

March Milk Production Up 4.3 Percent

Milk production in the 23 major States during March totaled 16.5 billion pounds, up 4.3 percent from March 2011. February revised production at 15.1 billion pounds, was up 8.2 percent from February 2011. The February revision represented a decrease of 13 million pounds or 0.1 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Adjusting February production for the additional day due to leap year causes February revised production to be up 4.5 percent on a per day basis.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,931 pounds for March, 59 pounds above March 2011.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.52 million head, 94,000 head more than March 2011, and 9,000 head more than February 2012.

January - March Milk Production Up 5.2 Percent

Milk production in the United States during the January - March quarter totaled 51.0 billion pounds, up 5.2 percent from the January - March quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the

United States during the quarter was 9.25 million head, 86,000 head more than the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Production: By State, March 2011-2012

State	Milk Cows 1/		Milk Per Cow 2/		Milk Production 2/		Percent change from 2011
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
AZ	187	194	2,180	2,240	408	435	6.6
CA	1,760	1,785	2,040	2,135	3,590	3,811	6.2
CO	125	132	2,015	2,045	252	270	7.1
FL	119	122	1,865	1,830	222	223	0.5
ID	576	580	1,880	1,930	1,083	1,119	3.3
IL	98	100	1,715	1,770	168	177	5.4
IN	172	176	1,795	1,845	309	325	5.2
IA	209	204	1,825	1,900	381	388	1.8
KS	122	123	1,830	1,870	223	230	3.1
MI	364	375	1,985	2,070	723	776	7.3
MN	469	465	1,660	1,710	779	795	2.1
MO	94	93	1,365	1,395	128	130	1.6
NM	325	336	2,150	2,190	699	736	5.3
NY	610	610	1,810	1,865	1,104	1,138	3.1
OH	269	270	1,660	1,710	447	462	3.4
OR	119	123	1,750	1,750	208	215	3.4
PA	543	540	1,710	1,710	929	923	-0.6
TX	426	439	1,945	1,995	829	876	5.7
UT	87	91	1,770	1,825	154	166	7.8
VT	135	133	1,635	1,660	221	221	
VA	96	96	1,615	1,645	155	158	1.9
WA	254	263	2,025	2,040	514	537	4.5
WI	1,266	1,269	1,775	1,845	2,247	2,341	4.2
23-State Total	8,425	8,519	1,872	1,931	15,773	16,452	4.3

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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Release Dates for Upcoming National Reports

May 18 Milk Production
 May 18 Cattle on Feed
 May 25 Livestock Slaughter
 May 31 Agricultural Prices

Commercial Red Meat Production Down 4 Percent From Last Year

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.17 billion pounds in March, down 4 percent from the 4.35 billion pounds produced in March 2011.

Beef production, at 2.16 billion pounds, was 5 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, down 7 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was up 23 pounds from the previous year, at 1,299 pounds.

Veal production totaled 10.0 million pounds, 18 percent below March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 59,400 head, down 19 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was down 1 pound from last year, at 283 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.99 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.52 million head, down 4 percent from March 2011. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 279 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.2 million pounds, was up 1 percent from March 2011. Sheep slaughter totaled 190,200 head, 2 percent below last year. The average live weight was 149 pounds, up 3 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2012 commercial red meat production was 12.2 billion pounds, up slightly from 2011. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 9 percent, pork was up 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was up 7 percent.

Commercial Red Meat Production: By Arizona and United States 1/

Class	March 2011	February 2012	March 2012	March 2012 as % of 2/	
				March 2011	February 2012
	<i>Million Pounds</i>			<i>Percent</i>	
Arizona 3/					
Total Red Meat	33.4	30.7	33.9	101	110
<u>United States</u>					
Beef	2,266.2	2,009.0	2,157.6	95	107
Veal	12.1	9.8	10	82	102
Pork	2,054.4	1,882.9	1,987.9	97	106
Lamb and Mutton	14.1	12.3	14.2	101	115
Total Red Meat	4,346.7	3,914.0	4,169.7	96	107

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

2/ Percentages based on unrounded data.

3/ Breakdown by class not available, includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton.

Commercial Livestock Slaughter: Arizona and U.S., January - March 2012 1/

Species	Arizona			United States		
	January - March			January - March		
	Number Slaughtered	Total Live Weight	Average Live Weight	Number Slaughtered	Total Live Weight	Average Live Weight
	1,000 Head	1,000 Pounds	Pounds	1,000 Head	1,000 Pounds	Pounds
Cattle	137.4	178,185	1,299	8,024.5	10,426,041	1,302
Hogs	0.4	101	256	28,103.8	7,821,509	278

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

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April Farm Prices Received Index Down 7 Points

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 177 percent, based on 1990-1992=100, decreased 7 points (3.8 percent) from March. The Crop Index is down 5 points (2.4 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 7 points (4.4 percent). Producers received lower prices for broilers, corn, cattle, and eggs and higher prices for soybeans, onions, hay, and oranges. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly movement of cattle, strawberries, milk, and broilers offset the decreased marketing of soybeans, corn, wheat, and cotton.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 1 point (0.6 percent) from April 2011. The Food Commodities Index, at 166, decreased 5 points (2.9 percent) from last month but is unchanged from April 2011.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The April Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) is 21 percent of the 1990-1992 average. The index is unchanged from March but 10 points above (4.9 percent) April 2011. Higher prices in April for complete feeds, concentrates, hay & forages, and supplements offset lower prices for feeder cattle, feeder pigs, feed grains, and LP gas.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	2011		2012	
	April	March	March	April
Prices Received	176	184	184	177
Prices Paid	203	213	213	213
Ratio 1/	87	86	86	83

1/ Ratio of index prices received by farmers to index of prices paid by farmers.

Prices Received by Farmers: Arizona and United States, April 2011 and 2012 and March 2012

Commodity	Unit	Arizona		
		April-11 Entire Month	March-12 Entire Month	April-12 Mid- Month
Upland Cotton	\$ Lb	1/	1/	1/
Durum Wheat	\$ Bu	1/	1/	1/
Alfalfa Hay 2/	\$ Ton	180.00	260.00	260.00
All Milk 3/	\$ Cwt	19.60	16.50	16.20
Commodity	Unit	United States		
Upland Cotton	\$ Lb	0.867	0.902	0.916
Durum Wheat	\$ Bu	8.60	8.35	8.11
Alfalfa Hay 2/	\$ Ton	161.00	201.00	207.00
Lemons 4/	\$ Box	31.60	35.00	36.00
Cows 5/	\$ Cwt	78.90	84.20	84.90
Steers & Heifers	\$ Cwt	122.00	132.00	129.00
Beef Cattle 6/	\$ Cwt	119.00	128.00	125.00
Calves	\$ Cwt	147.00	184.00	179.00
All Milk 3/	\$ Cwt	19.60	17.20	16.90

1/ Prices not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations or insufficient sales.

2/ Mid-month.

3/ Preliminary; before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies

4/ F.O.B. packed fresh Arizona box weights: Lemons – 80 lbs

5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

6/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.