

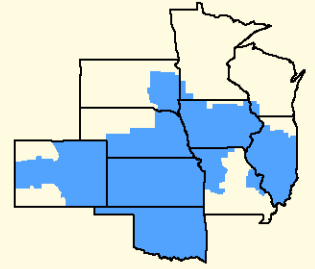
OCTOBER 2025

Marketing Service



Bulletin

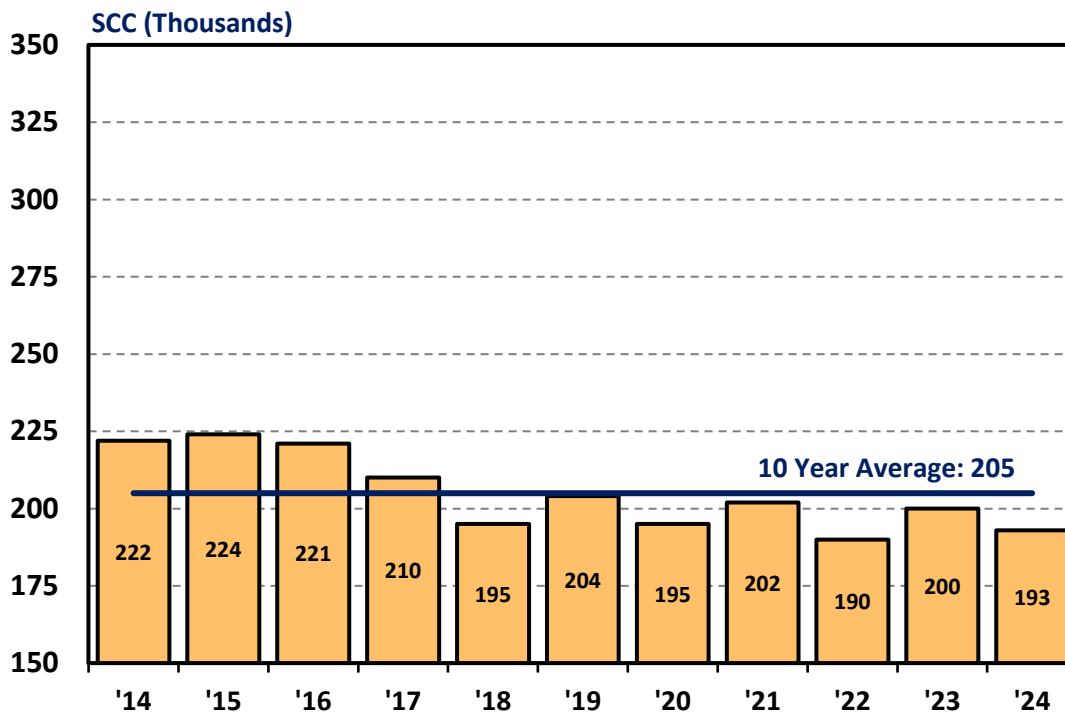
*Facilitating the efficient
marketing of milk and
dairy products.*



CENTRAL MARKETING AREA

Producer Milk Somatic Cell Counts

Central Federal Milk Order



A well-known and widely-used standard for producer milk quality is the somatic cell count (SCC). SCC is a measure of the total number of cells* per milliliter in milk, and lower counts are indicative of higher quality. Somatic cells enable animals to fight infection and ensure good health, and all milk naturally contains some somatic cells. Although high SCCs can affect dairy product manufacturing yields, milk flavor and product shelf life, they generally are not a food safety or public health issue. The federal SCC regulatory limit is 750,000; however, several states

have lower maximum allowed limits: California - 600,000; Idaho - 400,000; Oregon - 500,00; and Washington - 400,000. The SCC limit in many other major dairy countries is 400,000.

Four of the current 11 Federal Milk Orders (FMOs) adjust milk payments to producers based on the SCC in raw milk. The benchmark SCC for this adjustment is 350,000, with positive payments for SCCs below that level and negative adjustments for milk with higher counts. Price adjustments are made on a per hundredweight basis for every 1,000 SCC variation from the 350,000 standard. The magnitude of the SCC adjustment varies monthly based on the wholesale price of cheese.

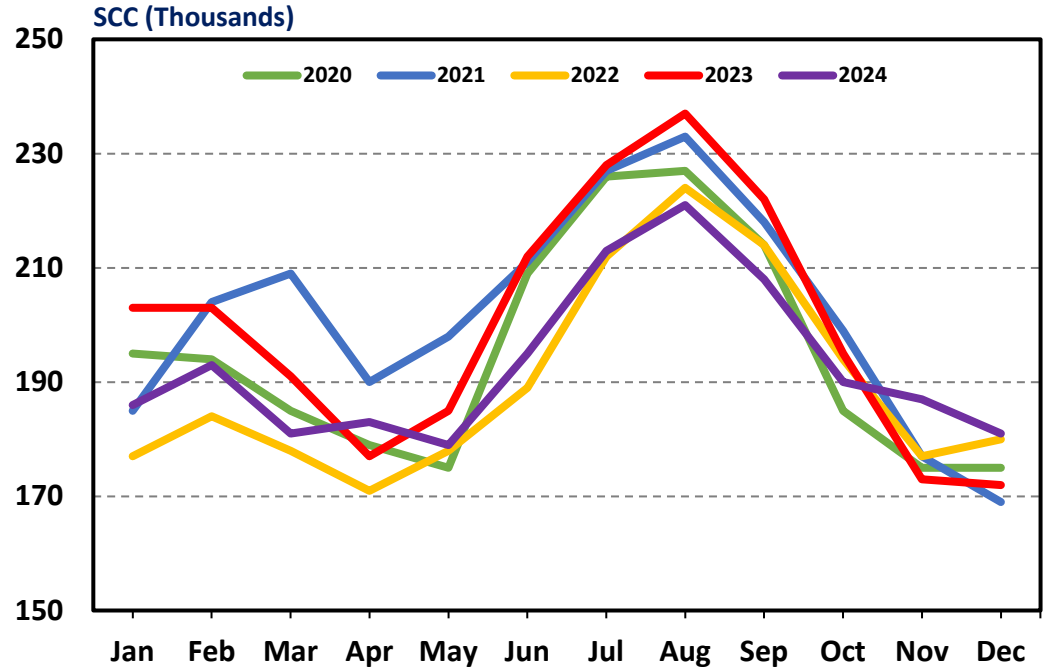
The Central Order is one of the four FMOs that utilize a SCC price adjustment. The graph on this page displays yearly average SCCs for the Central FMO over the last ten years. As indicated by this graph, SCCs have decreased by 29,000 (13.06%) since 2014. The annual Central Order SCC has exhibited a persistent downward trend from 2014 to 2018 and has held relatively steady since then. The 193,000 SCC average for 2024 is a decrease of 7,000 compared to the previous year. 2018, 2020, 2022, and 2024 have been the only years with an annual average SCC below 200,000.

*The somatic cell count (SCC) is primarily composed of leukocytes, or white blood cells, that are produced by a cow's immune system to fight inflammation in the mammary gland. All milk naturally contains some somatic cells.

The top graph on this page depicts Central Order monthly SCCs for the last 5 years (January 2020 through December 2024), and highlights the extent of the downward trend in SCCs over this period of time. This downward trend can be seen from 2023 to 2024 with only a few months being higher than the corresponding month of the previous year. However, during the five year span the Central Order SCC was above the corresponding month of the previous year 24 times. Thus, the SCC was above the corresponding month of the previous year 40.0% over the 60 months from January 2020 through December 2024. 2022 continued trending down with year over year decreases each month until November and December where it increased compared to the previous year. 2023 had an increase in every month except for November and December when compared to 2022. 2024 decreased in every month from the previous year except in April, November, and December.

Producer Milk Somatic Cell Counts

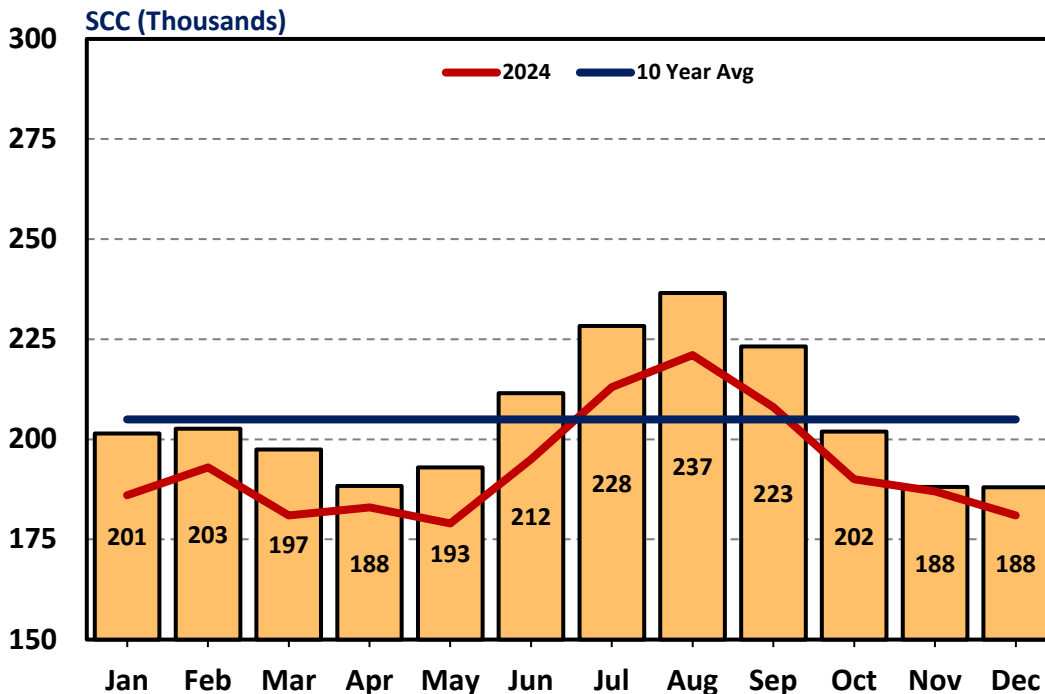
Central Federal Milk Order



Central Order monthly average SCCs for 2014 through 2024 are depicted by the bottom graph on this page. A distinct seasonal pattern is evident from the information presented in this graph, along with the top graph on this

2014 - 2024 Monthly Average SCCs

Central Federal Milk Order



page. SCCs have been higher than the 10-year average during the warmer months, most noticeably during July through September. The lowest monthly average SCCs have been recorded during the early winter months of November and December. The 10-year average for August is the highest of any month at 237,000, while the lowest is attributable to November and December with a 188,000 SCC average. Monthly SCCs for 2024 are depicted by the red line on the graph which is below the ten year average in all months.

The top graph on this page details monthly SCC adjustment rates for January 2014 through December 2024. Milk payments to Central Order producers are adjusted for counts above and below 350,000, and these adjustments are made on a per hundredweight basis for each 1,000 variation in SCC. The adjustment rate averaged \$0.00089 during the time frame depicted by this graph, ranging from a low of 0.00065 in May 2020 to a high of 0.00129 recorded during July 2020.

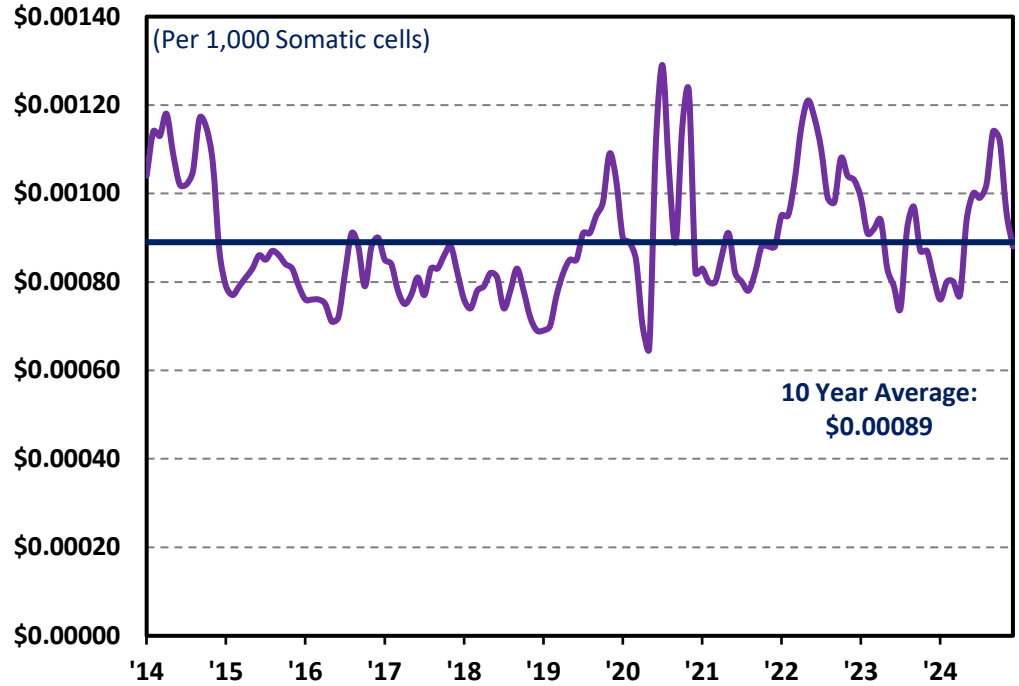
The lower graph on this page depicts 2024 weighted average SCC's for Central Order producers grouped by marketing size category. The categories used in this graph increase in 250,000 pound increments up to 2,000,000 pounds per month - all marketings above that size are grouped together. The red line represents the 2023 SCC average for each size category, and the blue line represents the average SCC for 2024.

This graph depicts Central Order data only; therefore, the marketings represented in each size category do not necessarily correspond to overall farm size, since producers can have marketings on more than one FMO during any given month. With that caveat in mind, the data in this graph indicates a SCC decrease of 18,000 (7.5%) going from the smallest size category to the next larger size.

Most size categories had a decrease over the previous year with the exception of the .50 to .75 million pound size and the 1.25 to 1.50 million pound size category. The 1.75 to 2.00 million pound size category had the largest decrease of 35,000 SCC (15.0%). The largest size category, with marketings of over 2 million pounds per month, accounted for almost 85% of the milk in the Central Order during 2024.

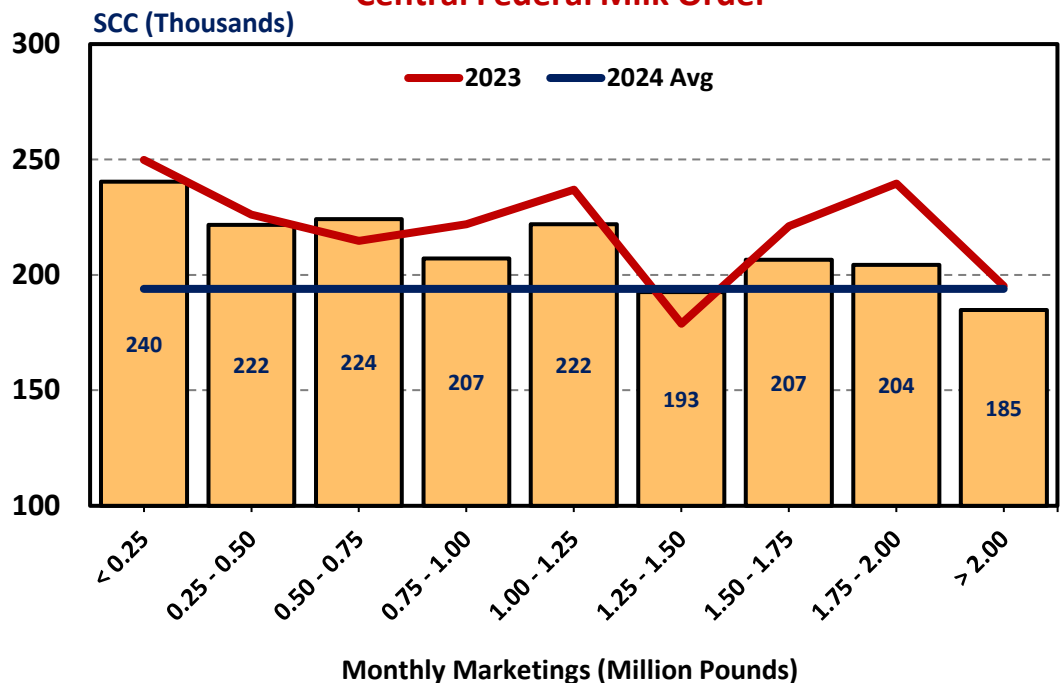
SCC Monthly Adjustment Rates

Central Federal Milk Order



2024 SCC by Marketing Size Categories

Central Federal Milk Order





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SHAWNEE MISSION, KANSAS 66285-4650

FIRST CLASS

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E-mail: market.administrator@fmmacentral.com
Phone: 913-495-9300

	Statistical Uniform Price		Producer Price Differential		Class I Utilization	
	<u>Sep '25</u>	<u>Aug '25</u>	<u>Sep '25</u>	<u>Aug '25</u>	<u>Sep '25</u>	<u>Aug '25</u>
Northeast	19.30	20.32	1.71	3.08	29.51	26.58
Appalachian	22.29	23.02	-----	-----	77.49	73.07
Florida	23.28	24.11	-----	-----	80.90	78.58
Southeast	22.72	23.55	-----	-----	79.77	76.54
Upper Midwest	17.94	17.82	0.35	0.58	7.82	6.20
Central	18.23	19.11	0.64	1.87	29.41	27.17
Mideast	18.51	19.48	0.92	2.24	31.93	31.54
California	17.31	18.61	-0.28	1.37	23.64	18.80
Pacific Northwest	17.72	18.71	0.13	1.47	26.73	20.79
Southwest	18.42	19.25	0.83	2.01	40.67	24.57
Arizona	18.28	19.14	-----	-----	36.03	29.26

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