



Milk Production

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Special Note

NASS will add Georgia to the monthly estimating program beginning with the June 2019 report. For comparison purposes, historic estimates for Georgia from January 2018 through March 2019 will be populated in Quick Stats with the release of the June report.

April Milk Production up 0.3 Percent

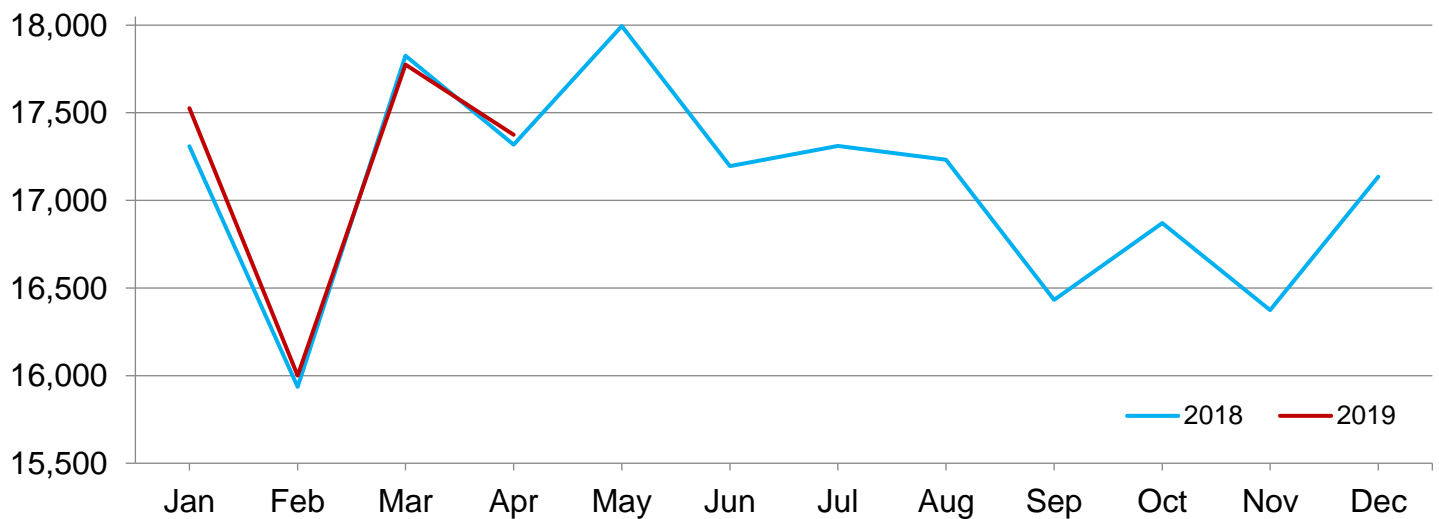
Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 17.4 billion pounds, up 0.3 percent from April 2018. March revised production, at 17.8 billion pounds, was down 0.3 percent from March 2018. The March revision represented a decrease of 40 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,996 pounds for April, 19 pounds above April 2018. 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 8.71 million head, 55,000 head less than April 2018, and 1,000 head less than March 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	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 – 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	1,834	15,936	16,000	0.4
March	8,764	8,706	2,034	2,042	17,826	17,775	-0.3
April	8,760	8,705	1,977	1,996	17,318	17,375	0.3
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	9,356	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	1,976	18,412	18,430	0.1
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: April 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	210	200	2,135	2,135	448	427	-4.7
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	1,785	217	205	-5.5
Idaho	607	617	2,035	2,045	1,235	1,262	2.2
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	162	1,990	1,950	312	316	1.3
Michigan	423	425	2,210	2,235	935	950	1.6
Minnesota	454	448	1,805	1,825	819	818	-0.1
New Mexico	334	321	2,165	2,165	723	695	-3.9
New York	624	627	1,980	2,010	1,236	1,260	1.9
Ohio	262	250	1,830	1,810	479	453	-5.4
Oregon	121	122	1,740	1,745	211	213	0.9
Pennsylvania	524	495	1,775	1,745	930	864	-7.1
South Dakota	120	124	1,855	1,830	223	227	1.8
Texas	533	562	2,060	2,085	1,098	1,172	6.7
Utah	99	98	1,945	1,920	193	188	-2.6
Vermont	127	126	1,755	1,800	223	227	1.8
Virginia	85	76	1,715	1,715	146	130	-11.0
Washington	276	277	2,030	2,020	560	560	-
Wisconsin	1,274	1,270	1,985	2,000	2,529	2,540	0.4
23-State Total	8,760	8,705	1,977	1,996	17,318	17,375	0.3

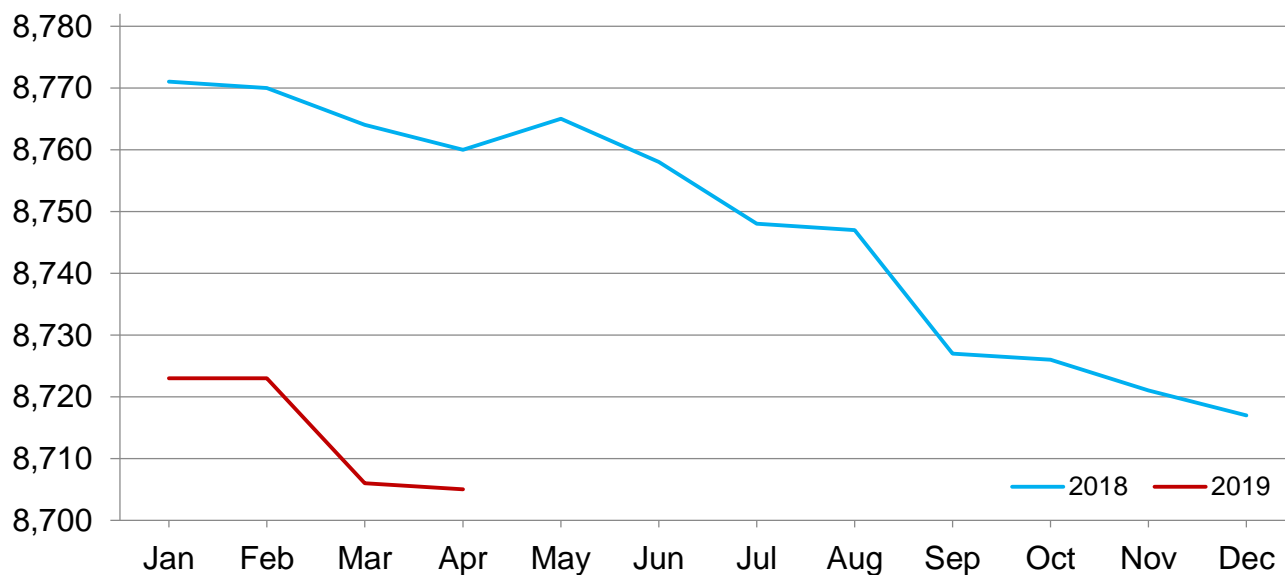
- Represents zero.

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: March 2018 and 2019

[May not add due to rounding]

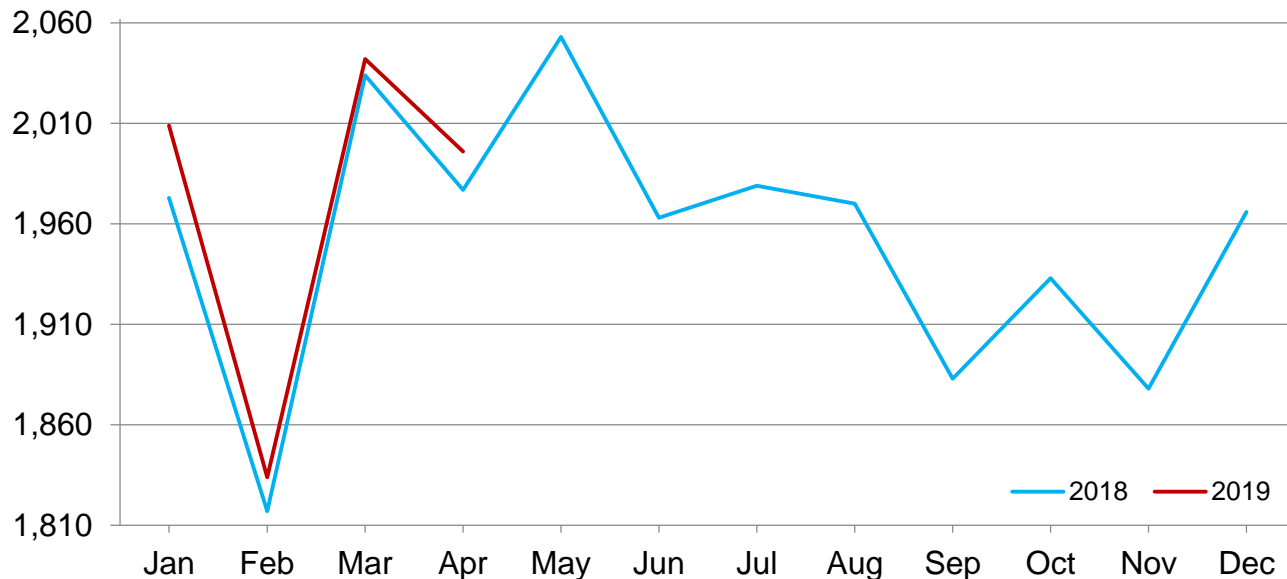
	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2018
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	211	201	2,205	2,195	465	441	-5.2
California	1,738	1,729	2,065	2,090	3,589	3,614	0.7
Colorado	173	182	2,230	2,200	386	400	3.6
Florida	123	116	1,895	1,880	233	218	-6.4
Idaho	607	616	2,085	2,095	1,266	1,291	2.0
Illinois	93	84	1,875	1,880	174	158	-9.2
Indiana	185	180	1,995	1,985	369	357	-3.3
Iowa	220	217	2,070	2,075	455	450	-1.1
Kansas	157	163	2,040	1,970	320	321	0.3
Michigan	425	425	2,260	2,285	961	971	1.0
Minnesota	454	448	1,865	1,880	847	842	-0.6
New Mexico	334	322	2,220	2,210	741	712	-3.9
New York	625	627	2,020	2,055	1,263	1,288	2.0
Ohio	262	251	1,875	1,850	491	464	-5.5
Oregon	121	122	1,750	1,780	212	217	2.4
Pennsylvania	524	495	1,830	1,790	959	886	-7.6
South Dakota	120	124	1,900	1,895	228	235	3.1
Texas	530	557	2,105	2,120	1,116	1,181	5.8
Utah	99	98	1,955	1,940	194	190	-2.1
Vermont	128	126	1,805	1,855	231	234	1.3
Virginia	86	76	1,765	1,755	152	133	-12.5
Washington	275	277	2,070	2,030	569	562	-1.2
Wisconsin	1,274	1,270	2,045	2,055	2,605	2,610	0.2
23-State Total	8,764	8,706	2,034	2,042	17,826	17,775	-0.3

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 17.4 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	23	2	67	15	9
All Milk cows	0.2	0.3	14	0	31	22	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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