Milk Production

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April Milk Production down 0.2 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during April totaled 18.3 billion pounds, down 0.2 percent from April 2023. March revised production, at 18.9 billion pounds, was down 0.5 percent from March 2023. The March revision represented an increase of 78 million pounds or 0.4 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,064 pounds for April, 8 pounds above April 2023.

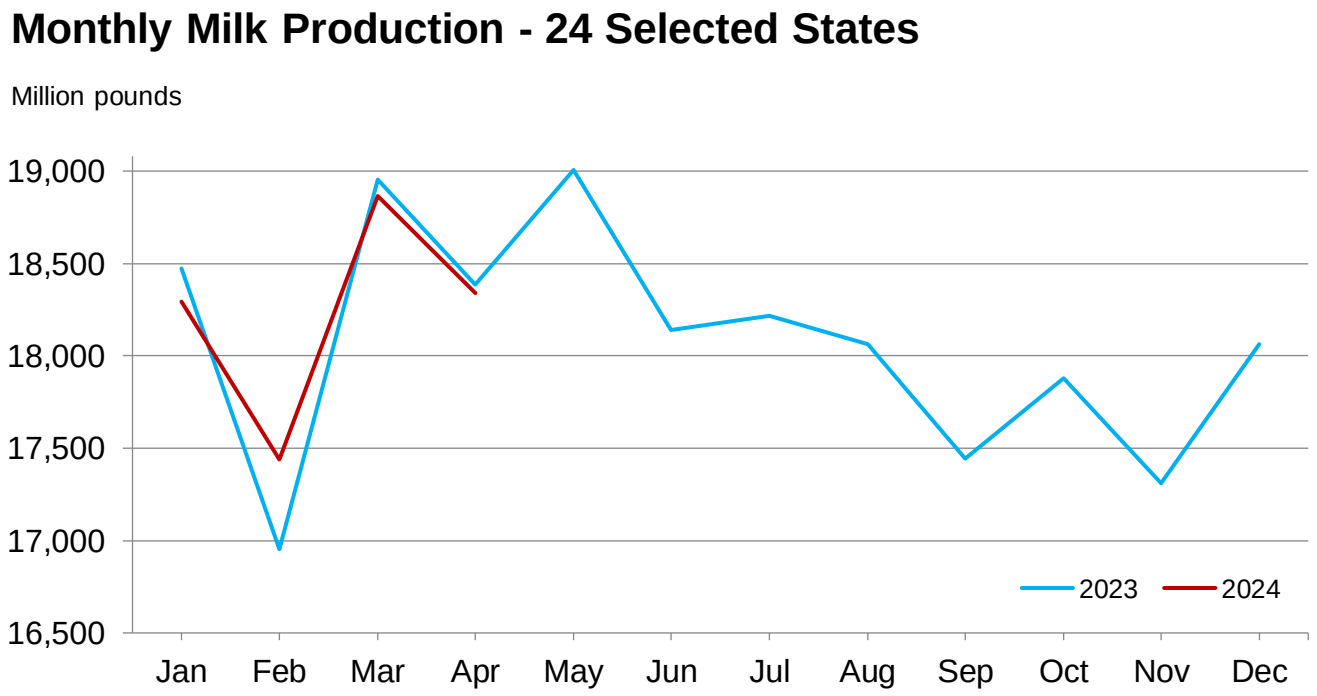
The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 8.89 million head, 55,000 head less than April 2023, and 6,000 head less than March 2024.

April Milk Production in the United States down 0.4 Percent

Milk production in the United States during April totaled 19.1 billion pounds, down 0.4 percent from April 2023.

Production per cow in the United States averaged 2,049 pounds for April, 9 pounds above April 2023.

The number of milk cows on farms in the United States was 9.34 million head, 74,000 head less than April 2023, and 8,000 head less than March 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	9,338	6,035	6,100	56,837	56,964	0.2
April-June	9,410		6,164		58,004		
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	8,886	2,056	2,064	18,386	18,341	-0.2
May	8,945		2,125		19,006		
June	8,925		2,033		18,141		
July	8,909		2,045		18,216		
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	19,088	-1.1
February	9,419	9,342	1,881	1,948	17,718	18,195	2.7
March	9,433	9,348	2,100	2,105	19,811	19,681	-0.7
April	9,414	9,340	2,040	2,049	19,204	19,135	-0.4
May	9,418		2,108		19,852		
June	9,397		2,016		18,948		
July	9,368		2,027		18,985		
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.

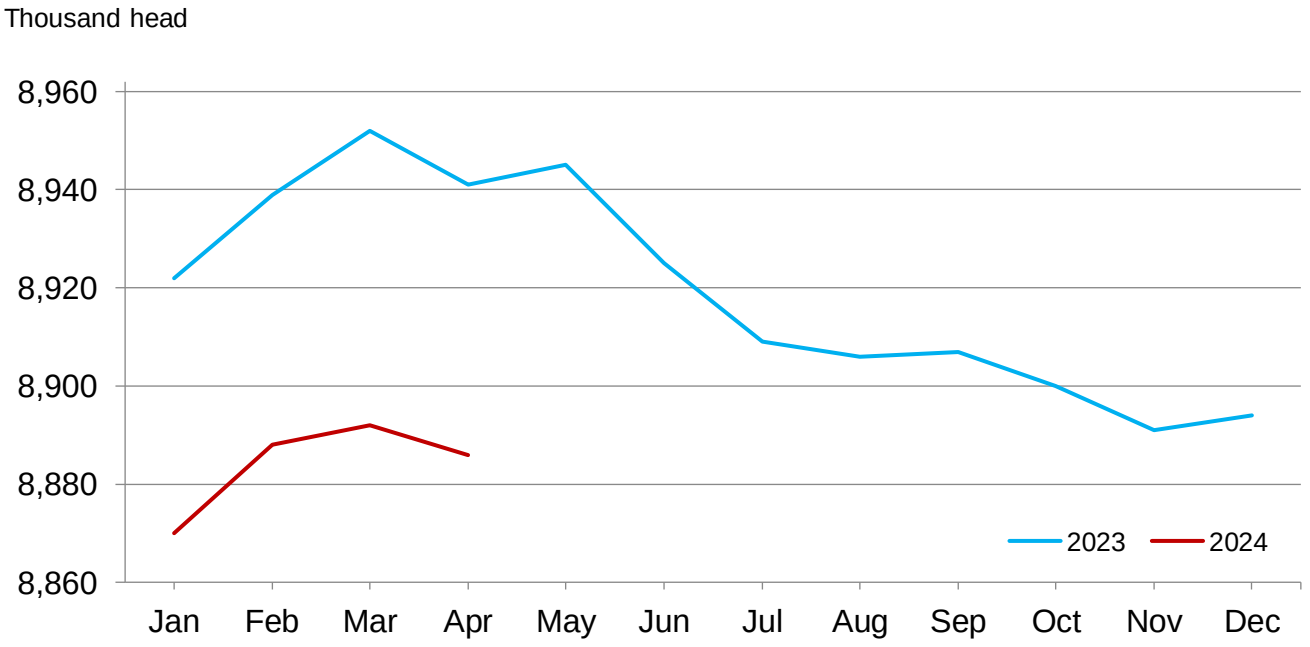
Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: April 2023 and 2024

[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	196	193	2,185	2,185	428	422	-1.4
California	1,717	1,708	2,060	2,075	3,537	3,544	0.2
Colorado	205	203	2,165	2,175	444	442	-0.5
Florida	92	100	1,805	1,845	166	185	11.4
Georgia	92	85	1,960	1,965	180	167	-7.2
Idaho	669	668	2,105	2,105	1,408	1,406	-0.1
Illinois	79	79	1,860	1,880	147	149	1.4
Indiana	189	190	2,010	2,005	380	381	0.3
Iowa	239	243	2,065	2,105	494	512	3.6
Kansas	180	174	2,000	1,990	360	346	-3.9
Michigan	436	439	2,310	2,305	1,007	1,012	0.5
Minnesota	454	446	1,925	1,955	874	872	-0.2
New Mexico	282	235	2,135	2,120	602	498	-17.3
New York	630	630	2,130	2,130	1,342	1,342	-
Ohio	252	255	1,875	1,885	473	481	1.7
Oregon	125	117	1,770	1,770	221	207	-6.3
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,835	1,830	855	851	-0.5
South Dakota	189	212	1,895	1,895	358	402	12.3
Texas	645	640	2,190	2,135	1,413	1,366	-3.3
Utah	90	90	1,930	1,940	174	175	0.6
Vermont	118	115	1,820	1,800	215	207	-3.7
Virginia	67	67	1,800	1,830	121	123	1.7
Washington	261	260	2,035	2,035	531	529	-0.4
Wisconsin	1,268	1,272	2,095	2,140	2,656	2,722	2.5
24-State Total	8,941	8,886	2,056	2,064	18,386	18,341	-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



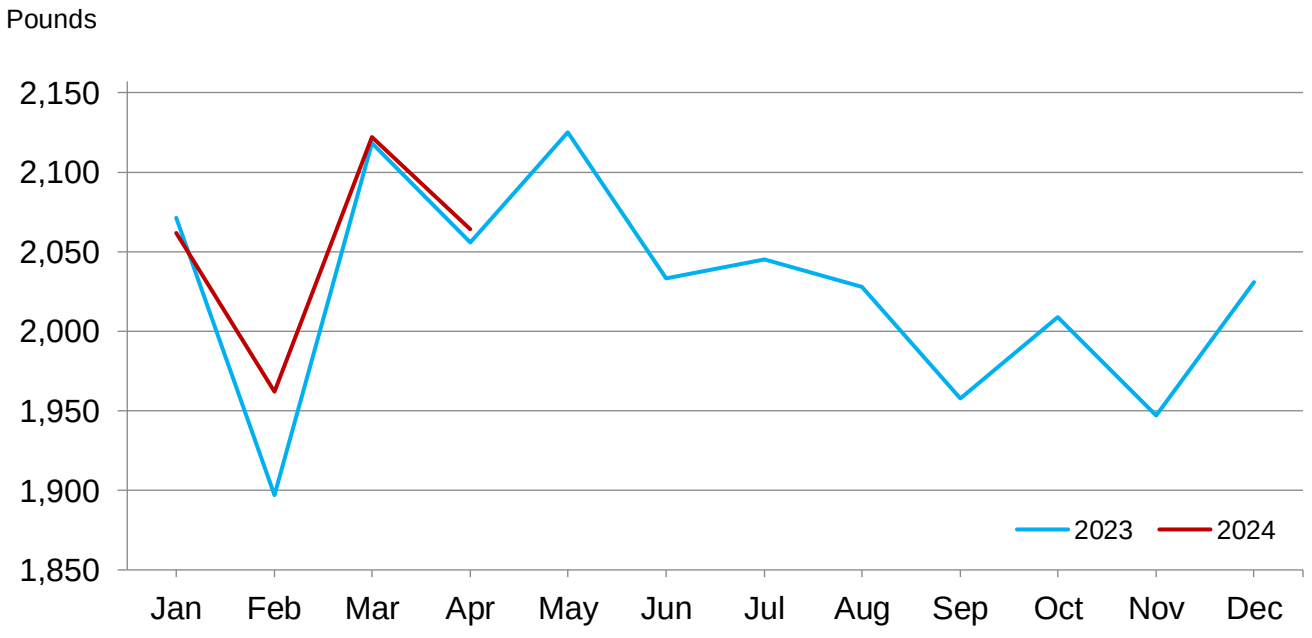
Milk Cows and Production – 24 Selected States: March 2023 and 2024

[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	194	193	2,270	2,280	440	440	-
California	1,717	1,709	2,120	2,140	3,640	3,657	0.5
Colorado	203	203	2,230	2,235	453	454	0.2
Florida	92	100	1,900	1,925	175	193	10.3
Georgia	92	85	2,040	2,025	188	172	-8.5
Idaho	669	668	2,160	2,145	1,445	1,433	-0.8
Illinois	79	79	1,930	1,950	152	154	1.3
Indiana	189	190	2,080	2,045	393	389	-1.0
Iowa	240	242	2,130	2,150	511	520	1.8
Kansas	180	175	2,065	2,085	372	365	-1.9
Michigan	435	439	2,380	2,370	1,035	1,040	0.5
Minnesota	454	446	1,990	2,005	903	894	-1.0
New Mexico	281	240	2,220	2,200	624	528	-15.4
New York	630	630	2,170	2,185	1,367	1,377	0.7
Ohio	252	255	1,945	1,930	490	492	0.4
Oregon	126	116	1,820	1,820	229	211	-7.9
Pennsylvania	466	465	1,870	1,870	871	870	-0.1
South Dakota	189	212	1,940	1,950	367	413	12.5
Texas	660	643	2,280	2,225	1,505	1,431	-4.9
Utah	90	90	1,960	1,970	176	177	0.6
Vermont	118	115	1,860	1,860	219	214	-2.3
Virginia	67	67	1,865	1,860	125	125	-
Washington	260	260	2,080	2,080	541	541	-
Wisconsin	1,269	1,270	2,155	2,185	2,735	2,775	1.5
24-State Total	8,952	8,892	2,118	2,122	18,956	18,865	-0.5

- Represents zero.
[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 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 18.3 billion pounds by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.4 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	0.4	36	5	101	9	15
All Milk cows	0.1	0.1	6	0	14	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.

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 ..... (512) 501-3266
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products ..... (202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs ..... (202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats ..... (202) 720-4448

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