Southeast Milk Prices, 2000–2026

Federal Milk Marketing Orders 5 (Appalachian), 6 (Florida) and 7 (Southeast) · Updated November 11, 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	$22.59	+$8.23 (+59%)
Order 6 Florida	$15.22	$14.63	$28.36	$23.65	$23.76	+$8.43 (+55%)
Order 7 Southeast	$13.59	$13.05	$26.90	$22.61	$22.89	+$9.02 (+66%)
All federal orders	$12.11	$11.91	$23.68	$19.11	$18.40	+$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.

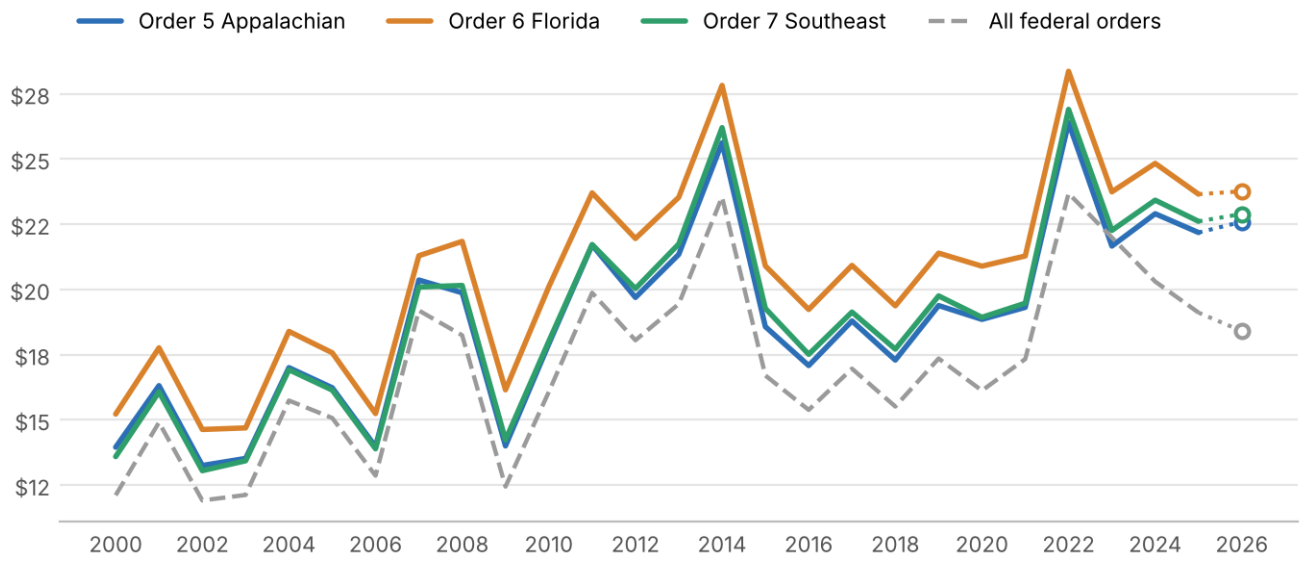
• 2026 is essentially level with 2025. Against the same January–September period of 2025, the uniform price is up $0.08 for Order 5 ($22.59 vs $22.51), down $0.29 for Florida ($23.76 vs $24.05) and down $0.07 for Order 7 ($22.89 vs $22.96). June was the 2026 high (Order 7 at $26.48); prices fell each month after, to $21.96 for Order 7 in September.

• Prices turned back up in October. Order 5 Class I rose to $24.48 (+$1.84 from September), and November climbs again: the advance Class I price is $25.87 for Order 5, $26.07 for Order 7 and $27.07 for Florida. The lift is on the Class IV side (nonfat dry milk); October Class IV was $20.54 against $15.16 for Class III.

• 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

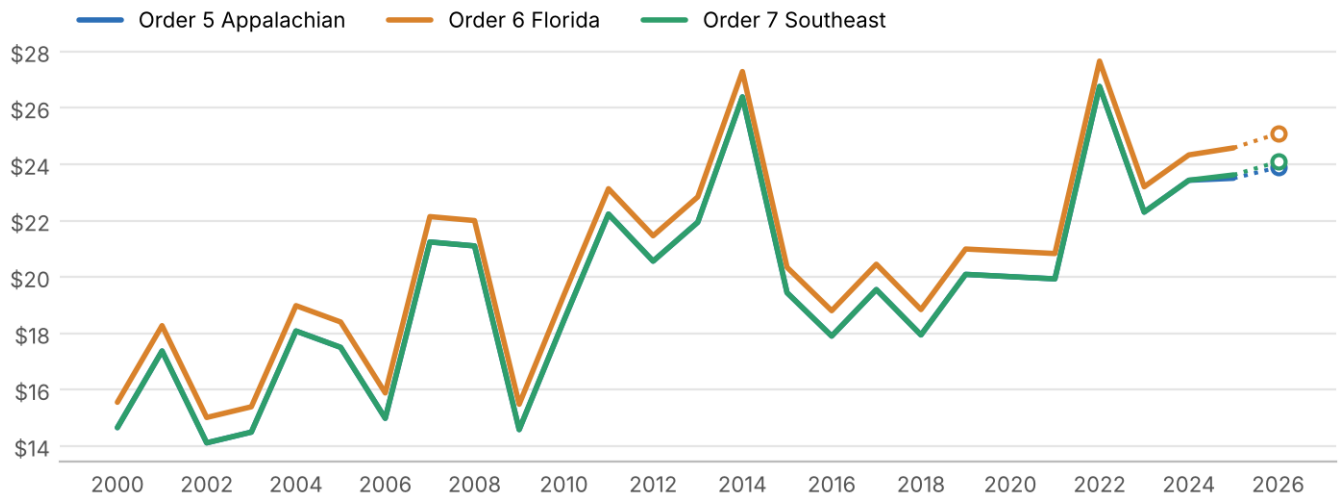
Annual weighted average, $/cwt, base zone. 2026 (open circle) is the Market Administrator's January–September average.



Source: USDA AMS Federal Milk Order Statistics annual summaries (fmmacentral.com); Market Administrators, Louisville KY & Atlanta GA.

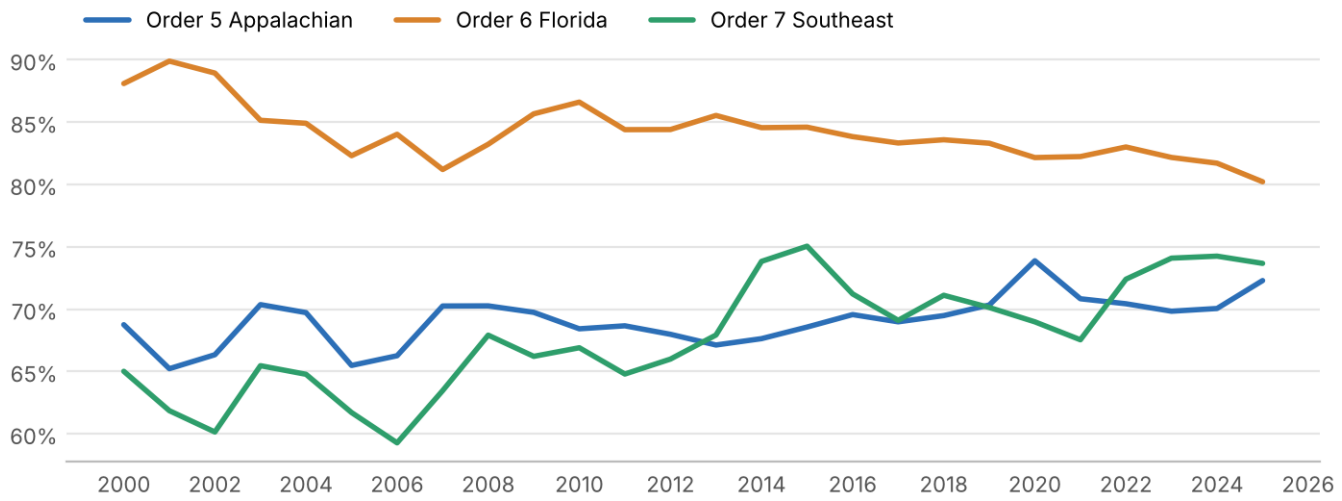
Class I price by year

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.



Source: USDA AMS Federal Milk Order Statistics annual summaries (fmmacentral.com); Market Administrators, Louisville KY & Atlanta GA.

Annual data, 2000–2026

$/cwt at 3.5% butterfat, base zone. Util. = Class I utilization. 2026 is the January–September average as reported by the Market Administrator (a simple monthly average); 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*	$22.59	$23.89		$23.76	$25.09		$22.89	$24.09		$18.40
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, simple monthly average, as reported in the Market Administrator's October 2026 newsletter.

September 2026: latest month with uniform prices

From the Market Administrators' Announcement of Class Prices (released September 30, 2026) and the October 2026 newsletter. $/cwt at 3.5% butterfat, base zone.

	Order 5 Appalachian	Order 6 Florida	Order 7 Southeast
Base zone	Mecklenburg Co., NC	Hillsborough Co., FL	Fulton Co., GA
Class I differential	$5.60	$6.80	$5.80
Class I price	$22.64	$23.84	$22.84
Class II price	$17.60	$17.60	$17.60
Class III price	$16.04	$16.04	$16.04
Class IV price	$18.94	$18.94	$18.94
Uniform (blend) price	**$21.64**	**$22.68**	**$21.96**
Class I utilization	76.7%	82.9%	78.8%
Producers pooled	866	55	518
Milk pooled (million lb)	403.6	195.1	291.7

Class II–IV prices are set nationally and are the same in every order; the orders differ through the Class I differential and how much milk goes to Class I. September Class I was $1.72 below August in all three orders.

October 2026 class prices

Order 5 Announcement of Class Prices, released November 4, 2026. $/cwt at 3.5% butterfat, base zone. October uniform prices are not yet released.

	Order 5 Appalachian	Order 6 Florida	Order 7 Southeast
Class I price, October	**$24.48**	**$25.68***	**$24.68***
Change from September	+$1.84	+$1.84	+$1.84
Class II price	$19.15	$19.15	$19.15
Class III price	$15.16	$15.16	$15.16
Class IV price	$20.54	$20.54	$20.54

* Orders 6 and 7 calculated from the October advanced pricing factors (Class IV skim $14.12, butterfat $1.5024) plus each order's differential; the same formula reproduces the published Order 5 price exactly. Class II–IV are national prices. Class I ESL adjustment for October: -$0.46.

Next: November 2026 advance prices

Announced October 21, 2026. $/cwt at 3.5% butterfat, base zone. Order 5 is calculated with the same formula and factors, which reproduce the published Order 6 and 7 prices exactly.

	Order 5 Appalachian	Order 6 Florida	Order 7 Southeast
Class I price, November	**$25.87***	**$27.07**	**$26.07**
Class I price, October	$24.48	$25.68*	$24.68*
Change from October	+$1.39	+$1.39	+$1.39
Class II skim price, November	$16.73	$16.73	$16.73

* Calculated, not taken from the Order 5 announcement. The Class IV skim factor ($16.03) set the November price, well above Class III ($10.38). The Class I ESL adjustment for November is -$1.80. December advance prices are due November 18, 2026.

Tennessee Class I prices, October 2026

Base-zone Class I price plus the location adjustment for that city. Order 5 cities are as published; Order 7 cities are calculated from the calculated Order 7 base price (*). Adjustments in effect since June 1, 2025.

City	Order	Location adj.	Class I price
Athens	5	-$0.40	$24.08
Powell (Knoxville)	5	-$0.70	$23.78
Nashville	7	-$1.20	$23.48*
Murfreesboro	7	-$1.20	$23.48*
Memphis	7	-$1.20	$23.48*

Nashville, Murfreesboro and Memphis each moved from -$0.90 to -$1.20 when the June 2025 amendments took effect.

Sources

• USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Federal Milk Order Statistics annual summaries, 2000–2026: https://www.fmmacentral.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
• Announcement of Class Prices, September 2026 (Orders 5, 6 & 7), released September 30, 2026; Order 5 Uniform Price, September 2026, released October 9, 2026
• Market Administrator's Monthly Newsletter, Appalachian, Florida and Southeast Marketing Areas, October 2026
• Announcement of Advanced Class Prices, November 2026 (Orders 6 & 7), released October 21, 2026
• Announcement of Class Prices for October 2026, Federal Order 5, released November 4, 2026