Retail Milk Price-Gouging in Upper Midwest & Kansas City

To: Interested Persons
From: Pete Hardin, Editor-Publisher – *The Milkweed**
Date: July 26, 2024
Subject: Retail milk price-gouging in Upper Midwest & Kansas City

Summary:

Each month, the Dairy Division of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service surveys retail price data for gallons of Whole and 2% milk in 30 major metropolitan areas. Analyzing that monthly data for 2022, 2023 and January-June 2024 reveals overt gouging of retail milk prices in the Upper Midwest (Chicago and Minneapolis) and Kansas City. Both these regions feature extremely limited competition in the processing/distribution of fluid milk.

Several attachments to this memorandum provide specific and general background information.

General Background:

The individual and joint venture operations of two dairy processing firms are scrutinized here: Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA) and Prairie Farms. These two firms operate fluid milk plants in multiple regions of the United States, individually and also through a joint venture (Hiland Dairy). Regions where one or both of these firms predominate in processing and distributing fluid milk include: the Upper Midwest, the Plains, Texas, the Southeast, and the Mid-East.

Fluid milk processing has witnessed declined competition over the past two or three decades, due to several reasons, including:

• Significant decline in overall volume, as consumers drink less beverage milk. Fluid milk processing is generally a low-margin industry sensitive to volume reductions.

• Empire-building by certain processors.

• Bankruptcy in November 2019 by Dean Foods, which at that time was the nation's largest fluid milk processor. Dean Foods' four dozen-plus dairy processing plants were almost entirely all divided between DFA and Prairie Farms.

• In the past several years, Walmart and Meijer's have built and operate their own fluid milk plants serving those major retailers' in-house needs. Walmart, for example, will include other processors' fluid milk in its dairy cases. But often brands other than Walmart's in-house brands are positioned as higher-priced "straw men" with a small percentage of overall retail volume for the category.

The price data for Whole milk and 2% gallons is sourced from the monthly retail survey gathered and reported by the USDA. During the first 10 days of each month, USDA personnel purchase milk gallons at the same three retail outlets in each of the 30 markets. Purchases are not conducted on Fridays or weekends. The survey must include the first and second largest food retailers in the market, as well as the largest convenience store chain. Prices include the most common brand of non-returnable gallon containers. The data are reported at the end of the same month in USDA's Dairy Market News on-line publication.

The Upper Midwest:

This region covers the area in which fluid milk processors are generally regulated by the USDA's Upper Midwest regional federal milk marketing order (Order #30). Roughly speaking, that region includes northern Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul are the major metropolitan areas. Retail milk gallon prices in Chicago and Minneapolis are among the 30 metropolitan areas surveyed.

From a regulatory standpoint, fluid milk processors in the Upper Midwest have the lowest base costs for their raw product of any region in the country, under the USDA's national milk pricing scheme.

Two major firms dominate fluid milk in the Upper Midwest: DFA and Prairie Farms. DFA's operations in this region include the Kemp's and Dean Foods divisions. Prairie Farms processes and distributes milk under its own brands or some private labels (i.e., supermarket brands).

Recent years have seen significant consolidation of dairy processing in the region. In 2019, the largest fluid milk processor – Dean Foods – declared bankruptcy. DFA and Prairie Farms each gained a Dean Foods' milk plant in the Minneapolis market. DFA continued operating other facilities from the bankruptcy Dean Foods' empire at DePere, Wisconsin and Chemung, Illinois. But the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice – in tandem with the Attorneys General of Wisconsin and Illinois – demanded that DFA sell those two facilities. Next, those two plants were acquired by a newly formed entity, Borden-Select, in mid-2021. However, one year later, in mid-2022, Borden-Select abruptly ceased fluid milk processing at those two sites. Shortly after those closings, retail milk prices in the region started increasing at levels far higher than changes in national retail milk prices. (Examples: From July to December 2022, Chicago-area retail prices for Whole milk increased 53-cents per gallon, while the national average increase was 3 cents. For that same six-month period, Chicago-area retail prices for 2% gallons rose 33-cents, while the national average only increased by a penny.)

Chicago area consumers paid the following amounts for Whole milk gallons above the national average during these years:

2019 ..... +57 cents
2020 ..... +59 cents
2021 ..... +50 cents
2022 ..... +57 cents
2023 ..... +$1.02

For calendar 2023, Chicago area Whole milk prices were $1.02 per gallon higher than the National average, due to the USDA's federal milk pricing program.. That year, consumer costs for 2% milk gallons in the Chicago area were $5.39 per gallon … $1.10 above the national average.

Here's a shocker: Chicago area prices for Whole milk gallons in 2023 averaged $5.36 – an increase of 53-cents over the prior year. But fluid milk processors' raw milk costs declined from 2022 to 2023 by 38.4 cents per gallon. That "spread" between higher retail costs per gallon of Whole milk and processors' lower raw milk costs per gallon – a massive 91.4 cents per gallon — indicates opportunism at the expense of consumers due to a lack of competition in the Chicago area.

Milk prices in Minneapolis paralleled trends in Chicago. Of note: during January-May 2023, Minneapolis Whole milk prices cost 61-cents more per gallon than the national average. For that same period, 2% milk gallons in Minneapolis were 81-cents per gallon above the national average.

Note: For greater details on Upper Midwest retail prices, go to the following attachments:

"Fluid Milk Price Gouging in Upper Midwest Worsens in June" – from July 2023 issue of *The Milkweed.*

• "2023: Chicago Consumers Price-Gouged on Whole Milk Gallons (Again)" – from the January 2024 issue of *The Milkwee*

• Retail Prices for Conventional Whole Milk, Average of Three Outlets, Selected Cities, by Months, 2022, 2023 and January-June 2024. (Source: Dairy Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service)

• Retail Prices for Conventional 2% Milk, Average of Three Outlets, Selected Cities, by Months, 2022, 2023 and January-May 2024.
(Source: Dairy Division of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service)

Kansas City, Missouri

Basically only one major fluid milk processor serves the Kansas City market: Hiland Dairy. Hiland Dairy is structured as a joint venture between DFA and Praairie Farms. Prairie Farms owns 80% interest in Hiland Dairy while DFA controls the remaining 20%

Shoppers in the Kansas City consistently have the highest, or near-highest, retail milk prices in the country for Whole and 2%, according to the USDA surveys. Let's summarize:

Whole milk gallon costs: For the 28 out of the 30 months from January 2022 through June 2024, Kansas City featured the highest Whole milk gallon prices in the 30-market national survey. For 2022, 2023 and January-June 2024, Kansas City Whole milk gallon prices averaged the highest in the nation.

• In 2022, Kansas City consumers paid $5.83 per gallon … $1.35/gallon higher than the national average.

• In 2023, Kansas City consumers prices averaged $6.05 per gallon … $1.71 higher than the national average.

• For January-June 2024, Kansas City consumers saw average prices of $5.57 per gallon … an average of $1.56 per gallon higher than the national average.

2% milk gallon costs: The data for 2% milk gallon costs in Kansas City parallels the numbers for Whole milk gallons.

• In 2022, costs for 2% gallons averaged $5.51 … $1.36 higher than the national average.

• In 2023, Kansas City consumers paid an average of $5.64 per gallon … $1.35 higher than the national average.

• During 2024's first half, Kansas City retail costs averaged $5.57 per gallon … $1.28 higher than the national average.

Note: For further information regarding Kansas City retail prices, it is suggested that the attached story and documents be reviewed:

• "Kansas City Consumers Gouged by Highest Milk Prices in the U.S.," from the July 2024 is issue of *The Milkweed*, page 5.

• The 2022, 2023 and January-June reports for Whole milk and 2% milk surveys of 30 markets, cited above.

Fiscal 2023, Prairie Farms posted astronomical net income

The sky-high costs for milk paid by consumers in the Upper Midwest, Kansas City area (and probably in some other regions) translated directly into spectacular profits reported by Prairie Farms for its fiscal year that ended September 30, 2023. That year, Prairie Farms recorded profits of over $3.50 per hundredweight on every 100 lbs. of milk the co-op marketed for its members. That level of profitability is without precedent for a firm primarily engaged in fluid milk processing/distribution.

Conclusion:

Food price inflation is ***the*** primary concern of most Americans, according to a study released in December 2023. Some factors boosting retail food prices are beyond human control, such as weather-related events. But other factors are clearly man-made – including price-gouging of consumers' milk costs detailed above. For all the political rhetoric and hand-wringing, there has been virtually no action taken on food price inflation.

USDA's monthly retail survey for Whole and 2% milk prices offers trove of data, both historic and recent. Historic retail milk price data in at least a couple of the 30 major metropolitan areas clearly suggest overt price gouging. Greater investigative and subpoena powers are needed to at least initially clarify how much of those price increases was processor-driven and how much of the costs increases were due to retailers' mark-ups..

The USDA retail gallon price data is publicly available. But to date there has been no indication that government agencies or the private legal sector are interested in pursuing such blatant consumer rip-offs.

**Peter L. Hardin is the editor-publisher of The Milkweed, a monthly report that focuses on dairy marketing and pricing issue. The Milkweed features investigative reporting and has been published regularly since 1979.*

Refer to The Milkweed's Website: www.themilkweed.com for Supporting Documents. See Milk Price Gouging Icon.

June 2024 Highlights: U.S. simple average prices are: $4.37 per gallon for conventional whole milk, $4.31 per gallon for conventional reduced fat 2% milk, $4.82 per half gallon organic whole milk, and $4.82 per half gallon organic reduced fat 2% milk.

Retail Prices for Conventional Whole Milk, Average of Three Outlets, Selected Cities, by Months, 2024 [1]

City and State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg [2]
	(dollars per gallon)												
Atlanta, GA	4.22	4.22	4.12	4.12	4.12	4.19							4.17
Baltimore, MD	4.24	4.24	4.24	4.34	4.44	4.34							4.31
Boston, MA	4.49	4.46	4.49	4.46	4.46	4.51							4.48
Chicago, IL	5.16	5.16	5.22	5.22	5.22	5.22							5.20
Cincinnati, OH	3.30	3.27	3.27	3.27	3.27	3.20							3.26
Cleveland, OH	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.56	4.56							4.45
Dallas, TX	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.58	3.58	3.48							3.57
Denver, CO	4.22	4.16	4.12	3.99	3.99	3.99							4.08
Detroit, MI	3.75	3.79	3.73	3.73	3.76	3.73							3.75
Hartford, CT	4.62	4.56	4.56	4.49	4.49	4.42							4.52
Houston, TX	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.08	4.08	4.19							4.08
Indianapolis, IN	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18							3.18
Kansas City, MO	6.19	6.16	5.76	5.76	5.76	5.82							5.91
Louisville, KY	3.17	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.31							3.23
Miami, FL	4.13	4.13	4.17	4.17	4.16	3.97							4.12
Milwaukee, WI	4.12	4.22	4.22	3.92	4.29	3.99							4.13
Minneapolis, MN	4.46	4.72	4.46	4.72	4.72	4.72							4.63
New Orleans, LA	4.52	4.65	4.71	4.76	4.69	4.84							4.70
New York, NY	5.05	5.01	5.01	5.01	5.05	5.13							5.04
Oklahoma City, OK	4.47	4.47	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.51							4.46
Philadelphia, PA	5.14	5.19	5.19	5.19	5.19	5.24							5.19
Phoenix, AZ	4.22	4.26	4.19	4.39	4.39	4.39							4.31
Pittsburgh, PA	5.02	5.00	5.00	5.05	4.90	5.00							5.00
Portland, OR	4.29	4.32	4.32	4.32	4.36	4.36							4.33
Sacramento, CA	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.82	4.75	4.75							4.76
Seattle, WA	4.56	4.56	4.56	4.56	4.62	4.62							4.58
St. Louis, MO	4.20	4.80	4.39	4.39	4.85	4.95							4.60
Syracuse, NY	3.91	3.91	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85							3.87
Washington, DC	3.94	3.94	3.94	4.04	4.04	4.14							4.01
Wichita, KS	4.47	4.47	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.51							4.46
Simple Average	4.33	4.36	4.32	4.33	4.36	4.37							4.35

[1] As collected by Federal milk order market administrators based on a survey conducted one day between the 1st and 10th of each month (excluding Fridays and weekends) in selected cities or metropolitan areas. One outlet of the largest and second largest food store chains and the largest convenience store chain are surveyed. The price represents the most common brand in nonreturnable containers. [2] Simple average of monthly prices.

Retail Prices for Conventional Reduced Fat (2%) Milk, Average of Three Outlets, Selected Cities, by Months, 2024 [1]

City and State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg [2]
	(dollars per gallon)												
Atlanta, GA	4.22	4.22	4.11	4.12	4.12	4.19							4.16
Baltimore, MD	4.24	4.24	4.24	4.34	4.34	4.34							4.29
Boston, MA	4.49	4.46	4.49	4.46	4.46	4.51							4.48
Chicago, IL	5.16	5.16	5.22	5.22	5.22	5.22							5.20
Cincinnati, OH	3.30	3.27	3.27	3.27	3.27	3.20							3.26
Cleveland, OH	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.56	4.56							4.45
Dallas, TX	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.58	3.58	3.48							3.57
Denver, CO	4.22	4.16	4.12	3.99	3.99	3.99							4.08
Detroit, MI	3.75	3.79	3.73	3.73	3.76	3.73							3.75
Hartford, CT	4.62	4.56	4.56	4.49	4.49	4.39							4.52
Houston, TX	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.08	4.08	4.19							4.08
Indianapolis, IN	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18	3.18							3.18
Kansas City, MO	5.81	5.79	5.44	5.44	5.42	5.49							5.57
Louisville, KY	3.17	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.31							3.23
Miami, FL	4.13	4.13	4.17	4.17	4.16	3.97							4.12
Milwaukee, WI	3.88	3.84	4.06	4.02	4.02	3.76							3.93
Minneapolis, MN	4.46	4.72	4.29	4.56	4.56	4.56							4.53
New Orleans, LA	4.51	4.65	4.71	4.76	4.69	4.81							4.69
New York, NY	5.05	5.01	5.01	5.01	5.05	5.15							5.05
Oklahoma City, OK	4.47	4.47	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.51							4.46
Philadelphia, PA	4.99	4.99	5.04	5.04	4.99	5.04							5.02
Phoenix, AZ	4.22	4.26	4.19	4.39	4.39	4.39							4.31
Pittsburgh, PA	4.82	4.79	4.79	4.83	4.66	4.79							4.78
Portland, OR	4.29	4.32	4.32	4.32	4.36	4.36							4.33
Sacramento, CA	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65							4.65
Seattle, WA	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.56	4.56							4.51
St. Louis, MO	3.92	4.46	4.14	4.14	4.59	4.68							4.32
Syracuse, NY	3.71	3.71	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.71							3.68
Washington, DC	3.94	3.94	3.94	4.04	4.04	4.14							4.01
Wichita, KS	4.47	4.47	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.51							4.46
Simple Average	4.27	4.30	4.27	4.28	4.30	4.31							4.29

[1] As collected by Federal milk order market administrators based on a survey conducted one day between the 1st and 10th of each month (excluding Fridays and weekends) in selected cities or metropolitan areas. One outlet of the largest and second largest food store chains and the largest convenience store chain are surveyed. The price represents the most common brand in nonreturnable containers. [2] Simple average of monthly prices.

December 2022 Highlights: U.S. simple average prices are: $4.44 per gallon for conventional whole milk, $4.37 per gallon for conventional reduced fat 2% milk, $4.76 per half gallon organic whole milk, and $4.77 per half gallon organic reduced fat 2% milk.

Retail Prices for Conventional Whole Milk, Average of Three Outlets, Selected Cities, by Months, 2022 [1]

City and State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg [2]
	(dollars per gallon)												
Atlanta, GA	3.39	3.72	3.69	3.79	4.29	4.28	4.18	4.21	4.18	4.28	4.38	4.48	4.07
Baltimore, MD	3.84	3.89	4.34	4.64	4.64	4.29	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.49	4.79	4.79	4.42
Boston, MA	3.54	3.66	3.75	4.03	4.17	4.27	4.27	4.29	4.29	4.39	4.42	4.54	4.14
Chicago, IL	4.16	4.16	4.46	4.72	4.72	4.96	4.96	5.16	4.99	4.99	5.16	5.49	4.83
Cincinnati, OH	3.32	3.36	3.36	3.39	3.61	3.79	3.63	3.57	3.67	3.61	3.51	3.54	3.53
Cleveland, OH	3.49	3.56	3.56	3.59	3.63	3.69	3.69	3.69	4.29	4.29	4.06	4.39	3.83
Dallas, TX	3.36	3.60	3.69	3.86	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.87	3.80	3.80	3.74	3.76
Denver, CO	3.49	3.49	3.72	4.09	4.09	4.32	4.42	4.49	4.59	4.36	5.26	4.66	4.25
Detroit, MI	3.29	3.42	3.69	3.69	3.92	3.96	3.96	3.77	3.77	3.72	3.89	3.85	3.74
Hartford, CT	4.02	4.09	4.12	4.36	4.36	4.46	4.46	4.46	4.46	4.49	4.49	4.52	4.36
Houston, TX	3.77	3.87	3.99	3.99	4.18	3.95	3.68	3.68	3.69	3.68	3.68	3.68	3.82
Indianapolis, IN	3.28	3.19	3.38	3.49	3.74	3.42	3.41	3.41	3.41	3.17	3.14	3.41	3.37
Kansas City, MO	5.22	5.34	5.46	5.73	5.98	6.01	6.01	5.97	5.91	5.92	6.21	6.18	5.83
Louisville, KY	2.49	2.49	2.46	2.49	2.52	2.47	2.43	2.43	2.43	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.53
Miami, FL	3.95	3.96	4.16	4.26	4.43	4.54	4.54	4.47	4.47	4.42	4.42	4.42	4.34
Milwaukee, WI	4.16	4.26	4.42	4.46	4.86	5.26	5.09	4.46	4.66	5.26	4.42	4.32	4.64
Minneapolis, MN	4.06	4.02	3.96	4.79	4.72	5.09	5.09	4.92	5.09	5.09	5.09	5.09	4.75
New Orleans, LA	4.33	4.41	4.48	4.64	4.87	4.87	4.98	5.03	5.01	4.96	4.89	4.85	4.78
New York, NY	4.60	4.62	4.69	4.86	4.95	5.02	5.00	5.01	5.01	5.07	5.07	5.17	4.92
Oklahoma City, OK	3.72	3.66	3.76	3.89	4.06	4.45	4.45	4.56	4.56	4.55	3.70	3.70	4.09
Philadelphia, PA	5.19	5.49	5.54	5.69	5.84	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.79	5.89	5.89	5.89	5.74
Phoenix, AZ	3.06	3.19	3.26	3.52	3.69	3.76	3.89	3.89	3.96	3.89	3.96	3.86	3.66
Pittsburgh, PA	4.46	4.65	4.78	5.10	5.38	5.23	5.27	5.22	5.12	5.05	5.02	5.07	5.03
Portland, OR	3.49	3.49	3.32	3.69	3.72	3.72	3.76	3.89	3.86	3.92	3.99	4.09	3.75
Sacramento, CA	4.38	4.12	4.62	4.65	4.72	4.99	4.72	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.85	4.64
Seattle, WA	3.92	3.96	3.96	4.09	4.16	4.22	4.42	4.49	4.49	4.56	4.56	4.56	4.28
St. Louis, MO	3.71	3.71	3.92	4.43	4.29	4.66	4.56	4.56	4.77	4.53	4.53	4.64	4.36
Syracuse, NY	3.81	3.81	4.15	4.15	4.18	4.18	4.18	4.21	4.12	4.11	3.98	4.18	4.09
Washington, DC	4.19	4.34	4.59	4.94	4.94	5.04	5.04	5.04	4.94	4.74	4.94	4.74	4.79
Wichita, KS	2.92	2.86	3.26	3.32	3.46	3.53	3.67	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.46
Simple Average	3.82	3.88	4.02	4.21	4.33	4.41	4.40	4.38	4.41	4.41	4.41	4.44	4.26

[1] As collected by Federal milk order market administrators based on a survey conducted one day between the 1st and 10th of each month (excluding Fridays and weekends) in selected cities or metropolitan areas. One outlet of the largest and second largest food store chains and the largest convenience store chain are surveyed. The price represents the most common brand in nonreturnable containers. [2] Simple average of monthly prices.

Retail Prices for Conventional Reduced Fat (2%) Milk, Average of Three Outlets, Selected Cities, by Months, 2022 [1]

City and State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg [2]
	(dollars per gallon)												
Atlanta, GA	3.39	3.69	3.69	3.79	4.29	4.28	4.18	4.21	4.18	4.28	4.38	4.48	4.07
Baltimore, MD	3.84	3.89	4.34	4.64	4.64	4.29	4.44	4.44	4.44	4.49	4.79	4.79	4.42
Boston, MA	3.54	3.66	3.75	4.03	4.17	4.27	4.27	4.29	4.29	4.39	4.42	4.54	4.14
Chicago, IL	4.16	4.32	4.46	4.72	4.79	4.99	4.96	5.22	5.06	5.06	5.22	5.32	4.86
Cincinnati, OH	3.32	3.36	3.36	3.39	3.61	3.79	3.63	3.57	3.67	3.61	3.51	3.54	3.53
Cleveland, OH	3.49	3.56	3.56	3.59	3.63	3.69	3.69	3.69	4.29	4.29	4.06	4.39	3.83
Dallas, TX	3.36	3.60	3.69	3.86	3.90	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.87	3.80	3.80	3.74	3.76
Denver, CO	3.49	3.49	3.72	4.09	4.09	4.32	4.42	4.49	4.59	4.36	5.26	4.66	4.25
Detroit, MI	3.29	3.42	3.69	3.69	3.92	3.96	3.96	3.77	3.77	3.72	3.89	3.85	3.74
Hartford, CT	4.02	4.09	4.12	4.36	4.36	4.46	4.46	4.46	4.46	4.49	4.49	4.52	4.36
Houston, TX	3.55	3.89	3.99	3.99	4.18	3.95	3.68	3.68	3.69	3.68	3.68	3.68	3.80
Indianapolis, IN	3.28	3.19	3.38	3.49	3.74	3.42	3.41	3.41	3.41	3.17	3.14	3.41	3.37
Kansas City, MO	5.06	5.14	5.11	5.43	5.66	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.63	5.63	5.72	5.71	5.51
Louisville, KY	2.49	2.49	2.46	2.49	2.52	2.47	2.43	2.43	2.43	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.53
Miami, FL	3.95	3.96	4.16	4.26	4.43	4.55	4.54	4.47	4.47	4.42	4.42	4.42	4.34
Milwaukee, WI	4.16	4.16	4.29	4.42	4.69	5.09	4.96	4.29	4.32	5.09	4.22	4.19	4.49
Minneapolis, MN	4.06	4.02	3.96	4.79	4.56	4.92	4.92	4.76	4.92	4.92	4.92	5.02	4.65
New Orleans, LA	4.33	4.41	4.48	4.64	4.87	4.87	4.98	5.03	5.01	4.96	4.89	4.85	4.78
New York, NY	4.59	4.61	4.68	4.86	4.95	5.02	5.00	5.01	5.01	5.07	5.07	5.17	4.92
Oklahoma City, OK	3.62	3.56	3.66	3.79	3.96	4.35	4.35	4.46	4.46	4.43	3.70	3.70	4.00
Philadelphia, PA	4.99	5.14	5.19	5.34	5.49	5.59	5.59	5.49	5.39	5.69	5.69	5.69	5.44
Phoenix, AZ	3.06	3.19	3.26	3.52	3.69	3.76	3.89	3.89	3.96	3.89	3.96	3.86	3.66
Pittsburgh, PA	4.30	4.51	4.57	4.89	5.15	5.02	5.03	4.99	4.88	4.80	4.82	4.84	4.82
Portland, OR	3.49	3.49	3.32	3.69	3.72	3.72	3.82	3.89	3.86	3.92	3.99	4.09	3.75
Sacramento, CA	4.25	3.95	4.49	4.55	4.65	4.92	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.75	4.57
Seattle, WA	3.92	3.96	3.96	4.09	4.16	4.22	4.42	4.49	4.49	4.46	4.56	4.56	4.27
St. Louis, MO	3.64	3.64	3.79	4.29	4.23	4.52	4.46	4.49	4.52	4.41	4.41	4.38	4.23
Syracuse, NY	3.65	3.65	3.98	3.99	4.05	4.11	4.05	4.05	3.98	3.98	3.75	3.98	3.94
Washington, DC	4.19	4.34	4.59	4.94	4.94	5.04	5.04	5.04	4.94	4.74	4.89	4.69	4.78
Wichita, KS	2.92	2.86	3.26	3.32	3.46	3.53	3.67	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.46
Simple Average	3.78	3.84	3.97	4.16	4.28	4.36	4.35	4.33	4.34	4.36	4.36	4.37	4.21

[1] As collected by Federal milk order market administrators based on a survey conducted one day between the 1st and 10th of each month (excluding Fridays and weekends) in selected cities or metropolitan areas. One outlet of the largest and second largest food store chains and the largest convenience store chain are surveyed. The price represents the most common brand in nonreturnable containers. [2] Simple average of monthly prices.

Retail Prices for Conventional Reduced Fat (2%) Milk, Average of Three Outlets, Selected Cities, by Months, 2023 [1]

City and State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg [2]
	(dollars per gallon)												
Atlanta, GA	4.54	4.54	4.48	4.39	4.39	4.36	4.31	4.32	4.26	4.32	4.26	4.22	4.37
Baltimore, MD	4.99	4.79	4.34	4.64	4.59	4.59	4.64	4.64	4.54	4.64	3.99	3.94	4.53
Boston, MA	4.54	4.40	4.32	4.32	4.34	4.34	4.20	4.11	4.26	4.47	4.42	4.45	4.35
Chicago, IL	5.16	5.32	5.32	4.99	5.32	5.65	5.65	5.65	5.65	5.59	5.26	5.09	5.39
Cincinnati, OH	3.57	3.57	3.57	3.47	3.52	3.45	3.32	3.21	3.20	3.33	3.40	3.33	3.41
Cleveland, OH	4.39	4.06	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.36
Dallas, TX	3.74	3.74	3.74	3.67	3.60	3.58	3.55	3.55	3.58	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.63
Denver, CO	4.32	4.29	4.29	4.06	4.12	4.12	4.06	4.09	4.09	4.09	4.12	4.12	4.15
Detroit, MI	3.85	3.82	3.85	3.82	3.76	3.76	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.77	3.89	3.75	3.79
Hartford, CT	4.52	4.52	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.46	4.42	4.49	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.51
Houston, TX	3.68	3.68	3.65	3.59	3.55	3.59	3.59	4.02	3.65	4.07	4.07	4.05	3.77
Indianapolis, IN	3.34	3.31	3.31	3.29	3.27	3.18	3.12	3.11	3.15	3.19	3.22	2.95	3.20
Kansas City, MO	5.76	5.69	5.62	5.54	5.64	5.58	5.54	5.48	5.56	5.79	5.66	5.84	5.64
Louisville, KY	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.80	2.77	3.05	3.05	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.17	2.94
Miami, FL	4.42	4.42	4.42	4.19	4.13	4.07	4.03	4.01	4.02	4.10	4.13	4.13	4.17
Milwaukee, WI	4.36	4.19	4.12	4.02	4.34	4.29	4.46	4.09	4.12	4.12	4.22	4.22	4.21
Minneapolis, MN	5.36	5.36	5.09	5.02	4.76	5.02	4.79	4.49	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.49	4.80
New Orleans, LA	4.82	4.77	4.77	4.69	4.69	4.34	4.31	4.10	4.38	4.31	4.33	4.49	4.50
New York, NY	5.17	5.12	5.01	4.98	4.98	5.01	4.98	4.98	5.01	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.03
Oklahoma City, OK	3.70	3.70	3.93	3.93	4.17	3.93	4.11	4.23	4.30	4.44	4.50	4.47	4.12
Philadelphia, PA	5.24	5.08	5.14	5.19	5.59	5.54	5.54	5.54	5.54	5.04	4.99	4.99	5.29
Phoenix, AZ	4.02	4.22	4.06	4.16	4.16	4.29	4.29	4.06	4.69	4.62	3.82	3.62	4.17
Pittsburgh, PA	4.79	4.73	4.65	4.60	4.63	4.54	4.53	4.48	4.57	4.62	4.61	4.78	4.63
Portland, OR	4.02	3.96	4.02	3.86	3.89	3.89	4.02	4.52	4.32	4.26	4.36	4.32	4.12
Sacramento, CA	4.75	4.75	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.67
Seattle, WA	4.56	4.56	4.36	4.42	4.56	4.49	4.49	4.42	4.02	4.39	4.49	4.49	4.44
St. Louis, MO	4.38	4.42	4.42	4.39	4.42	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.71	4.65	4.76	4.80	4.54
Syracuse, NY	3.78	3.71	3.58	3.58	3.65	3.58	3.58	3.51	3.45	3.58	3.58	3.65	3.60
Washington, DC	4.99	4.84	4.59	4.59	4.19	4.19	3.89	3.89	4.34	3.89	3.89	3.94	4.27
Wichita, KS	3.70	3.93	3.93	3.93	4.17	3.93	4.11	4.23	4.30	4.44	4.50	4.47	4.14
Simple Average	4.37	4.34	4.29	4.25	4.29	4.27	4.26	4.25	4.29	4.32	4.28	4.27	4.29

[1] As collected by Federal milk order market administrators based on a survey conducted one day between the 1st and 10th of each month (excluding Fridays and weekends) in selected cities or metropolitan areas. One outlet of the largest and second largest food store chains and the largest convenience store chain are surveyed. The price represents the most common brand in nonreturnable containers. [2] Simple average of monthly prices.

Retail Prices for Conventional Reduced Fat (2%) Milk, Average of Three Outlets, Selected Cities, by Months, 2023 [1]

City and State	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg [2]
	(dollars per gallon)												
Atlanta, GA	4.54	4.54	4.48	4.39	4.39	4.36	4.31	4.32	4.26	4.32	4.26	4.22	4.37
Baltimore, MD	4.99	4.79	4.34	4.64	4.59	4.59	4.64	4.64	4.54	4.64	3.99	3.94	4.53
Boston, MA	4.54	4.40	4.32	4.32	4.34	4.34	4.20	4.11	4.26	4.47	4.42	4.45	4.35
Chicago, IL	5.16	5.32	5.32	4.99	5.32	5.65	5.65	5.65	5.65	5.59	5.26	5.09	5.39
Cincinnati, OH	3.57	3.57	3.57	3.47	3.52	3.45	3.32	3.21	3.20	3.33	3.40	3.33	3.41
Cleveland, OH	4.39	4.06	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.36
Dallas, TX	3.74	3.74	3.74	3.67	3.60	3.58	3.55	3.55	3.58	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.63
Denver, CO	4.32	4.29	4.29	4.06	4.12	4.12	4.06	4.09	4.09	4.09	4.12	4.12	4.15
Detroit, MI	3.85	3.82	3.85	3.82	3.76	3.76	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.77	3.89	3.75	3.79
Hartford, CT	4.52	4.52	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.46	4.42	4.49	4.59	4.59	4.59	4.51
Houston, TX	3.68	3.68	3.65	3.59	3.55	3.59	3.59	4.02	3.65	4.07	4.07	4.05	3.77
Indianapolis, IN	3.34	3.31	3.31	3.29	3.27	3.18	3.12	3.11	3.15	3.19	3.22	2.95	3.20
Kansas City, MO	5.76	5.69	5.62	5.54	5.64	5.58	5.54	5.48	5.56	5.79	5.66	5.84	5.64
Louisville, KY	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.80	2.77	3.05	3.05	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.17	2.94
Miami, FL	4.42	4.42	4.42	4.19	4.13	4.07	4.03	4.01	4.02	4.10	4.13	4.13	4.17
Milwaukee, WI	4.36	4.19	4.12	4.02	4.34	4.29	4.46	4.09	4.12	4.12	4.22	4.22	4.21
Minneapolis, MN	5.36	5.36	5.09	5.02	4.76	5.02	4.79	4.49	4.39	4.39	4.39	4.49	4.80
New Orleans, LA	4.82	4.77	4.77	4.69	4.69	4.34	4.31	4.10	4.38	4.31	4.33	4.49	4.50
New York, NY	5.17	5.12	5.01	4.98	4.98	5.01	4.98	4.98	5.01	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.03
Oklahoma City, OK	3.70	3.70	3.93	3.93	4.17	3.93	4.11	4.23	4.30	4.44	4.50	4.47	4.12
Philadelphia, PA	5.24	5.08	5.14	5.19	5.59	5.54	5.54	5.54	5.54	5.04	4.99	4.99	5.29
Phoenix, AZ	4.02	4.22	4.06	4.16	4.16	4.29	4.29	4.06	4.69	4.62	3.82	3.62	4.17
Pittsburgh, PA	4.79	4.73	4.65	4.60	4.63	4.54	4.53	4.48	4.57	4.62	4.61	4.78	4.63
Portland, OR	4.02	3.96	4.02	3.86	3.89	3.89	4.02	4.52	4.32	4.26	4.36	4.32	4.12
Sacramento, CA	4.75	4.75	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.67
Seattle, WA	4.56	4.56	4.36	4.42	4.56	4.49	4.49	4.42	4.02	4.39	4.49	4.49	4.44
St. Louis, MO	4.38	4.42	4.42	4.39	4.42	4.49	4.49	4.49	4.71	4.65	4.76	4.80	4.54
Syracuse, NY	3.78	3.71	3.58	3.58	3.65	3.58	3.58	3.51	3.45	3.58	3.58	3.65	3.60
Washington, DC	4.99	4.84	4.59	4.59	4.19	4.19	3.89	3.89	4.34	3.89	3.89	3.94	4.27
Wichita, KS	3.70	3.93	3.93	3.93	4.17	3.93	4.11	4.23	4.30	4.44	4.50	4.47	4.14
Simple Average	4.37	4.34	4.29	4.25	4.29	4.27	4.26	4.25	4.29	4.32	4.28	4.27	4.29

[1] As collected by Federal milk order market administrators based on a survey conducted one day between the 1st and 10th of each month (excluding Fridays and weekends) in selected cities or metropolitan areas. One outlet of the largest and second largest food store chains and the largest convenience store chain are surveyed. The price represents the most common brand in nonreturnable containers. [2] Simple average of monthly prices.