



# The Market Administrator's

# BULLETIN

## CALIFORNIA MARKETING AREA

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February 2026

Federal Order No. 51

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### February Pool Price Calculation

The February 2026 Statistical Uniform Price (SUP) for the California Marketing Area increased by \$1.19 per hundredweight (cwt) from last month to \$16.04 per cwt for milk delivered to plants located in Los Angeles County, California, the pricing point for the California Federal Marketing Order. The SUP is announced at 3.5 percent butterfat, 3.18 percent protein, and 5.79 percent other solids. When reported at the average tests of pooled milk (4.34 percent butterfat, 3.43 percent protein, and 5.75 percent other solids), the February SUP was \$18.00 per cwt, \$1.47 higher than January. The February Producer Price Differential (PPD) in Los Angeles County was \$1.10 per cwt, \$0.84 higher than the month prior.

#### Product Prices Effect

Prices in the National Dairy Product Sales Report experienced mostly upward trends in February. The butter price had the largest increase of 27 cents to \$1.6966 per pound. The nonfat dry milk and cheese prices increased by 18 and 3 cents, respectively, to \$1.3726 and \$1.4338 per pound. The dry whey price had the only decline of the month at roughly 1 cent, falling to \$0.6931 per pound.

Component prices experienced mixed trends in February. The butterfat price had the largest increase at roughly 33 cents, rising to \$1.7794 per pound. Similarly, the nonfat solids price increased nearly 18 cents, reaching \$1.1220 per pound. The protein and other solids prices declined by 24 and 1 cents, respectively, to \$1.9373 and \$0.4391 per pound.

Class prices mostly increased into February. The Class I price had the only decline for the month, losing \$1.65 before settling at \$17.50 per cwt. The Class II price increased by \$1.42 to \$15.34 per cwt. The Class III price increased by \$0.35 to \$14.94 per cwt. Lastly, the Class IV price increased \$2.74 to \$16.29 per cwt.

#### Selected Statistics

The total pooled production for February 2026 was the lowest ever recorded under Federal Order (FO) 51 at 1.57 billion pounds. The Class II volume, at 123.8 million pounds, was the largest for the month of February in FO 51. ❖

### Pool Summary

- A total of 775 producers were pooled with an average daily delivery per producer of 72,209 pounds, a decrease of 26.05 percent from January.
- Pooled milk receipts totaled 1.567 billion pounds, a decrease of 19.51 percent on an average daily basis.
- Class I usage (milk for bottling) accounted for 23.1 percent of total pooled milk receipts.
- The average butterfat test of producer receipts was 4.34 percent.
- The average true protein test of producer receipts was 3.43 percent.
- The average other solids test of producer receipts was 5.75 percent. ❖

#### Class Utilization

Pooled Milk	Percent	Pounds
Class I	23.1	362,363,257
Class II	7.9	123,825,969
Class III	65.3	1,023,140,806
Class IV	3.7	57,608,087
Total Pooled Milk		1,566,938,119

#### Producer Component Prices

	2026	2025
	\$/lb	
Protein Price	1.9373	2.5337
Butterfat Price	1.7794	2.8186
Other Solids Price	0.4391	0.4799

#### Class Price Factors

	2026	2025
	\$/cwt	
Class I	17.50	23.37
Class I ESL Adj	0.57	N/A
Class II	15.34	21.08
Class III	14.94	20.18
Class IV	16.29	19.90

## Pooled Component Tests

Seven of the eleven Federal Milk Marketing Orders operate under the multiple component pricing system, which uses butterfat, protein, and other solids. Additionally, Federal Orders (FOs) 30, 32, 33, and 126 use somatic cell pricing in addition to the components listed above. Appalachian (FO 5), Florida (FO 6), Southeast (FO 7), and Arizona (FO 131) orders are priced only on skim and butterfat, so data on individual components are not available. The following article analyzes pooled component tests from the FOs operating under the multiple component pricing system.

### FO 51 Component Tests

Pooled component tests in FO 51 increased from 2021 to 2025. The average yearly butterfat test increased 0.30 percentage points from 3.92 to 4.22 percent. The average yearly protein test rose 0.13 percentage points from 3.25 to 3.38 percent. Although the other solids test also increased during the period, it rose only 0.03 percentage points from 5.75 to 5.78 percent and remained at 5.75 percent from 2021 through 2023.

The lowest recorded pooled butterfat test for FO 51 was 3.76 percent in July 2021, which was also the month of the lowest pooled protein test at 3.13 percent. October 2022 had the lowest recorded other solids test for the Order at 5.73 percent. Tests reached record highs from November 2024 through January 2025, with a butterfat test at 4.35 percent, and again in December 2025. Notably, 2025 was the first year in which the previous year's highest butterfat test of 4.35 percent was not surpassed.

The highest protein test of 3.49 percent occurred in November 2024 and was not reached again in 2025. The other solids test reached a record high of 5.79 percent, for the first time, in June 2024, then for several months once again in the first half of 2025. See tables 1, 2, and 3 for detailed statistics on FO 51's average pool components.

### Component Tests in Selected FOs

FO 124 recorded the highest 5-year average butterfat test at 4.31 percent, while FO 33 had the lowest, besides FO 51, at 4.10 percent. FO 33 experienced the largest increase in butterfat tests, rising 0.36 percentage points from 3.94 in 2021 to 4.30 percent in 2025. FO 126 posted the smallest increase at 0.25 percentage points. Monthly trends, shown in Figure 1, show FO 124 recording the highest butterfat tests for most months, with

*(continued on page 3)*

**Table 1: Average Butterfat Test Percentages for Pooled Milk in Selected FOs, 2021 to 2025**

Marketing Area	Northeast	Upper Midwest	Central	Midwest	California	Pacific Northwest	Southwest
Federal Order	FO 1	FO 30	FO 32	FO 33	FO 51	FO 124	FO 126
2021	3.99	4.04	3.99	3.94	3.92	4.11	4.13
2022	4.03	4.12	4.06	4.02	4.04	4.30	4.13
2023	4.12	4.17	4.11	4.06	4.12	4.32	4.12
2024	4.22	4.28	4.19	4.17	4.18	4.39	4.25
2025	4.34	4.35	4.25	4.30	4.22	4.44	4.39
<b>5 Year Average</b>	<b>4.14</b>	<b>4.19</b>	<b>4.12</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>4.10</b>	<b>4.31</b>	<b>4.20</b>

**Table 2: Average Protein Test Percentages for Pooled Milk in Selected FOs 2021 to 2025**

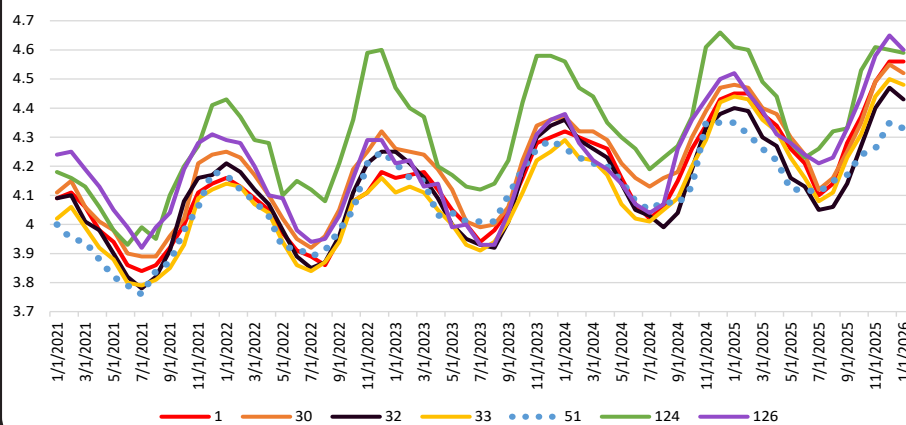
Marketing Area	Northeast	Upper Midwest	Central	Midwest	California	Pacific Northwest	Southwest
Federal Order	FO 1	FO 30	FO 32	FO 33	FO 51	FO 124	FO 126
2021	3.15	3.17	3.24	3.19	3.25	3.31	3.33
2022	3.16	3.22	3.27	3.22	3.31	3.40	3.34
2023	3.18	3.23	3.28	3.22	3.34	3.40	3.32
2024	3.21	3.27	3.32	3.25	3.36	3.43	3.38
2025	3.27	3.31	3.36	3.32	3.38	3.44	3.45
<b>5 Year Average</b>	<b>3.19</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>3.30</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>3.33</b>	<b>3.39</b>	<b>3.36</b>

**Table 3: Average Other Solids Test Percentages for Pooled Milk in Selected FOs 2021 to 2025**

Marketing Area	Northeast	Upper Midwest	Central	Midwest	California	Pacific Northwest	Southwest
Federal Order	FO 1	FO 30	FO 32	FO 33	FO 51	FO 124	FO 126
2021	5.77	5.79	5.78	5.78	5.75	5.78	5.78
2022	5.78	5.79	5.79	5.78	5.75	5.78	5.79
2023	5.77	5.79	5.79	5.79	5.75	5.78	5.79
2024	5.78	5.79	5.80	5.77	5.77	5.78	5.80
2025	5.78	5.79	5.80	5.78	5.78	5.78	5.77
<b>5 Year Average</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>5.79</b>	<b>5.79</b>	<b>5.78</b>	<b>5.76</b>	<b>5.78</b>	<b>5.79</b>

## Pooled Component Tests *(continued from page 2)*

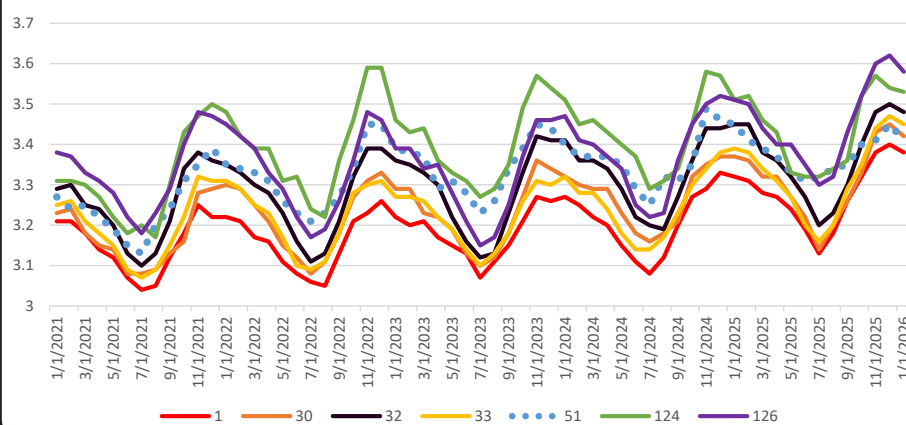
**Figure 1 : Pooled Butterfat Tests for Select Federal Orders, 2021 - 2025**



other Orders reaching peak levels late in 2025. The highest recorded butterfat test, at 4.66 percent, was observed in December 2024 for FO 124.

Similar to butterfat, protein tests generally trended higher during the period. FO 124 recorded the highest 5-year average protein test at 3.39 percent, while FO 1 reported the lowest at 3.19 percent. However, from 2021 to 2025, FO 30 experienced the largest increase in protein tests, rising 0.14 percentage points from 3.17 to 3.31 percent. Monthly trends (Figure 2) show protein tests moving similarly across Orders, with FO 124 generally reporting higher tests; however, FO 126 observed the largest recorded protein test at 3.62 percent in December 2025.

**Figure 2 : Pooled Protein Tests for Select Federal Orders, 2021 - 2025**



Compared with butterfat and protein, other solids tests remained relatively stable during the period with only minor year-to-year variations. FO 30, FO 32, and FO 126 recorded the highest 5-year average other solids tests at 5.79 percent. In 2025, FO 32 recorded the highest yearly average at 5.80 percent and FO 126 had the lowest at 5.77 percent. See figures and tables 1, 2, and 3 for more statistics on average

pooled component tests from 2021 to 2025.

### Component Payment Distribution 2021 vs 2025

**Table 4: Comparison of Gross Payment\* at Average Tests, 2021 and 2025**

	2021 Average Pool Component Tests				2025 Average Pool Component Tests			
	Test Percent	Price per pound	Gross Dollars	Contribution Percent	Test Percent	Price Per pound	Gross Dollars	Contribution Percent
Butterfat	3.92	\$1.7794	\$139,504.96	41.3	4.22	\$1.7794	\$150,181.36	42.4
Protein	3.25	\$1.9373	\$125,924.50	37.3	3.38	\$1.9373	\$130,961.48	37.0
Other Solids	5.75	\$0.4391	\$50,496.50	14.9	5.78	\$0.4391	\$50,759.96	14.3
PPD		\$1.10	\$22,000.00	6.5		\$1.10	\$22,000.00	6.2
<b>Total Gross Payment</b>			\$337,925.96	100.0			\$353,902.80	100.0
<b>Gross Price per cwt</b>			<b>\$16.90</b>				<b>\$17.70</b>	

\*For a hypothetical farm producing 2,000,000 pounds of milk at average component tests and located at the Los Angeles base zone.

Table 4 provides an example of a producer's milk check using February 2026 prices at the Los Angeles base zone and the average pooled component tests in 2021 and 2025. The gross price at 2021 average component tests is \$16.90 per hundredweight, which increases 80 cents to \$17.70 per hundredweight under the 2025 average pooled component tests. The higher components in 2025 led to an increase of roughly 16 thousand dollars.❖



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### Computation of Producer Price Differential and Statistical Uniform Price\*

	<u>Product Pounds</u>	<u>Price per cwt./lb.</u>	<u>Component Value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Class I— Skim	353,235,840	\$12.79	\$45,178,863.94	
Butterfat	9,127,417	1.4726	13,441,034.27	
Less: Location Adjustment to Handlers			(999,910.34)	\$57,619,987.87
Class II— Butterfat	13,454,089	1.7864	24,034,384.56	
Nonfat Solids	10,564,734	1.0129	10,701,019.09	34,735,403.65
Class III— Butterfat	38,282,164	1.7794	68,119,282.61	
Protein	35,572,701	1.9373	68,914,993.65	
Other Solids	59,246,608	0.4391	26,015,185.58	163,049,461.84
Class IV— Butterfat	7,202,921	1.7794	12,816,877.60	
Nonfat Solids	4,829,177	1.1220	5,418,336.57	18,235,214.17
<b>Total Classified Value</b>			<i>Total value of milk in the pool</i> →	<b>\$273,640,067.53</b>
Add: Value for 60 (f) through 60(j)				611,575.46
Other Source Receipts	34,024			
<b>Total Pool Value</b>				<b>\$274,251,642.99</b>
Less: Value of Producer Butterfat	68,066,591	1.7794	(121,117,692.05)	
Value of Producer Protein	53,738,874	1.9373	(104,108,320.58)	
Value of Producer Other Solids	90,160,646	0.4391	(39,589,539.64)	<b>(264,815,552.27)</b>
<b>Total PPD Value Before Adjustments</b>			<i>Total Class III value of producer components</i> ↗	<b>\$9,436,090.72</b>
Add: Location Adjustment to Producers				7,597,443.37
One-half Unobligated Balance—Producer Settlement Fund				863,179.99
Less: Producer Settlement Fund—Reserve				(660,020.58)
<b>Total Pool Milk &amp; PPD Value</b>	1,566,972,143			<b>\$17,236,693.50</b>
Producer Price Differential		\$ 1.10		
Statistical Uniform Price		\$ 16.04		

Value from which PPD per hundredweight is calculated

\* Price at 3.5 percent butterfat, 3.18 percent protein, and 5.79 percent other solids.