

Milk Production Data

Year	Pounds of milk produced	Gallons	per capita lbs per year (us avg)	Population	% of milk needs met	% of today's needs it would meet
1974	26,200,000	3,046,512	260	337803	29.83%	12.51%
1975	23,800,000	2,767,442	261	349288	26.11%	11.36%
1976	22,500,000	2,616,279	260	361164	23.96%	10.74%
1977	22,000,000	2,558,140	258	373443	22.83%	10.50%
1978	20,000,000	2,325,581	254	386140	20.39%	9.55%
1979	16,000,000	1,860,465	251	399269	15.97%	7.64%
1980	18,000,000	2,093,023	246	419573	17.44%	8.59%
1981	16,000,000	1,860,465	242	434678	15.21%	7.64%
1982	16,300,000	1,895,349	236	450326	15.34%	7.78%
1983	14,300,000	1,662,791	236	466538	12.99%	6.83%
1984	12,000,000	1,395,349	238	483333	10.43%	5.73%
1985	11,100,000	1,290,698	241	500733	9.20%	5.30%
1986	9,300,000	1,081,395	240	518760	7.47%	4.44%
2013			189	1,108,403		

The case of milk production in Travis county provides a stark window into changes in our local food system. In 1974, Travis County produced over 26MM pounds of milk (that's over 3MM gallons). By 1986, that number had declined to about 1 million gallons, and after that the USDA stopped keeping track. Fast-forward to today and there are no dairies left in the entire county. 1974's production level was enough to supply milk for 30% of the population of the county, and even today that level of production could supply milk to over 12% of Austin, despite how much we've grown.

