Milk Production

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July Milk Production down 0.2 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during July totaled 18.2 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from July 2023. June revised production, at 17.9 billion pounds, was down 1.5 percent from June 2023. The June revision represented a decrease of 137 million pounds or 0.8 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,047 pounds for July, 2 pounds above July 2023.

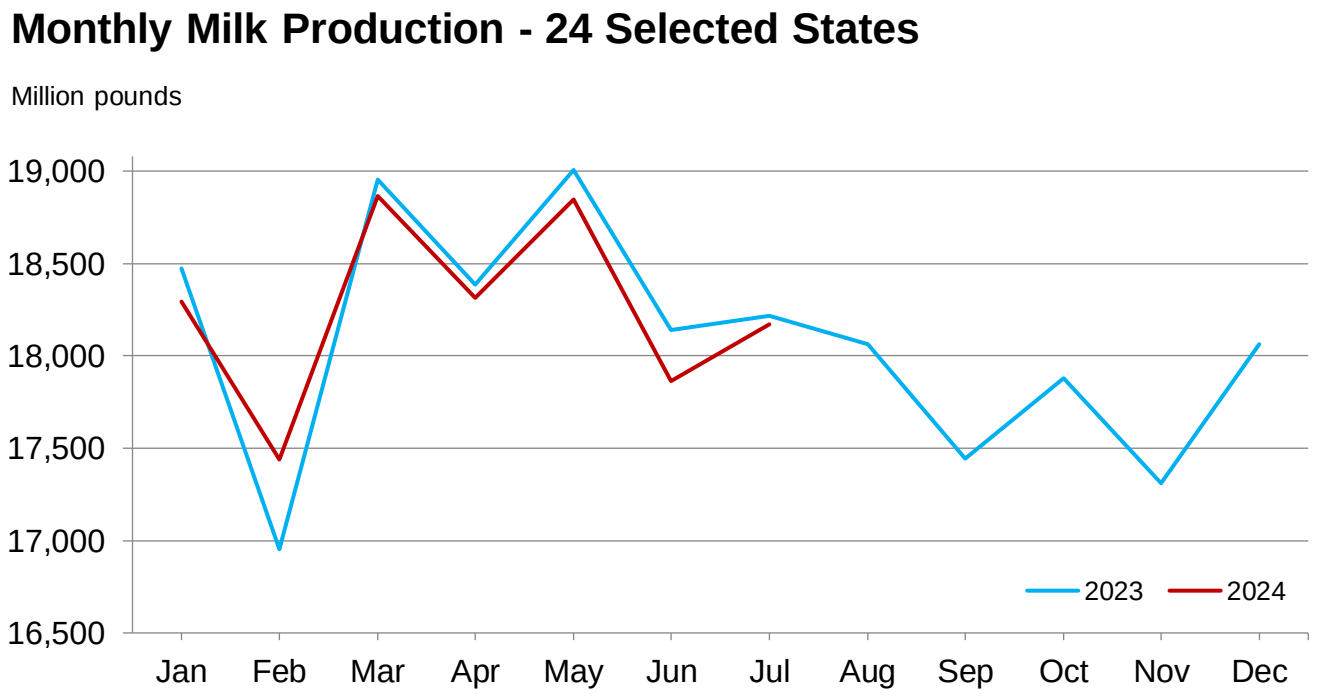
The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.88 million head, 31,000 head less than July 2023, but 3,000 head more than June 2024.

July Milk Production in the United States down 0.4 Percent

Milk production in the United States during July totaled 18.9 billion pounds, down 0.4 percent from July 2023.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,028 pounds for July, 1 pound above July 2023.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.33 million head, 43,000 head less than July 2023, but 5,000 head more than June 2024.



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]		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(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	9,329	6,164	6,151	58,004	57,380	-1.1
July-September	9,366		5,978		55,994		
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]		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(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	18,171	-0.2
August	8,906		2,028		18,065		
September	8,907		1,958		17,444		
October	8,900		2,009		17,880		
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]		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(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	9,335	2,040	2,046	19,204	19,098	-0.6
May	9,418	9,333	2,108	2,106	19,852	19,652	-1.0
June	9,397	9,320	2,016	1,999	18,948	18,630	-1.7
July	9,368	9,325	2,027	2,028	18,985	18,915	-0.4
August	9,365		2,010		18,828		
September	9,366		1,941		18,181		
October	9,355		1,993		18,645		
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.

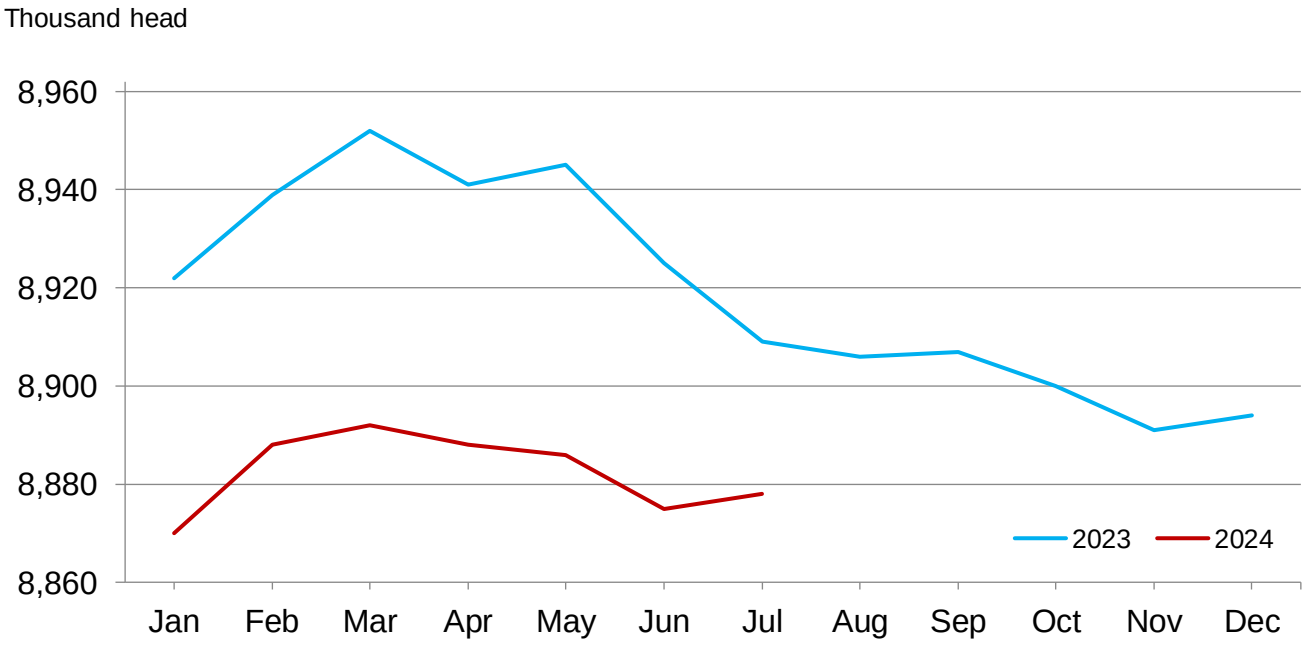
Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: July 2023 and 2024

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows [1]		Milk per cow [2]		Milk production [2]		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	198	189	1,910	1,905	378	360	-4.8
California	1,714	1,709	1,940	1,940	3,325	3,315	-0.3
Colorado	200	201	2,205	2,155	441	433	-1.8
Florida	98	99	1,690	1,705	166	169	1.8
Georgia	90	85	1,780	1,865	160	159	-0.6
Idaho	666	667	2,195	2,170	1,462	1,447	-1.0
Illinois	79	78	1,810	1,800	143	140	-2.1
Indiana	190	189	2,005	2,015	381	381	-
Iowa	242	241	2,100	2,095	508	505	-0.6
Kansas	169	173	1,985	1,995	335	345	3.0
Michigan	439	436	2,360	2,355	1,036	1,027	-0.9
Minnesota	451	442	2,000	1,960	902	866	-4.0
New Mexico	270	239	1,995	2,055	539	491	-8.9
New York	630	630	2,200	2,195	1,386	1,383	-0.2
Ohio	253	252	1,900	1,920	481	484	0.6
Oregon	120	118	1,800	1,795	216	212	-1.9
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,755	1,755	818	816	-0.2
South Dakota	197	212	1,985	1,980	391	420	7.4
Texas	635	653	2,110	2,175	1,340	1,420	6.0
Utah	91	90	2,000	2,010	182	181	-0.5
Vermont	117	114	1,840	1,820	215	207	-3.7
Virginia	68	66	1,740	1,745	118	115	-2.5
Washington	257	260	2,050	2,050	527	533	1.1
Wisconsin	1,269	1,270	2,180	2,175	2,766	2,762	-0.1
24-State Total	8,909	8,878	2,045	2,047	18,216	18,171	-0.2

- Represents zero.
[1] Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.
[2] Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Cows - 24 Selected States



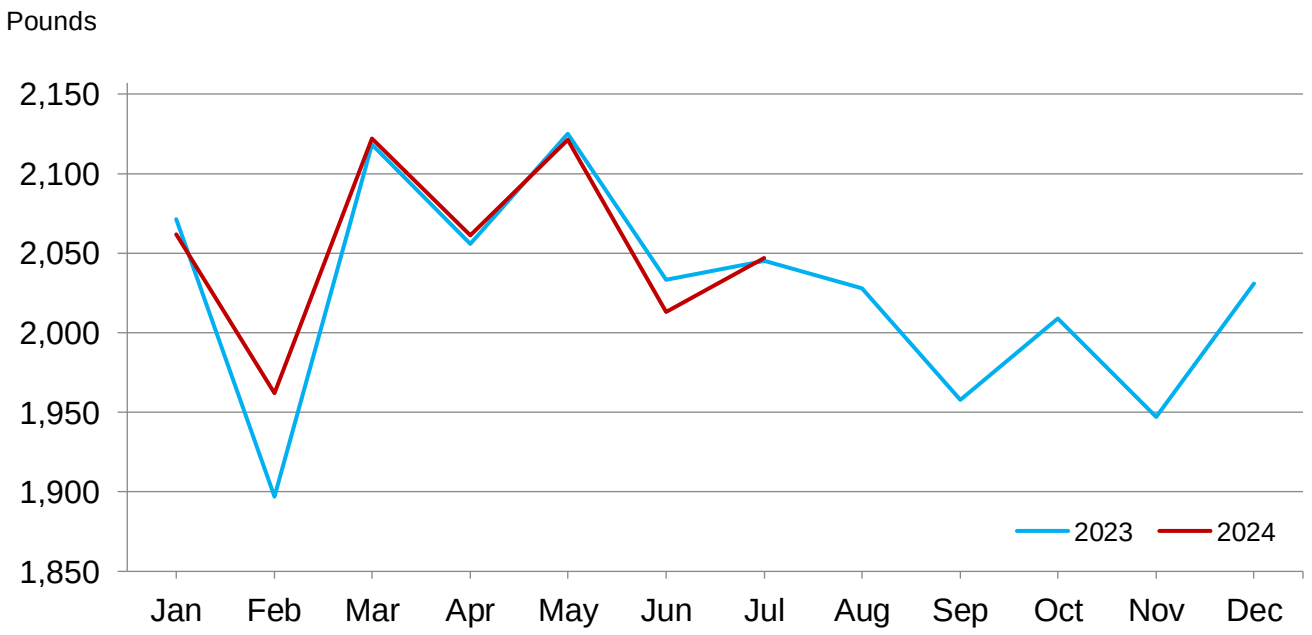
Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: June 2023 and 2024

[May not add due to rounding]

State	Milk cows [1]		Milk per cow [2]		Milk production [2]		
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	Change from 2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(million pounds)	(million pounds)	(percent)
Arizona	200	189	2,030	2,020	406	382	-5.9
California	1,714	1,708	1,995	1,960	3,419	3,348	-2.1
Colorado	204	202	2,145	2,090	438	422	-3.7
Florida	95	99	1,705	1,700	162	168	3.7
Georgia	93	85	1,850	1,860	172	158	-8.1
Idaho	670	667	2,145	2,095	1,437	1,397	-2.8
Illinois	79	78	1,835	1,800	145	140	-3.4
Indiana	189	189	2,010	1,980	380	374	-1.6
Iowa	240	242	2,070	2,020	497	489	-1.6
Kansas	175	173	1,955	1,945	342	336	-1.8
Michigan	438	436	2,310	2,280	1,012	994	-1.8
Minnesota	452	444	1,945	1,930	879	857	-2.5
New Mexico	275	238	2,000	2,020	550	481	-12.5
New York	630	630	2,155	2,130	1,358	1,342	-1.2
Ohio	252	252	1,875	1,865	473	470	-0.6
Oregon	120	118	1,760	1,765	211	208	-1.4
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,770	1,735	825	807	-2.2
South Dakota	195	212	1,925	1,920	375	407	8.5
Texas	635	648	2,095	2,115	1,330	1,371	3.1
Utah	91	90	1,980	1,980	180	178	-1.1
Vermont	117	114	1,805	1,800	211	205	-2.8
Virginia	68	66	1,720	1,715	117	113	-3.4
Washington	258	260	2,010	2,015	519	524	1.0
Wisconsin	1,269	1,270	2,130	2,120	2,703	2,692	-0.4
24-State Total	8,925	8,875	2,033	2,013	18,141	17,863	-1.5

[1] Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.
[2] Excludes milk sucked by calves.

Monthly Milk Per Cow - 24 Selected States



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 18.2 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	40	5	137	8	16
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	6	0	13	4	16

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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Donnie Fike – Dairy Products ..... (202) 690-3347
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs ..... (202) 720-3106
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