



Milk Production

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October Milk Production up 2.5 Percent

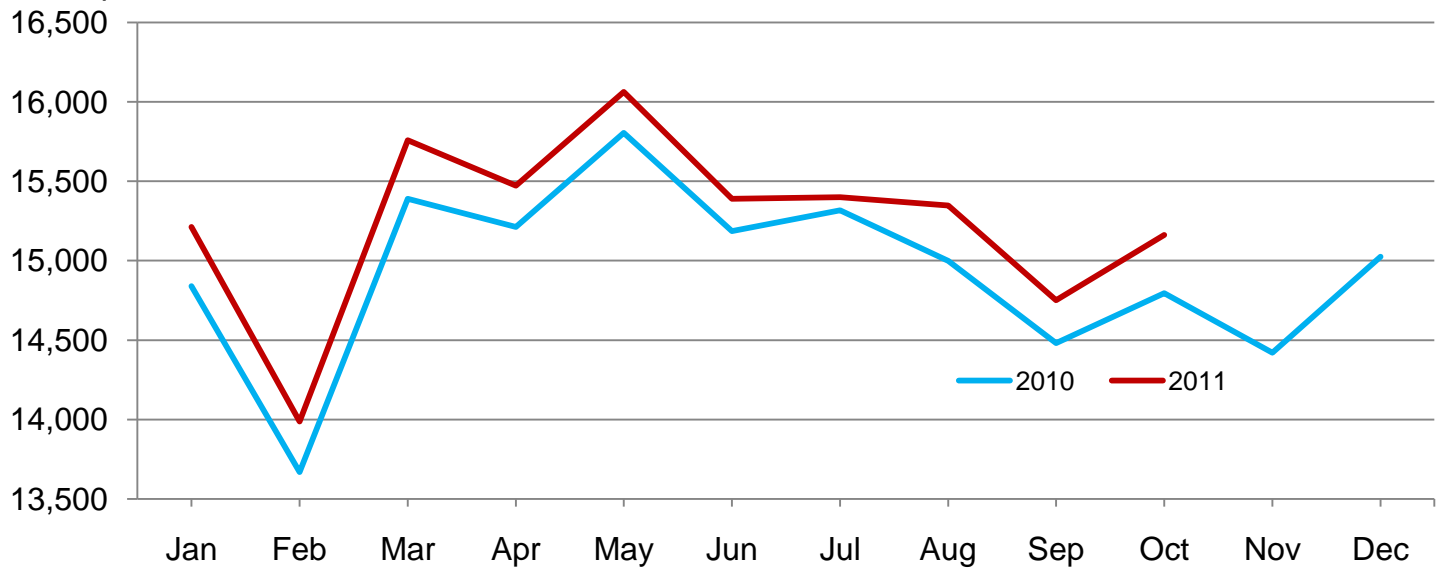
Milk production in the 23 major States during October totaled 15.2 billion pounds, up 2.5 percent from October 2010. September revised production at 14.8 billion pounds, was up 1.9 percent from September 2010. The September revision represented a decrease of 10 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,787 pounds for October, 20 pounds above October 2010.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.48 million head, 111,000 head more than October 2010, and 10,000 head more than September 2011.

Monthly Milk Production – 23 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2010-2011

[May not add due to rounding]

Quarter	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	Change from 2010
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,093	9,165	5,212	5,283	47,392	48,421	2.2
April-June	9,119	9,198	5,462	5,483	49,809	50,432	1.3
July-September	9,126	9,209	5,267	5,290	48,070	48,715	1.3
October-December	9,130		5,208		47,548		
Annual	9,117		21,149		192,819		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 23 Selected States: 2010-2011

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	Change from 2010
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,319	8,404	1,784	1,810	14,839	15,213	2.5
February	8,323	8,405	1,642	1,664	13,670	13,987	2.3
March	8,329	8,426	1,848	1,870	15,389	15,757	2.4
April	8,337	8,435	1,825	1,834	15,213	15,471	1.7
May	8,347	8,451	1,893	1,901	15,804	16,063	1.6
June	8,356	8,460	1,817	1,819	15,186	15,389	1.3
July	8,375	8,468	1,829	1,819	15,316	15,400	0.5
August	8,369	8,471	1,792	1,812	14,998	15,347	2.3
September	8,371	8,473	1,730	1,741	14,481	14,750	1.9
October	8,372	8,483	1,767	1,787	14,796	15,161	2.5
November	8,373		1,722		14,421		
December	8,387		1,791		15,025		
Annual	8,355		21,440		179,138		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2010-2011

Month	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	Change from 2010
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,089	9,158	1,763	1,789	16,020	16,385	2.3
February	9,092	9,158	1,623	1,645	14,758	15,065	2.1
March	9,099	9,178	1,826	1,849	16,614	16,971	2.1
April	9,108	9,185	1,802	1,812	16,416	16,643	1.4
May	9,119	9,200	1,869	1,877	17,040	17,266	1.3
June	9,129	9,208	1,791	1,794	16,353	16,523	1.0
July	9,135	9,208	1,799	1,791	16,436	16,490	0.3
August	9,123	9,209	1,764	1,784	16,094	16,432	2.1
September	9,121	9,210	1,704	1,715	15,540	15,793	1.6
October	9,123	9,219	1,743	1,760	15,900	16,230	2.1
November	9,125		1,698		15,498		
December	9,141		1,767		16,150		
Annual	9,117		21,149		192,819		

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: October 2010 and 2011

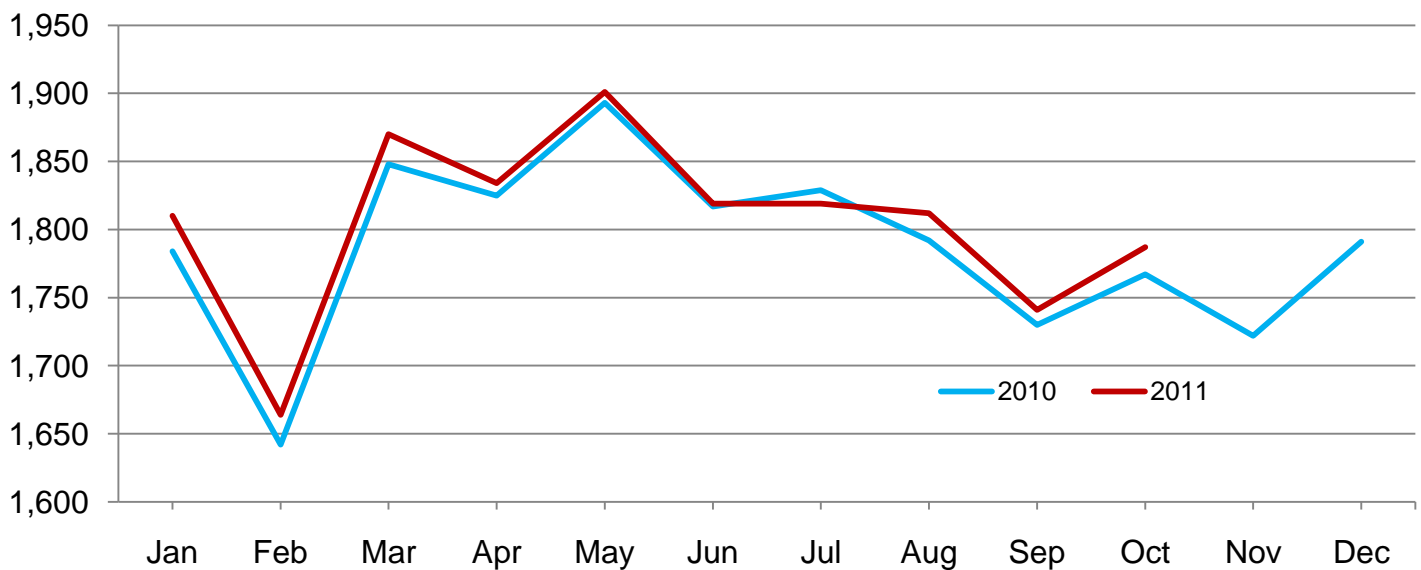
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	183	192	1,825	1,865	334	358	7.2
California	1,752	1,779	1,910	1,925	3,346	3,425	2.4
Colorado	122	131	1,975	1,955	241	256	6.2
Florida	114	120	1,335	1,365	152	164	7.9
Idaho	572	582	1,930	1,930	1,104	1,123	1.7
Illinois	98	98	1,560	1,600	153	157	2.6
Indiana	169	171	1,670	1,710	282	292	3.5
Iowa	204	199	1,725	1,805	352	359	2.0
Kansas	121	124	1,750	1,775	212	220	3.8
Michigan	360	369	1,915	1,925	689	710	3.0
Minnesota	470	471	1,560	1,555	733	732	-0.1
Missouri	97	95	1,180	1,180	114	112	-1.8
New Mexico	318	332	2,055	2,100	653	697	6.7
New York	611	610	1,725	1,725	1,054	1,052	-0.2
Ohio	270	268	1,600	1,600	432	429	-0.7
Oregon	121	122	1,690	1,690	204	206	1.0
Pennsylvania	541	538	1,640	1,620	887	872	-1.7
Texas	415	435	1,775	1,860	737	809	9.8
Utah	85	87	1,790	1,800	152	157	3.3
Vermont	136	134	1,520	1,560	207	209	1.0
Virginia	95	96	1,465	1,435	139	138	-0.7
Washington	254	266	1,950	1,965	495	523	5.7
Wisconsin	1,264	1,264	1,680	1,710	2,124	2,161	1.7
23-State Total	8,372	8,483	1,767	1,787	14,796	15,161	2.5

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk per Cow – 23 Selected States

Pounds



Milk Cows and Production – 23 Selected States: September 2010 and 2011

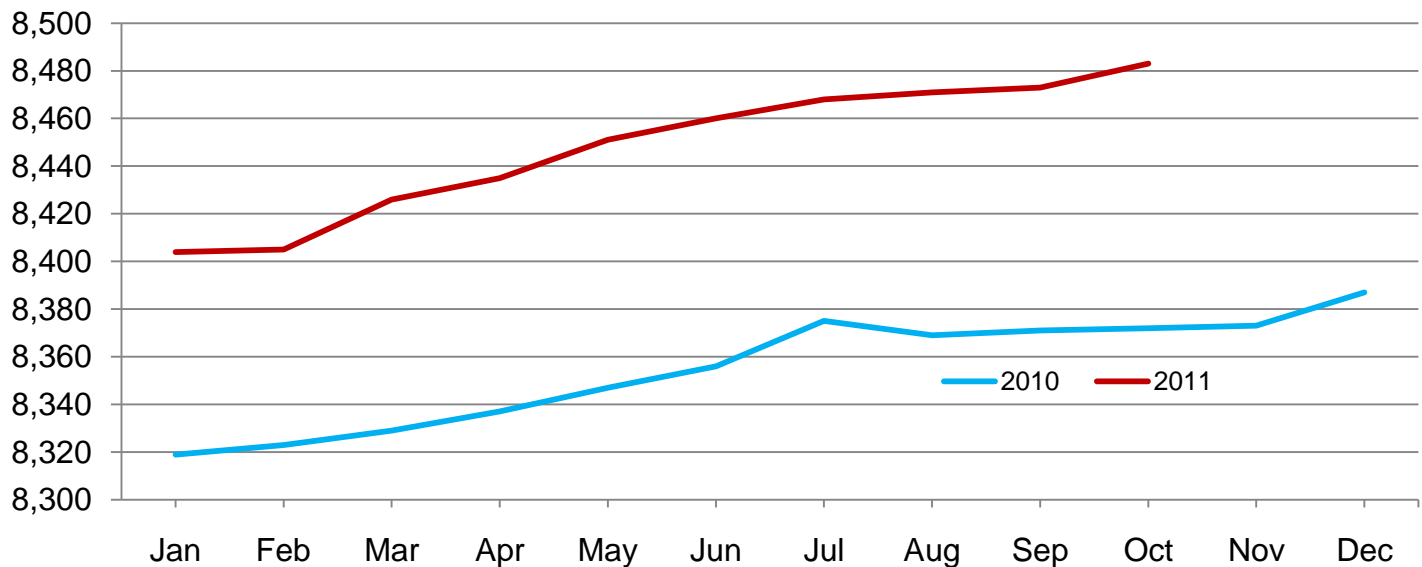
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2010
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	182	189	1,750	1,765	319	334	4.7
California	1,752	1,778	1,880	1,865	3,294	3,316	0.7
Colorado	122	130	1,945	1,930	237	251	5.9
Florida	113	119	1,255	1,300	142	155	9.2
Idaho	571	582	1,900	1,920	1,085	1,117	2.9
Illinois	99	98	1,485	1,520	147	149	1.4
Indiana	169	171	1,610	1,645	272	281	3.3
Iowa	205	198	1,670	1,750	342	347	1.5
Kansas	121	124	1,685	1,710	204	212	3.9
Michigan	359	369	1,885	1,870	677	690	1.9
Minnesota	470	471	1,530	1,505	719	709	-1.4
Missouri	98	95	1,125	1,110	110	105	-4.5
New Mexico	318	331	2,015	2,020	641	669	4.4
New York	611	610	1,695	1,700	1,036	1,037	0.1
Ohio	270	268	1,560	1,550	421	415	-1.4
Oregon	121	122	1,660	1,680	201	205	2.0
Pennsylvania	542	537	1,600	1,590	867	854	-1.5
Texas	415	435	1,695	1,780	703	774	10.1
Utah	85	87	1,770	1,760	150	153	2.0
Vermont	136	134	1,485	1,515	202	203	0.5
Virginia	95	96	1,430	1,405	136	135	-0.7
Washington	253	265	1,935	1,945	490	515	5.1
Wisconsin	1,264	1,264	1,650	1,680	2,086	2,124	1.8
23-State Total	8,371	8,473	1,730	1,741	14,481	14,750	1.9

¹ Includes dry cows; excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows – 23 Selected States

Thousand head



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, rather than conduct a monthly survey, to estimate milk production. This eliminates duplication of data gathering by different government agencies. Indications of milk cow inventory are also obtained in the January and July Cattle Surveys.

Estimation Procedures: State 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, rate per cow, and number of cows are subject to revision the following month for monthly States or the following quarter for the quarterly States. Normally, Federal Market Order sales are the main basis for revisions. However, data for all orders are not available in time for this revision. 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 on the next page. 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 cow inventory estimates over the past 24 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 8.48 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 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	20	0	63	14	9
All milk cows	0.1	0.1	4	0	15	19	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@nass.usda.gov

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