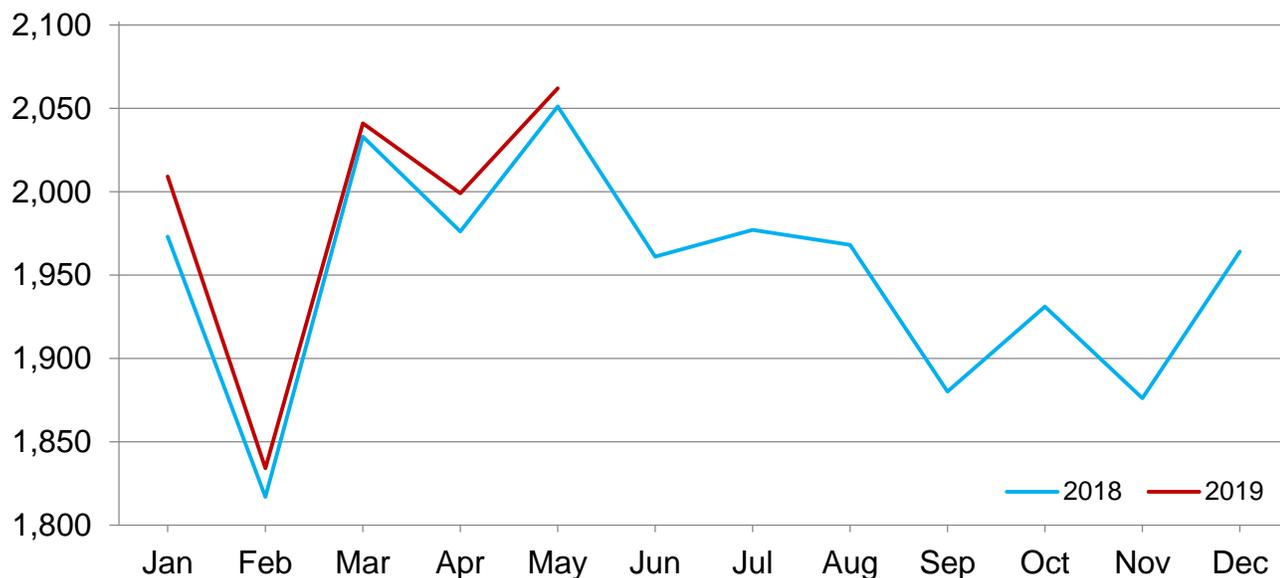
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 24 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 24 State milk production estimates over the past 16 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 18.1 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 16 months. 24-State data not available prior to 2018]

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	59	11	5
All Milk cows	0.2	0.3	12	0	31	13	1

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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