



ISSN: 1949-1557

Released November 20, 2024, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

October Milk Production up 0.4 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during October totaled 18.0 billion pounds, up 0.4 percent from October 2023. September revised production, at 17.5 billion pounds, was up 0.5 percent from September 2023. The September revision represented an increase of 52 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,013 pounds for October, 4 pounds above October 2023.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.92 million head, 21,000 head more than October 2023, and 16,000 head more than September 2024.

October Milk Production in the United States up 0.2 Percent

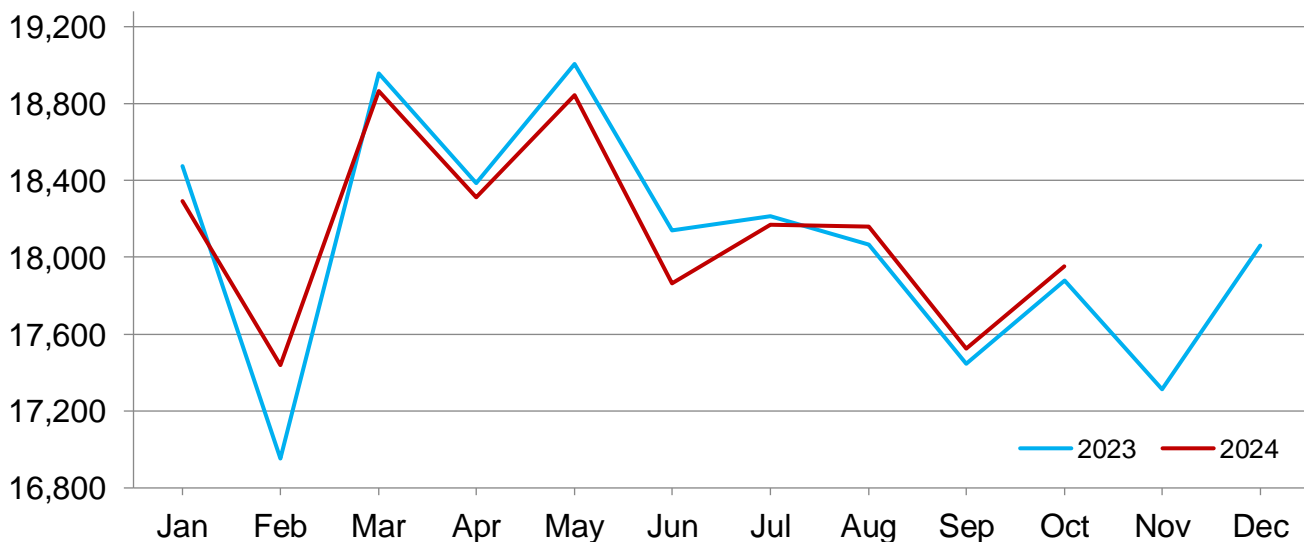
Milk production in the United States during October totaled 18.7 billion pounds, up 0.2 percent from October 2023.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 1,996 pounds for October, 3 pounds above October 2023.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.37 million head, 10,000 head more than October 2023, and 19,000 head more than September 2024.

Monthly Milk Production - 24 Selected States

Million pounds



Milk Cows and Production by Quarter – United States: 2023-2024

[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		Change from 2023
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January-March	9,418	9,337	6,035	6,100	56,837	56,959	0.2
April-June	9,410	9,328	6,164	6,150	58,004	57,368	-1.1
July-September	9,366	9,331	5,978	6,008	55,994	56,061	0.1
October-December	9,349		5,940		55,529		
Annual	9,386		24,117		226,364		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production by Month – 24 Selected States: 2023-2024

[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		Change from 2023
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	8,922	8,870	2,071	2,062	18,474	18,294	-1.0
February	8,939	8,888	1,897	1,962	16,953	17,439	2.9
March	8,952	8,892	2,118	2,122	18,956	18,865	-0.5
April	8,941	8,888	2,056	2,061	18,386	18,314	-0.4
May	8,945	8,886	2,125	2,121	19,006	18,845	-0.8
June	8,925	8,875	2,033	2,013	18,141	17,863	-1.5
July	8,909	8,878	2,045	2,047	18,216	18,170	-0.3
August	8,906	8,887	2,028	2,044	18,065	18,161	0.5
September	8,907	8,905	1,958	1,968	17,444	17,527	0.5
October	8,900	8,921	2,009	2,013	17,880	17,955	0.4
November	8,891		1,947		17,311		
December	8,894		2,031		18,061		
Annual	8,919		24,318		216,893		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Estimated Milk Cows and Production by Month – United States: 2023-2024

[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		Change from 2023
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
January	9,401	9,323	2,054	2,047	19,308	19,083	-1.2
February	9,419	9,343	1,881	1,947	17,718	18,195	2.7
March	9,433	9,346	2,100	2,106	19,811	19,681	-0.7
April	9,414	9,333	2,040	2,046	19,204	19,095	-0.6
May	9,418	9,331	2,108	2,106	19,852	19,648	-1.0
June	9,397	9,320	2,016	1,998	18,948	18,625	-1.7
July	9,368	9,319	2,027	2,029	18,985	18,911	-0.4
August	9,365	9,328	2,010	2,027	18,828	18,904	0.4
September	9,366	9,346	1,941	1,952	18,181	18,246	0.4
October	9,355	9,365	1,993	1,996	18,645	18,690	0.2
November	9,345		1,932		18,051		
December	9,348		2,015		18,833		
Annual	9,386		24,117		226,364		

¹ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: October 2023 and 2024

[May not add due to rounding]

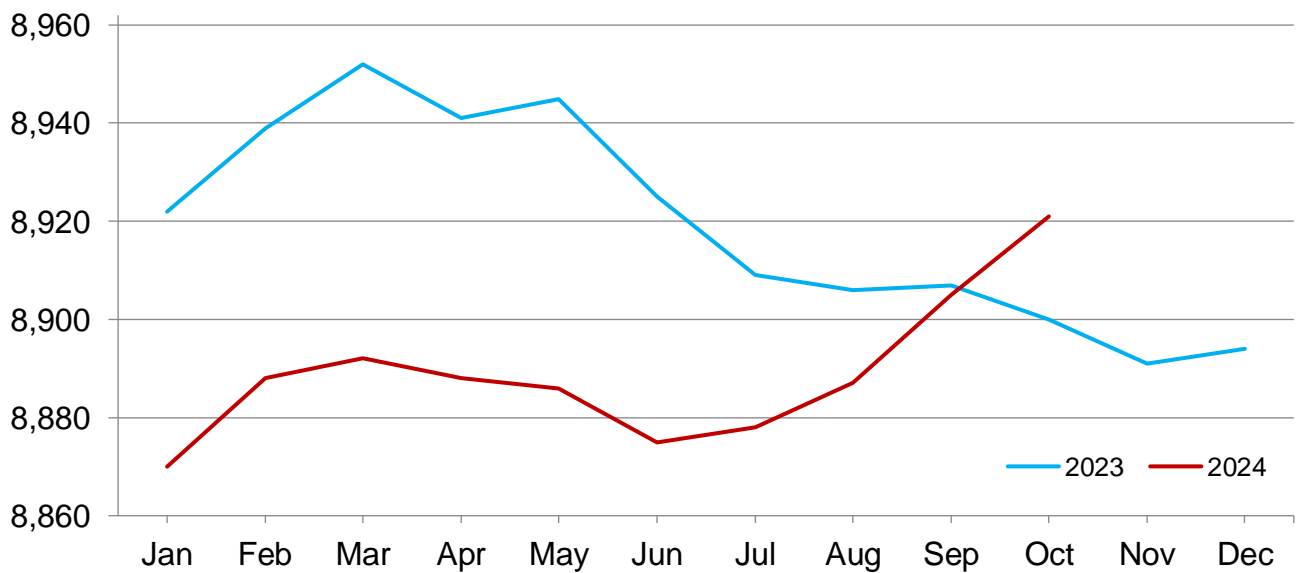
State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2023
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	201	193	1,960	1,970	394	380	-3.6
California	1,711	1,707	1,935	1,865	3,311	3,184	-3.8
Colorado	198	202	2,175	2,180	431	440	2.1
Florida	100	100	1,580	1,570	158	157	-0.6
Georgia	90	85	1,775	1,920	160	163	1.9
Idaho	663	672	2,080	2,110	1,379	1,418	2.8
Illinois	79	77	1,745	1,740	138	134	-2.9
Indiana	191	189	1,965	1,990	375	376	0.3
Iowa	239	243	2,060	2,090	492	508	3.3
Kansas	175	183	2,015	2,010	353	368	4.2
Michigan	439	438	2,290	2,305	1,005	1,010	0.5
Minnesota	451	442	1,935	1,965	873	869	-0.5
New Mexico	260	242	2,000	2,055	520	497	-4.4
New York	630	630	2,130	2,135	1,342	1,345	0.2
Ohio	255	251	1,845	1,870	470	469	-0.2
Oregon	119	118	1,745	1,745	208	206	-1.0
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,710	1,725	797	802	0.6
South Dakota	198	215	1,955	1,970	387	424	9.6
Texas	635	675	2,175	2,225	1,381	1,502	8.8
Utah	88	90	1,940	1,935	171	174	1.8
Vermont	116	113	1,805	1,840	209	208	-0.5
Virginia	69	66	1,700	1,705	117	113	-3.4
Washington	257	259	2,010	2,000	517	518	0.2
Wisconsin	1,270	1,266	2,120	2,125	2,692	2,690	-0.1
24-State Total	8,900	8,921	2,009	2,013	17,880	17,955	0.4

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: September 2023 and 2024

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows ¹		Milk per cow ²		Milk production ²		Change from 2023
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	201	193	1,835	1,840	369	355	-3.8
California	1,712	1,708	1,875	1,880	3,210	3,211	(Z)
Colorado	198	202	2,125	2,140	421	432	2.6
Florida	100	100	1,510	1,490	151	149	-1.3
Georgia	90	85	1,680	1,800	151	153	1.3
Idaho	665	672	2,065	2,105	1,373	1,415	3.1
Illinois	79	77	1,705	1,700	135	131	-3.0
Indiana	191	189	1,910	1,930	365	365	-
Iowa	240	241	2,010	2,015	482	486	0.8
Kansas	172	182	1,955	1,950	336	355	5.7
Michigan	439	436	2,240	2,235	983	974	-0.9
Minnesota	451	442	1,905	1,915	859	846	-1.5
New Mexico	265	240	1,960	1,970	519	473	-8.9
New York	630	630	2,070	2,080	1,304	1,310	0.5
Ohio	255	251	1,795	1,820	458	457	-0.2
Oregon	120	118	1,715	1,710	206	202	-1.9
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,670	1,675	778	779	0.1
South Dakota	198	215	1,925	1,935	381	416	9.2
Texas	635	665	2,095	2,100	1,330	1,397	5.0
Utah	88	90	1,910	1,915	168	172	2.4
Vermont	116	113	1,750	1,750	203	198	-2.5
Virginia	69	66	1,650	1,645	114	109	-4.4
Washington	257	259	1,995	1,990	513	515	0.4
Wisconsin	1,270	1,266	2,075	2,075	2,635	2,627	-0.3
24-State Total	8,907	8,905	1,958	1,968	17,444	17,527	0.5

- Represents zero.

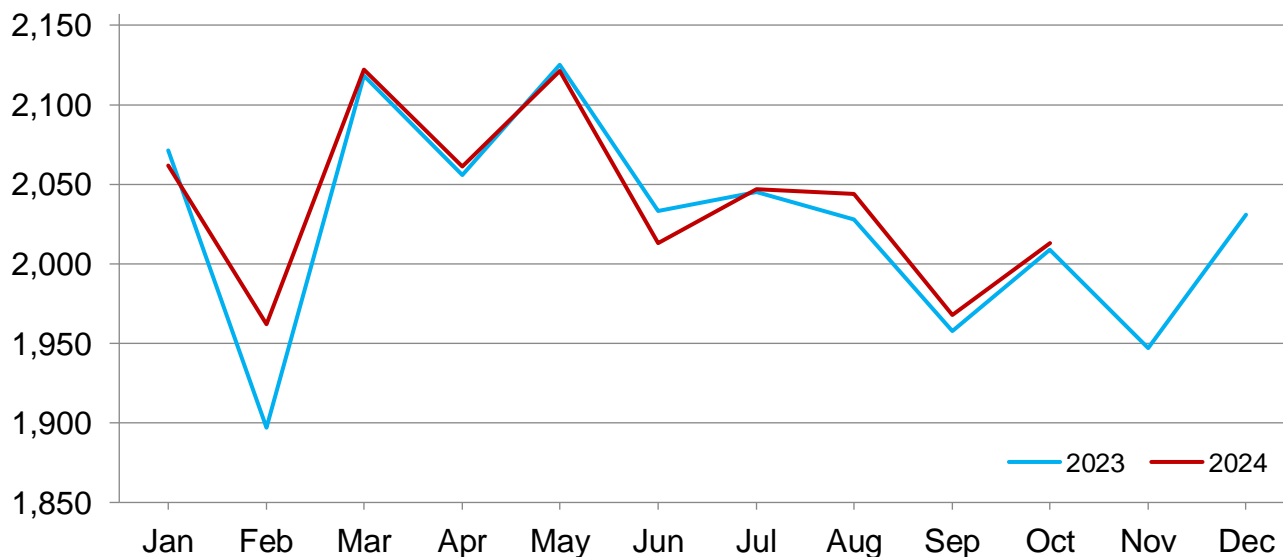
(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

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 0.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 18.0 billion pounds by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 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	0.3	0.5	41	1	137	9	15
All Milk cows	0.1	0.2	6	0	18	6	14

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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3347
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats	(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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