



ISSN: 1949-1557

Released March 19, 2019, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

February Milk Production up 0.6 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during February totaled 16.0 billion pounds, up 0.6 percent from February 2018. January revised production, at 17.5 billion pounds, was up 1.3 percent from January 2018. The January revision represented a decrease of 7 million pounds or less than 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,838 pounds for February, 21 pounds above February 2018. This is the highest production per cow for the month of February since the 23 State series began in 2003.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.72 million head, 47,000 head less than February 2018, but unchanged from January 2019.

February Milk Production in the United States up 0.2 Percent

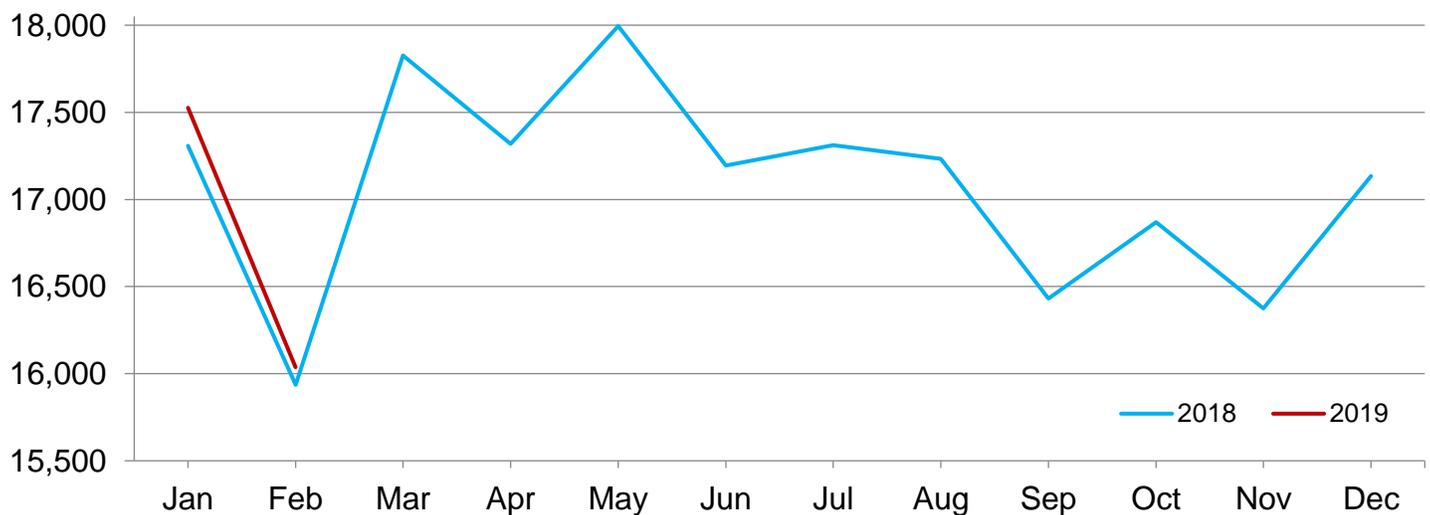
Milk production in the United States during February totaled 17.0 billion pounds, up 0.2 percent from February 2018.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,818 pounds for February, 19 pounds above February 2018.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.36 million head, 77,000 head less than February 2018, but unchanged from January 2019.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 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		5,766		54,399		
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 – 23 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	8,771	8,723	1,973	2,009	17,308	17,526	1.3
February	8,770	8,723	1,817	1,838	15,936	16,037	0.6
March	8,764		2,034		17,826		
April	8,760		1,977		17,318		
May	8,765		2,053		17,995		
June	8,758		1,963		17,195		
July	8,748		1,979		17,311		
August	8,747		1,970		17,233		
September	8,727		1,883		16,432		
October	8,726		1,933		16,870		
November	8,721		1,878		16,374		
December	8,717		1,966		17,135		
Annual	8,748		23,426		204,933		

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	9,359	1,953	1,987	18,437	18,594	0.9
February	9,436	9,359	1,799	1,818	16,973	17,015	0.2
March	9,430		2,014		18,989		
April	9,418		1,955		18,412		
May	9,422		2,030		19,131		
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 – 23 Selected States: February 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	212	204	1,960	1,970	416	402	-3.4
California	1,738	1,730	1,860	1,870	3,233	3,235	0.1
Colorado	170	182	1,985	2,005	337	365	8.3
Florida	124	116	1,700	1,705	211	198	-6.2
Idaho	607	615	1,875	1,890	1,138	1,162	2.1
Illinois	93	85	1,670	1,690	155	144	-7.1
Indiana	186	181	1,760	1,770	327	320	-2.1
Iowa	220	220	1,860	1,870	409	411	0.5
Kansas	156	162	1,820	1,790	284	290	2.1
Michigan	427	424	2,015	2,050	860	869	1.0
Minnesota	455	450	1,670	1,715	760	772	1.6
New Mexico	334	322	1,975	1,970	660	634	-3.9
New York	625	627	1,805	1,850	1,128	1,160	2.8
Ohio	262	253	1,665	1,655	436	419	-3.9
Oregon	123	126	1,555	1,625	191	205	7.3
Pennsylvania	525	500	1,630	1,610	856	805	-6.0
South Dakota	119	124	1,700	1,730	202	215	6.4
Texas	530	550	1,845	1,915	978	1,053	7.7
Utah	99	100	1,755	1,760	174	176	1.1
Vermont	128	126	1,625	1,665	208	210	1.0
Virginia	87	78	1,570	1,545	137	121	-11.7
Washington	275	278	1,850	1,830	509	509	-
Wisconsin	1,275	1,270	1,825	1,860	2,327	2,362	1.5
23-State Total	8,770	8,723	1,817	1,838	15,936	16,037	0.6

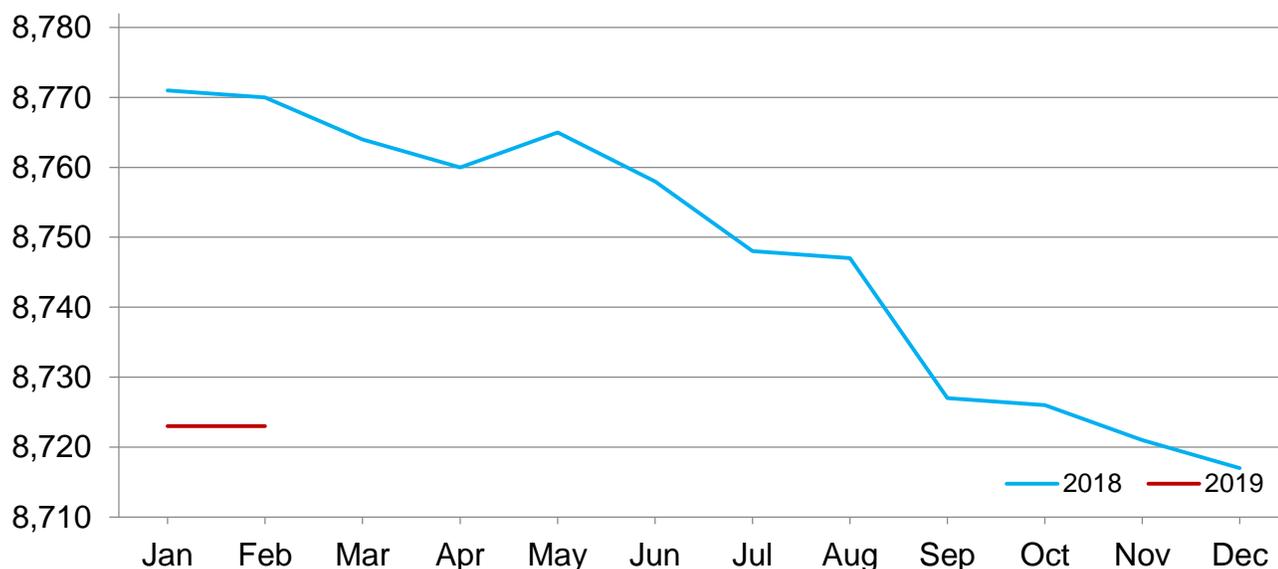
- Represents zero.

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: January 2018 and 2019

[May not add due to rounding]

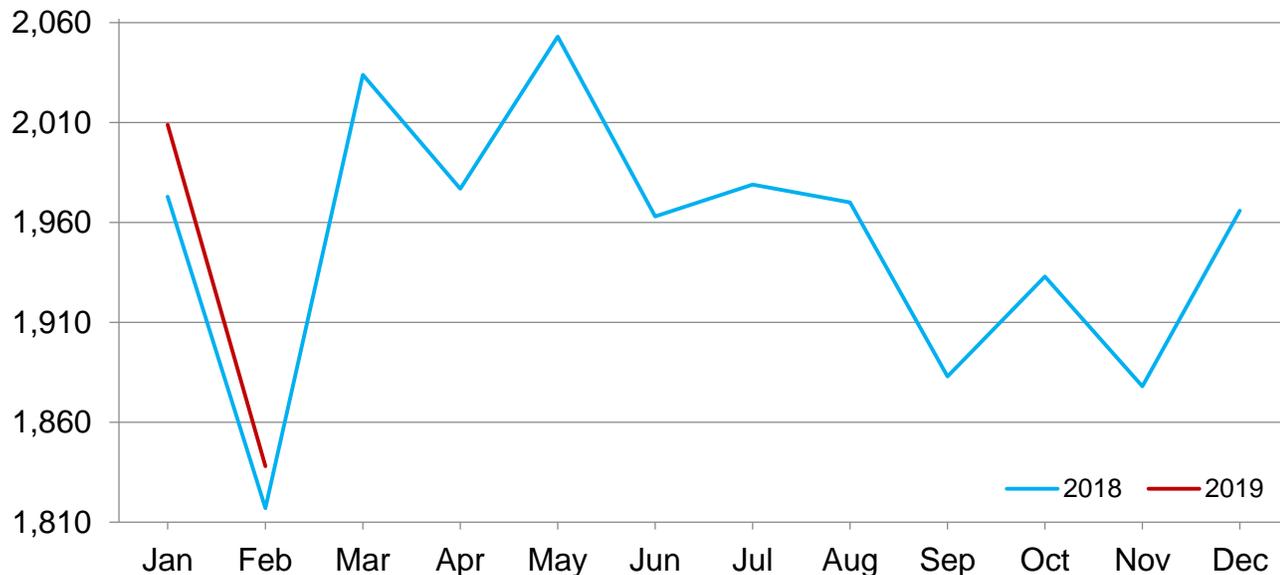
	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2018
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	212	204	2,095	2,095	444	427	-3.8
California	1,738	1,730	2,005	2,030	3,485	3,512	0.8
Colorado	170	180	2,195	2,210	373	398	6.7
Florida	124	116	1,775	1,810	220	210	-4.5
Idaho	605	615	2,055	2,080	1,243	1,279	2.9
Illinois	93	85	1,800	1,825	167	155	-7.2
Indiana	187	181	1,930	1,935	361	350	-3.0
Iowa	220	220	2,035	2,075	448	457	2.0
Kansas	156	162	1,960	1,975	306	320	4.6
Michigan	428	424	2,190	2,245	937	952	1.6
Minnesota	455	450	1,835	1,895	835	853	2.2
New Mexico	334	324	2,140	2,130	715	690	-3.5
New York	625	627	1,955	2,015	1,222	1,263	3.4
Ohio	262	253	1,800	1,795	472	454	-3.8
Oregon	124	126	1,695	1,760	210	222	5.7
Pennsylvania	525	500	1,760	1,745	924	873	-5.5
South Dakota	119	124	1,855	1,925	221	239	8.1
Texas	530	548	1,985	2,060	1,052	1,129	7.3
Utah	98	100	1,930	1,930	189	193	2.1
Vermont	128	126	1,780	1,825	228	230	0.9
Virginia	87	78	1,700	1,680	148	131	-11.5
Washington	276	280	2,020	2,045	558	573	2.7
Wisconsin	1,275	1,270	2,000	2,060	2,550	2,616	2.6
23-State Total	8,771	8,723	1,973	2,009	17,308	17,526	1.3

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 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 16.0 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 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	0.2	0.3	22	2	67	16	8
All Milk cows	0.2	0.3	15	2	31	24	0

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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 720-4448
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 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.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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, April 23, 2019

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
312-464-8787

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 2019 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). Contact Vernita Murray (NASS) at 202-690-8141 or vernita.murray@nass.usda.gov or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov for information.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. 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 Laura Lahr at 303-716-9935 or laura.lahr@lmic.info.