



ISSN: 1949-1557

Released May 20, 2021, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

April Milk Production up 3.5 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during April totaled 18.4 billion pounds, up 3.5 percent from April 2020. March revised production, at 18.9 billion pounds, was up 2.2 percent from March 2020. The March revision represented an increase of 30 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,051 pounds for April, 42 pounds above April 2020.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.98 million head, 121,000 head more than April 2020, and 15,000 head more than March 2021.

April Milk Production in the United States up 3.3 Percent

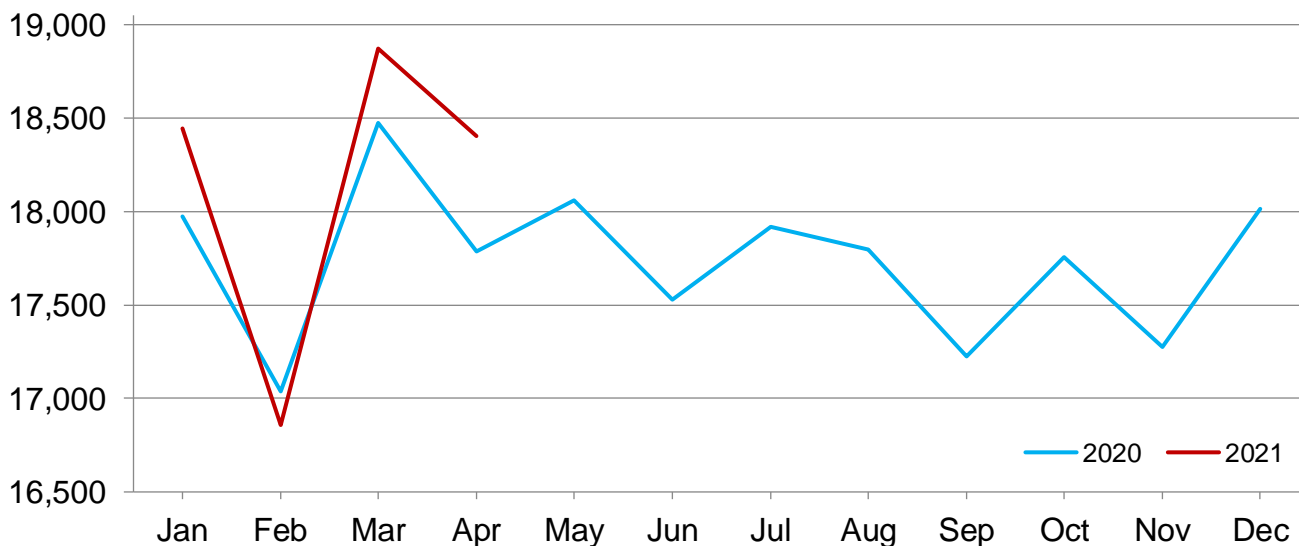
Milk production in the United States during April totaled 19.3 billion pounds, up 3.3 percent from April 2020.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,033 pounds for April, 40 pounds above April 2020.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.49 million head, 113,000 head more than April 2020, and 16,000 head more than March 2021.

Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter - United States: 2020-2021

[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		
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	Change from 2020
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,378	9,460	5,990	6,002	56,174	56,775	1.1
April-June	9,364		5,988		56,070		
July-September	9,380		5,908		55,419		
October-December	9,429		5,892		55,557		
Annual	9,388		23,777		223,220		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2020-2021

[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		
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	Change from 2020
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,837	8,934	2,034	2,065	17,974	18,446	2.6
February	8,848	8,947	1,926	1,884	17,038	16,858	-1.1
March	8,861	8,961	2,085	2,106	18,474	18,873	2.2
April	8,855	8,976	2,009	2,051	17,787	18,410	3.5
May	8,838		2,044		18,061		
June	8,834		1,984		17,530		
July	8,854		2,024		17,919		
August	8,857		2,010		17,799		
September	8,877		1,941		17,226		
October	8,897		1,996		17,758		
November	8,914		1,938		17,274		
December	8,923		2,019		18,012		
Annual	8,866		24,008		212,852		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2020-2021

[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		
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	Change from 2020
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,365	9,447	2,016	2,046	18,877	19,328	2.4
February	9,377	9,460	1,908	1,868	17,895	17,667	-1.3
March	9,391	9,474	2,066	2,088	19,402	19,780	1.9
April	9,377	9,490	1,993	2,033	18,684	19,295	3.3
May	9,360		2,027		18,972		
June	9,355		1,968		18,414		
July	9,372		2,001		18,756		
August	9,374		1,988		18,632		
September	9,395		1,919		18,031		
October	9,414		1,976		18,603		
November	9,432		1,919		18,103		
December	9,442		1,997		18,851		
Annual	9,388		23,777		223,220		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: April 2020 and 2021

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2020
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	200	196	2,155	2,165	431	424	-1.6
California	1,721	1,720	2,035	2,120	3,502	3,646	4.1
Colorado	194	205	2,160	2,165	419	444	6.0
Florida	115	109	1,805	1,805	208	197	-5.3
Georgia	82	81	1,880	1,900	154	154	-
Idaho	647	652	2,090	2,095	1,352	1,366	1.0
Illinois	82	84	1,870	1,880	153	158	3.3
Indiana	176	195	1,990	2,000	350	390	11.4
Iowa	219	227	2,040	2,040	447	463	3.6
Kansas	169	175	1,960	1,995	331	349	5.4
Michigan	428	443	2,255	2,275	965	1,008	4.5
Minnesota	445	462	1,850	1,905	823	880	6.9
New Mexico	330	333	2,100	2,140	693	713	2.9
New York	626	626	2,045	2,090	1,280	1,308	2.2
Ohio	253	260	1,840	1,840	466	478	2.6
Oregon	125	126	1,760	1,760	220	222	0.9
Pennsylvania	485	475	1,820	1,840	883	874	-1.0
South Dakota	132	150	1,870	1,865	247	280	13.4
Texas	590	619	2,090	2,145	1,233	1,328	7.7
Utah	97	95	1,930	1,945	187	185	-1.1
Vermont	124	119	1,800	1,825	223	217	-2.7
Virginia	75	73	1,765	1,770	132	129	-2.3
Washington	280	277	2,030	2,020	568	560	-1.4
Wisconsin	1,260	1,274	2,000	2,070	2,520	2,637	4.6
24-State Total	8,855	8,976	2,009	2,051	17,787	18,410	3.5

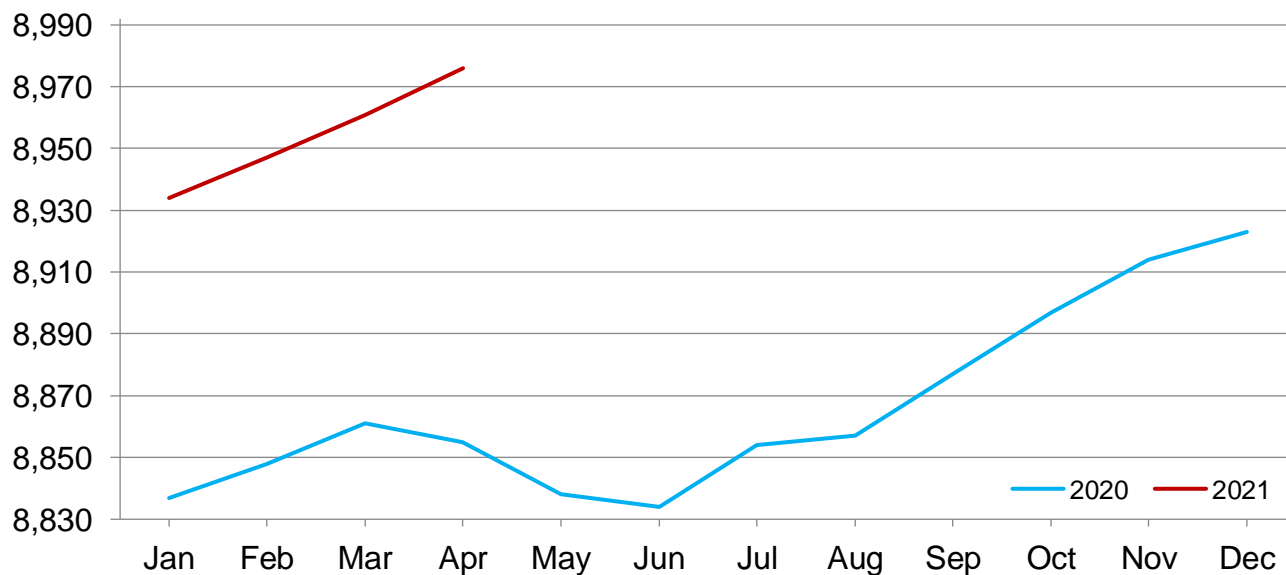
- Represents zero.

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States

Thousand head



Milk Production (May 2021)

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: March 2020 and 2021

[May not add due to rounding]

	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2020
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	200	196	2,285	2,265	457	444	-2.8
California	1,722	1,720	2,135	2,170	3,676	3,732	1.5
Colorado	194	204	2,225	2,230	432	455	5.3
Florida	116	109	1,885	1,880	219	205	-6.4
Georgia	82	81	1,990	2,010	163	163	-
Idaho	647	652	2,135	2,135	1,381	1,392	0.8
Illinois	82	83	1,940	1,940	159	161	1.3
Indiana	176	194	2,045	2,065	360	401	11.4
Iowa	219	227	2,110	2,115	462	480	3.9
Kansas	171	175	2,050	2,080	351	364	3.7
Michigan	428	442	2,335	2,345	999	1,036	3.7
Minnesota	445	462	1,910	1,970	850	910	7.1
New Mexico	332	333	2,195	2,165	729	721	-1.1
New York	626	626	2,110	2,135	1,321	1,337	1.2
Ohio	253	260	1,900	1,910	481	497	3.3
Oregon	127	126	1,780	1,795	226	226	-
Pennsylvania	485	475	1,870	1,880	907	893	-1.5
South Dakota	129	147	1,960	1,940	253	285	12.6
Texas	590	617	2,180	2,165	1,286	1,336	3.9
Utah	98	95	1,960	1,990	192	189	-1.6
Vermont	124	119	1,870	1,865	232	222	-4.3
Virginia	75	73	1,830	1,820	137	133	-2.9
Washington	280	278	2,070	2,060	580	573	-1.2
Wisconsin	1,260	1,267	2,080	2,145	2,621	2,718	3.7
24-State Total	8,861	8,961	2,085	2,106	18,474	18,873	2.2

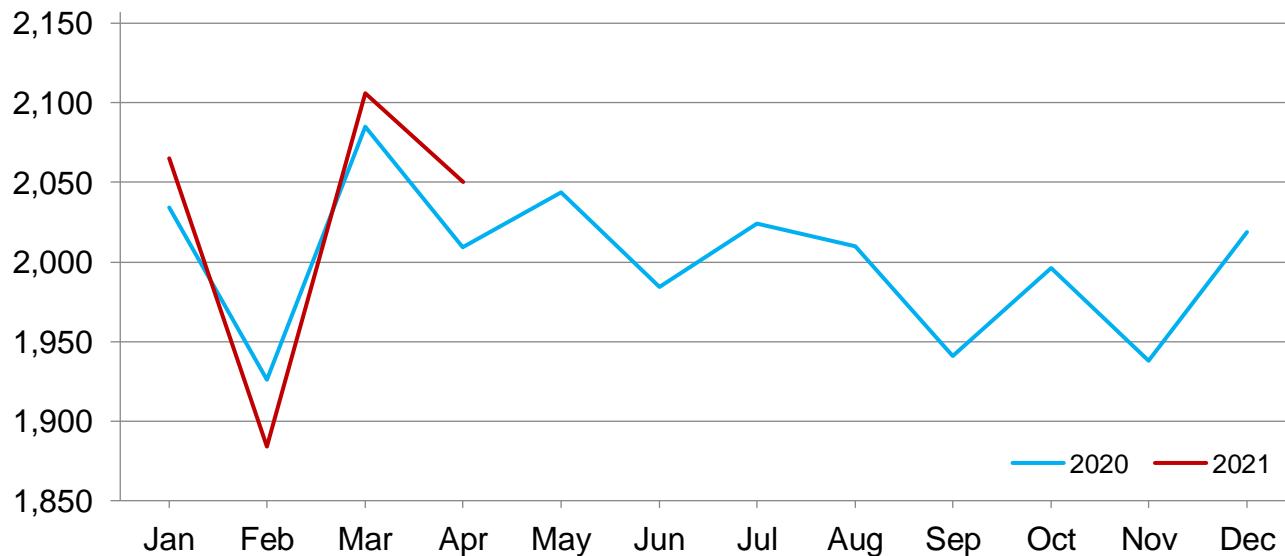
- Represents zero.

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 24 months is 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 18.4 billion pounds by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.7 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	0.4	0.7	52	0	150	19	4
All Milk cows	0.1	0.2	10	0	26	21	2

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@usda.gov.

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Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products	(202) 720-4448

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- 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@usda.gov.

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