

Southeast Milk Prices, 2000–2026

Federal Milk Marketing Orders 5 (Appalachian), 6 (Florida) and 7 (Southeast) · Prepared October 14, 2026

Uniform (blend) price, \$/cwt at 3.5% butterfat

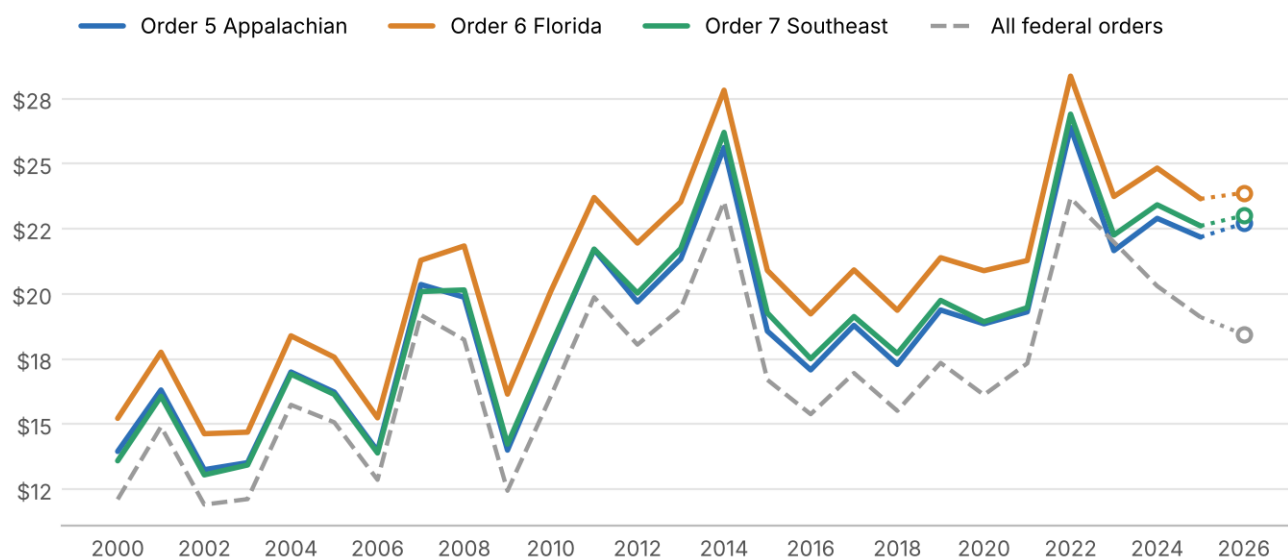
	2000	2002 (low)	2022 (high)	2025	2026 Jan–Sep	Change 2000–25
Order 5 Appalachian	\$13.95	\$13.25	\$26.39	\$22.18	\$22.71	+\$8.23 (+59%)
Order 6 Florida	\$15.22	\$14.63	\$28.36	\$23.65	\$23.88	+\$8.43 (+55%)
Order 7 Southeast	\$13.59	\$13.05	\$26.90	\$22.61	\$23.01	+\$9.02 (+66%)
All federal orders	\$12.11	\$11.91	\$23.68	\$19.11	\$18.44	+\$7.00 (+58%)

Key findings

- Southeast uniform prices are up 55–66% since 2000, but the path is volatile: sharp drops in 2002, 2006, 2009 and 2015–16, and peaks in 2014 and 2022. All three orders hit their record annual average in 2022.
- Order 7 consistently pays \$0.90–\$3.50/cwt more than the national blend because 64–75% of its milk goes to fluid products (Class I), versus about 27% across all federal orders.
- Florida (Order 6) is the highest-priced order every year, with Class I utilization in the 80s.
- 2026 is running ahead of 2025 so far; June was the high month (Order 7 at \$26.48).
- Policy note: USDA's Dairy Forward Pricing Program authority expired September 30, 2026. New forward contracts made on or after October 1, 2026 are no longer exempt from Federal order minimum prices; earlier contracts are unaffected (Market Administrator notice, October 2, 2026).

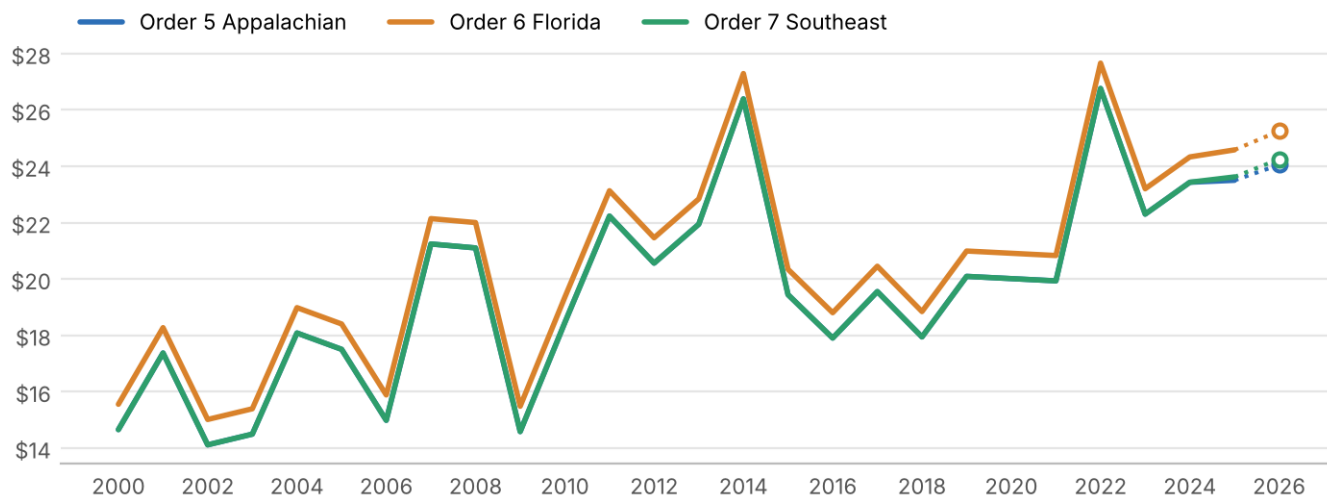
Uniform (blend) price by year

Annual weighted average, \$/cwt, base zone. 2026 (open circle) is January–September.



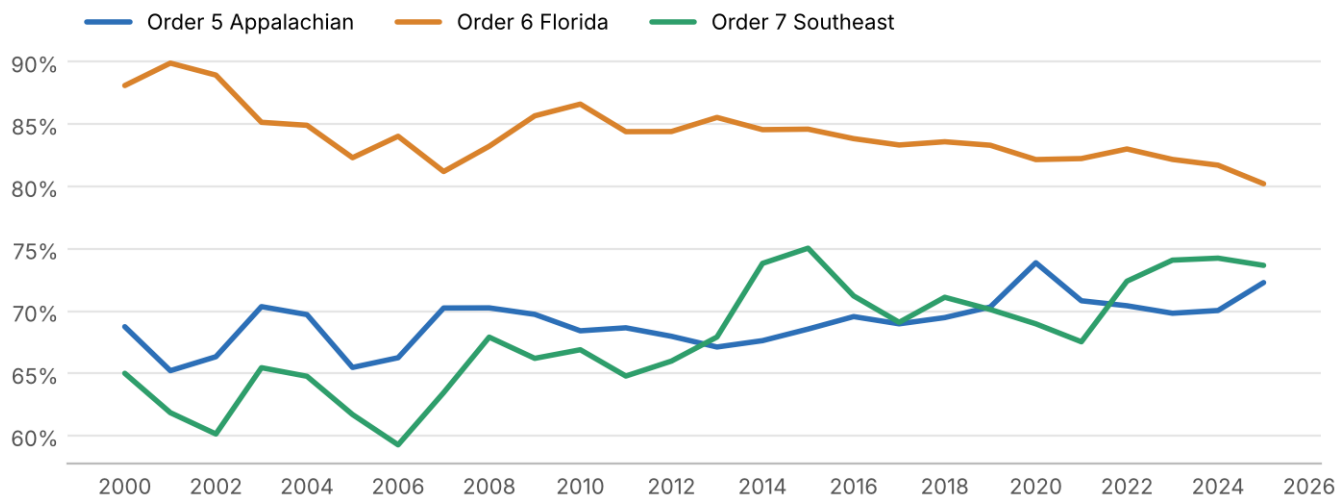
Class I price by year

Annual simple average, \$/cwt, base zone. Orders 5 and 7 share a base Class I price in most years; Florida carries a higher differential.



Class I utilization

Share of pooled milk used for fluid products. Higher utilization pulls the blend price toward the Class I price.



Annual data, 2000–2026

\$/cwt at 3.5% butterfat, base zone. Util. = Class I utilization. 2026 is a simple average of January–September; full years are volume-weighted (Class I is a simple average). The 2023 all-orders figure was not in that year's summary.

Year	FO5 uniform	FO5 Class I	FO5 util.	FO6 uniform	FO6 Class I	FO6 util.	FO7 uniform	FO7 Class I	FO7 util.	All orders uniform
2026*	\$22.71	\$24.05		\$23.88	\$25.25		\$23.01	\$24.25		\$18.44
2025	\$22.18	\$23.50	72.3%	\$23.65	\$24.58	80.2%	\$22.61	\$23.62	73.7%	\$19.11
2024	\$22.90	\$23.43	70.0%	\$24.83	\$24.33	81.7%	\$23.42	\$23.43	74.2%	\$20.30
2023	\$21.66	\$22.30	69.8%	\$23.74	\$23.20	82.2%	\$22.26	\$22.30	74.1%	
2022	\$26.39	\$26.76	70.4%	\$28.36	\$27.66	83.0%	\$26.90	\$26.76	72.4%	\$23.68
2021	\$19.31	\$19.93	70.8%	\$21.28	\$20.83	82.2%	\$19.47	\$19.93	67.5%	\$17.33
2020	\$18.85	\$20.01	73.9%	\$20.89	\$20.91	82.2%	\$18.93	\$20.01	69.0%	\$16.12
2019	\$19.38	\$20.09	70.3%	\$21.39	\$20.99	83.3%	\$19.75	\$20.09	70.1%	\$17.35
2018	\$17.29	\$17.94	69.5%	\$19.37	\$18.84	83.6%	\$17.71	\$17.94	71.1%	\$15.51
2017	\$18.79	\$19.55	69.0%	\$20.92	\$20.45	83.3%	\$19.13	\$19.55	69.1%	\$16.96
2016	\$17.08	\$17.90	69.6%	\$19.23	\$18.80	83.8%	\$17.51	\$17.90	71.2%	\$15.38
2015	\$18.57	\$19.44	68.6%	\$20.90	\$20.34	84.6%	\$19.27	\$19.44	75.0%	\$16.70
2014	\$25.62	\$26.39	67.6%	\$27.82	\$27.29	84.6%	\$26.20	\$26.39	73.8%	\$23.54
2013	\$21.34	\$21.94	67.1%	\$23.53	\$22.84	85.5%	\$21.74	\$21.94	67.9%	\$19.44
2012	\$19.69	\$20.56	68.0%	\$21.95	\$21.46	84.4%	\$20.03	\$20.56	66.0%	\$18.05
2011	\$21.70	\$22.23	68.7%	\$23.70	\$23.13	84.4%	\$21.72	\$22.23	64.8%	\$19.87
2010	\$17.91	\$18.45	68.4%	\$20.10	\$19.35	86.6%	\$18.01	\$18.45	66.9%	\$16.07
2009	\$14.00	\$14.58	69.7%	\$16.15	\$15.48	85.7%	\$14.23	\$14.58	66.2%	\$12.44
2008	\$19.87	\$21.10	70.3%	\$21.84	\$22.00	83.2%	\$20.15	\$21.10	67.9%	\$18.24
2007	\$20.36	\$21.24	70.2%	\$21.29	\$22.14	81.2%	\$20.09	\$21.24	63.5%	\$19.19
2006	\$13.97	\$14.98	66.3%	\$15.24	\$15.88	84.0%	\$13.89	\$14.98	59.3%	\$12.86
2005	\$16.23	\$17.50	65.5%	\$17.57	\$18.40	82.3%	\$16.14	\$17.50	61.7%	\$15.07
2004	\$17.00	\$18.08	69.7%	\$18.39	\$18.98	84.9%	\$16.92	\$18.08	64.8%	\$15.74
2003	\$13.52	\$14.49	70.4%	\$14.69	\$15.39	85.2%	\$13.43	\$14.49	65.5%	\$12.12
2002	\$13.25	\$14.11	66.3%	\$14.63	\$15.01	88.9%	\$13.05	\$14.11	60.1%	\$11.91
2001	\$16.31	\$17.37	65.2%	\$17.76	\$18.27	89.9%	\$16.07	\$17.37	61.9%	\$14.90
2000	\$13.95	\$14.65	68.8%	\$15.22	\$15.55	88.1%	\$13.59	\$14.65	65.0%	\$12.11

* January–September 2026.

Sources

- USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Federal Milk Order Statistics annual summaries, 2000–2026: <https://www.fmmcentral.com/PDFdata/sum2025.pdf> (and sum2000–sum2026)
- Market Administrator, Federal Order 5 (Louisville, KY): <https://www.malouisville.com>
- Market Administrator, Federal Orders 6 & 7 (Atlanta, GA): <https://www.fmmatlanta.com>
- Market Administrator notice, "Expiration of Dairy Forward Pricing Program," October 2, 2026