

Brief Summaries of NASS Dairy Data Series

Milk Production:

NASS estimates milk production monthly for the 20 largest producing States and the United States. Estimates include the number of milk cows, milk per cow, and total milk production. The 20 largest States accounted for 86 percent of total U.S. production in 1999. Estimates for all 50 States are published quarterly in April, July, October, and January. Primary data used to determine these estimates are obtained from a sample of producers, Federal Market Orders, and State authorities.

Production estimates are subject to revision the following month for monthly States and the following quarter for quarterly States. Federal Market Order sales are normally the main basis for revisions. All monthly and quarterly estimates are again subject to revision the following February and after data from the 5-year Census of Agriculture are available. The difference between the first and final estimate of U.S. milk production has averaged about 0.3 to 0.4 percent over the past 10 years.

Milk Production, Disposition and Income (PDI):

Estimates of milk production, disposition, and income are prepared annually by NASS and released in April or May for the prior calendar year. Estimates include the production of milk and milkfat, milk used where produced (fed to calves and used for home consumption, cream, and butter), and milk marketed by producers (milk sold to plants and dealers, and milk sold directly to consumers). Monthly estimates of prices of milk sold are weighted by estimates of monthly shipments and used to generate cash receipts from sales to plants and dealers. These prices are also used to value milk used where produced so that the value of all milk produced can be estimated. The PDI series also includes the percent of milk that is fluid grade and the percentage of fat in all milk produced. The PDI estimates are published for the United States and each of the 50 States. The annual PDI estimates are subject to revision the following year and after the 5-year Census of Agriculture.

Agricultural Prices:

Estimates of milk prices and fat test are made monthly for fluid grade, manufacturing, and all milk for the 20 major States and the United States for the prior month. For the current month, State estimates are limited to an all milk price, but U.S. estimates are made for fluid grade, manufacturing, and all milk. Primary data sources are surveys of plants and dealers, Federal Market Orders, producer cooperatives, and State authorities. The NASS price estimate represents a plant door price, before any deductions for hauling. The price includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Monthly prices are first published on or near the last working day of the month and represent a preliminary monthly price. This price is updated in the following monthly release to represent an entire month price. All monthly prices are subject to revision annually in conjunction with preparing the annual milk production, disposition and income estimates. Revisions are generally based on additional information, such as State administrative data, that is not available until after the monthly estimates are issued. For 1998, the average difference between the preliminary monthly U.S. price of all milk and the final revised price was 21 cents or 1.4 percent.

Dairy Products:

NASS provides estimates of production of major dairy products monthly. Products included are: butter, total cheese and types, cottage cheese, canned milk, dry milk, yogurt, ice cream and other frozen products, whey and whey products, and other products. Data are provided for the United States and the major producing States. The primary data source are the 1340 manufacturers of dairy products. In 32 States, the State Departments of Agriculture assist in collection of data. Estimates are made for plants not reporting. For the March publication, reported data accounted for 86 percent of the U.S. published estimate for butter production, 79 percent of the cheddar cheese production, 85 percent of the total cheese, 87 percent of the nonfat dry milk, and 72 percent of dry whey.

Weekly Dairy Product Prices:

On Friday of each week, NASS publishes average prices and volume of sales for cheddar cheese, butter, nonfat dry milk and dry whey for the prior week. These data are collected from the major manufacturers of these products. The survey covers all firms producing a million or more pounds of these products annually. Firms that do not meet the price specifications, such as a cheddar cheese firm that ages all its cheese, are excluded from the survey. Firms that meet the price specifications and are eligible for the weekly survey generally account for 70 to 90 percent of total production of the four major products. Of the firms eligible for the price survey, those reporting account for 70 to 80 percent of production for all firms eligible.

Cold Storage:

Each month, NASS publishes estimates of food commodities held in refrigerated warehouses for more than 30 days. These data are generally published around the 20th of the month and represent food stocks as of the end of the prior month. Information is published for about 100 food items covering fruits, nuts, berries, vegetables, eggs, dairy products (butter and American cheese), poultry, beef, pork, and other products, plus public cooler and freezer occupancy. About 1,400 public and private cold storage warehouses are surveyed to obtain the data. Data from warehouses not reporting are estimated based on prior reports and current reports of warehouses with similar items. Data from secondary sources, such as grower associations, are also used. Generally, the published data for dairy products represents 60-70 percent reported data and 30 to 40 percent imputed or estimated data.

Weekly Dairy Product Prices

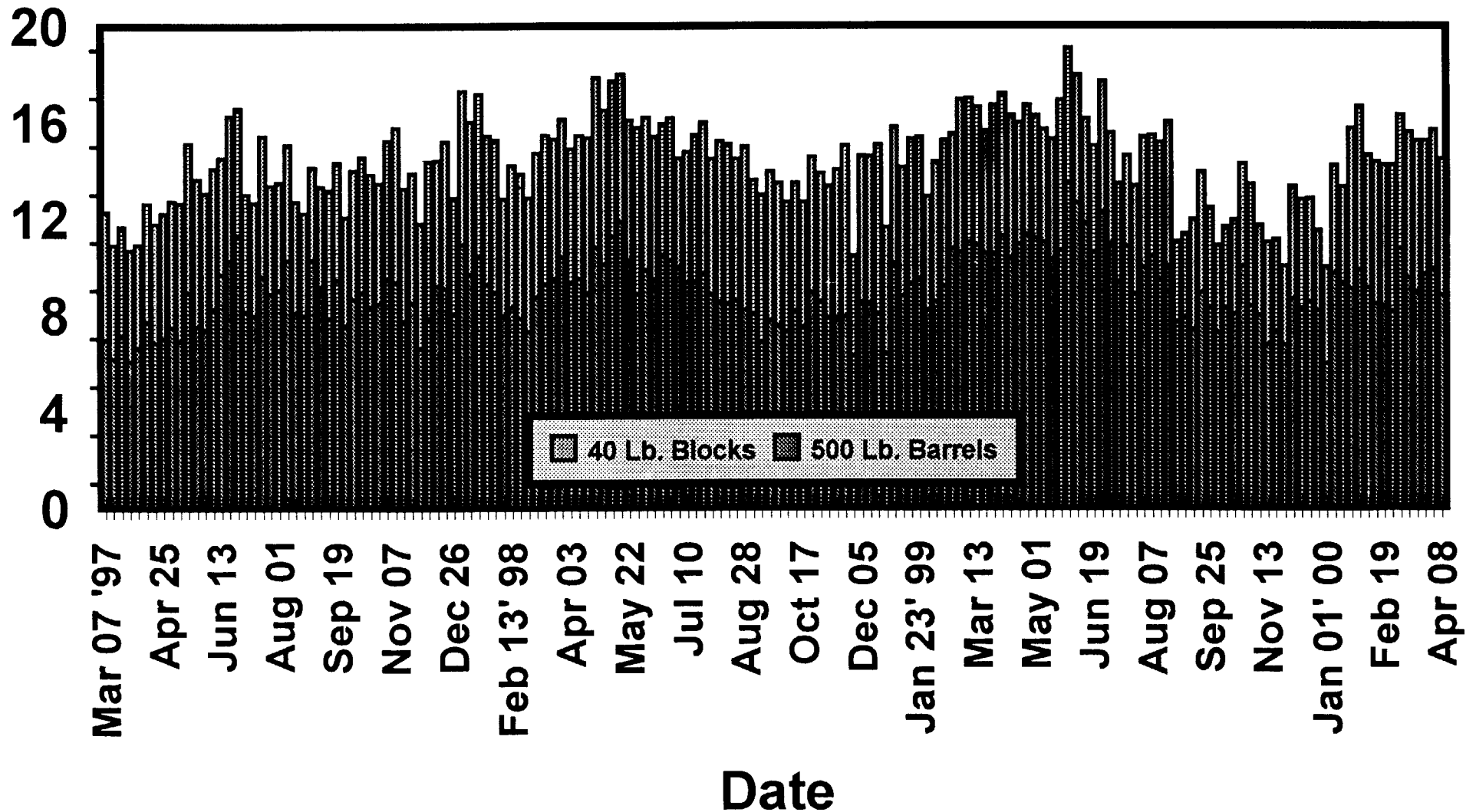
	Number of Firms Eligible <u>1/</u>	Eligible Firms, % of U.S. Production	Number of Firms Reporting	Firms Reporting, % of Eligible Production
Cheese	49	71	29	75
Butter	31	89	25	71
Nonfat Dry Milk	29	96	20	92
Dry Whey	25	84	16	70

1/ Eligible firms are those who sell products that meet the reporting specifications.

Cheddar Cheese, US

NASS Sales Volume

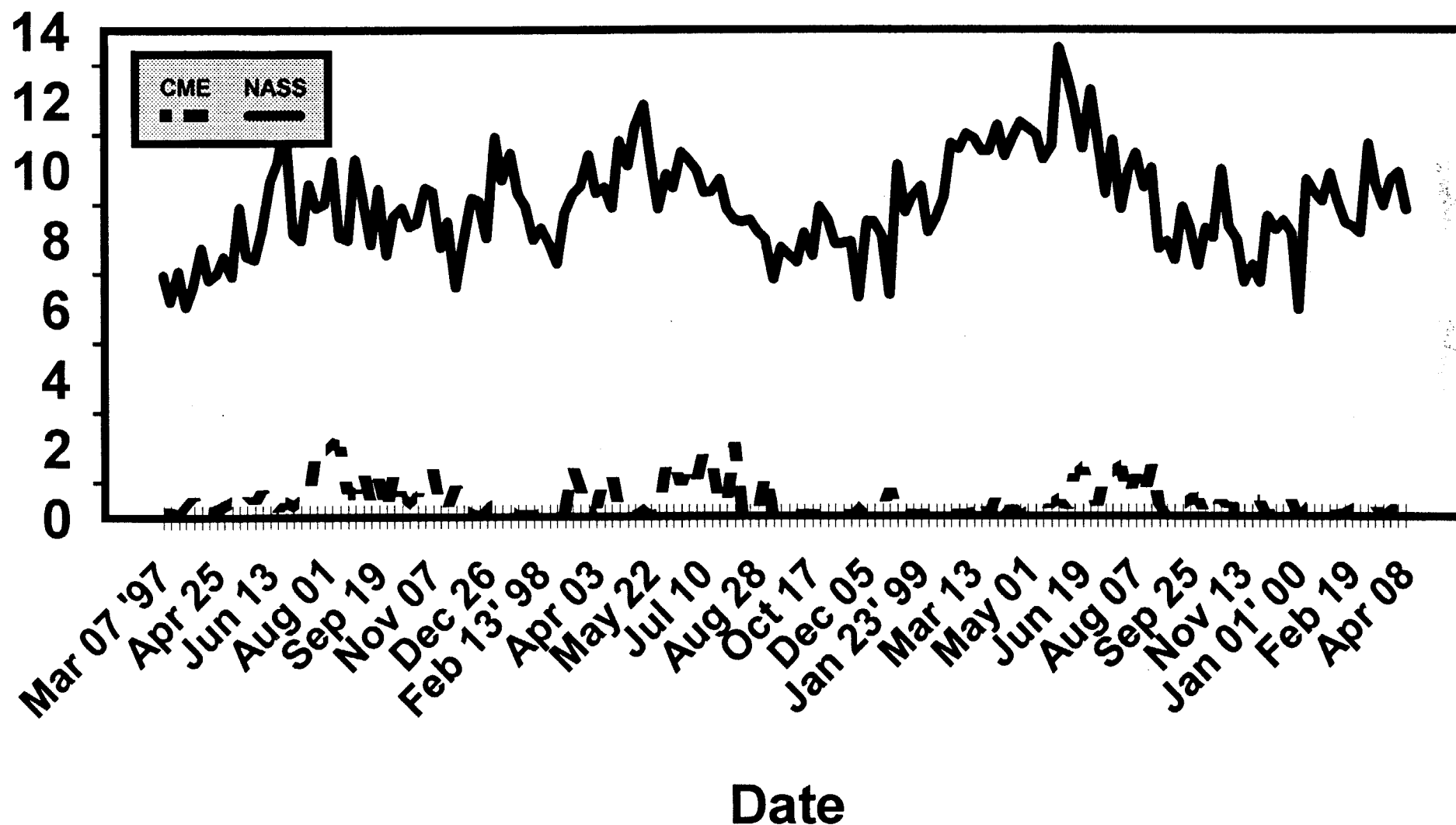
Million lbs.



Cheddar Cheese

500 Lb. Barrels, Volume

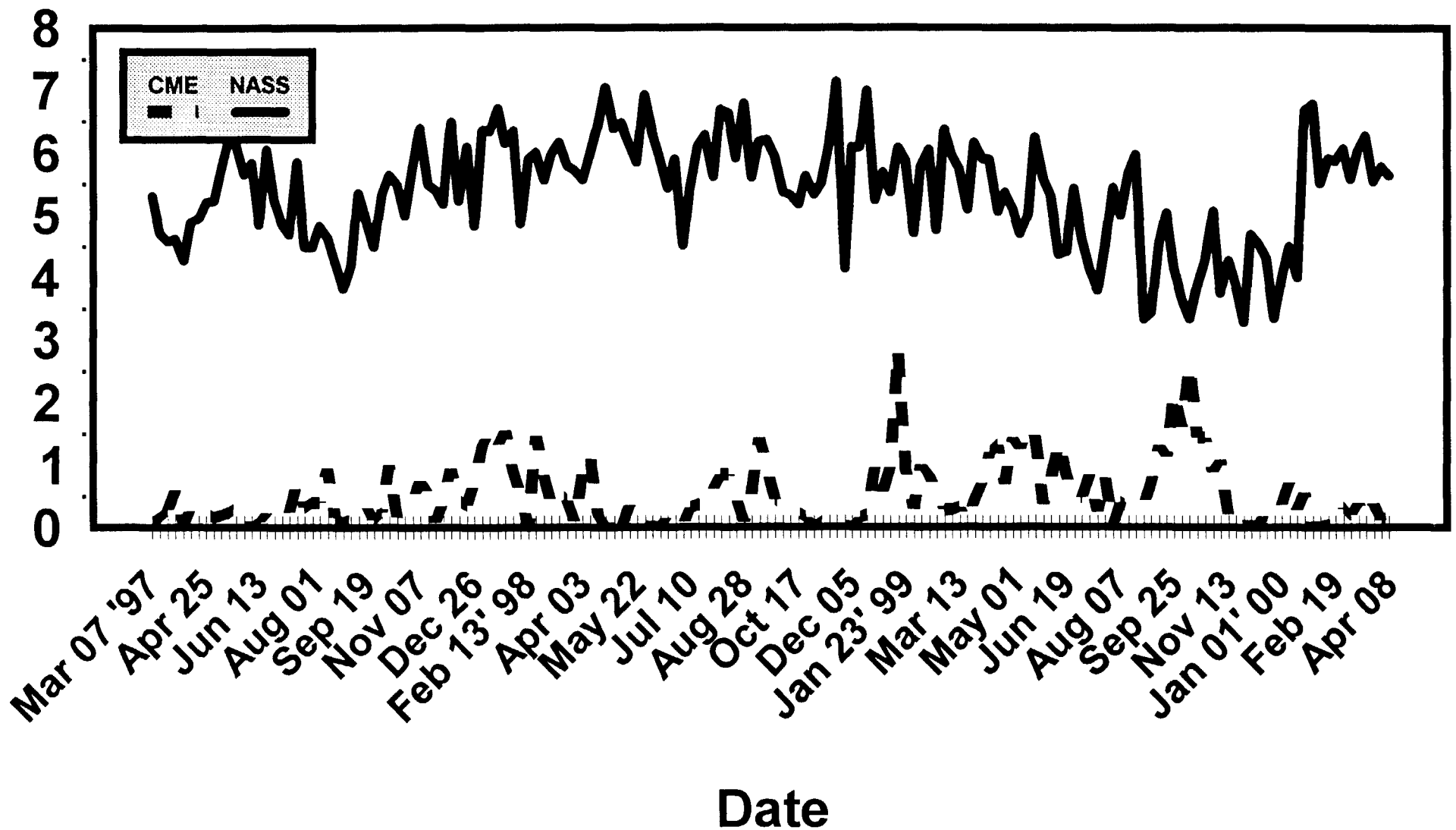
Million lbs.



Cheddar Cheese

40 Lb. Blocks, Volume

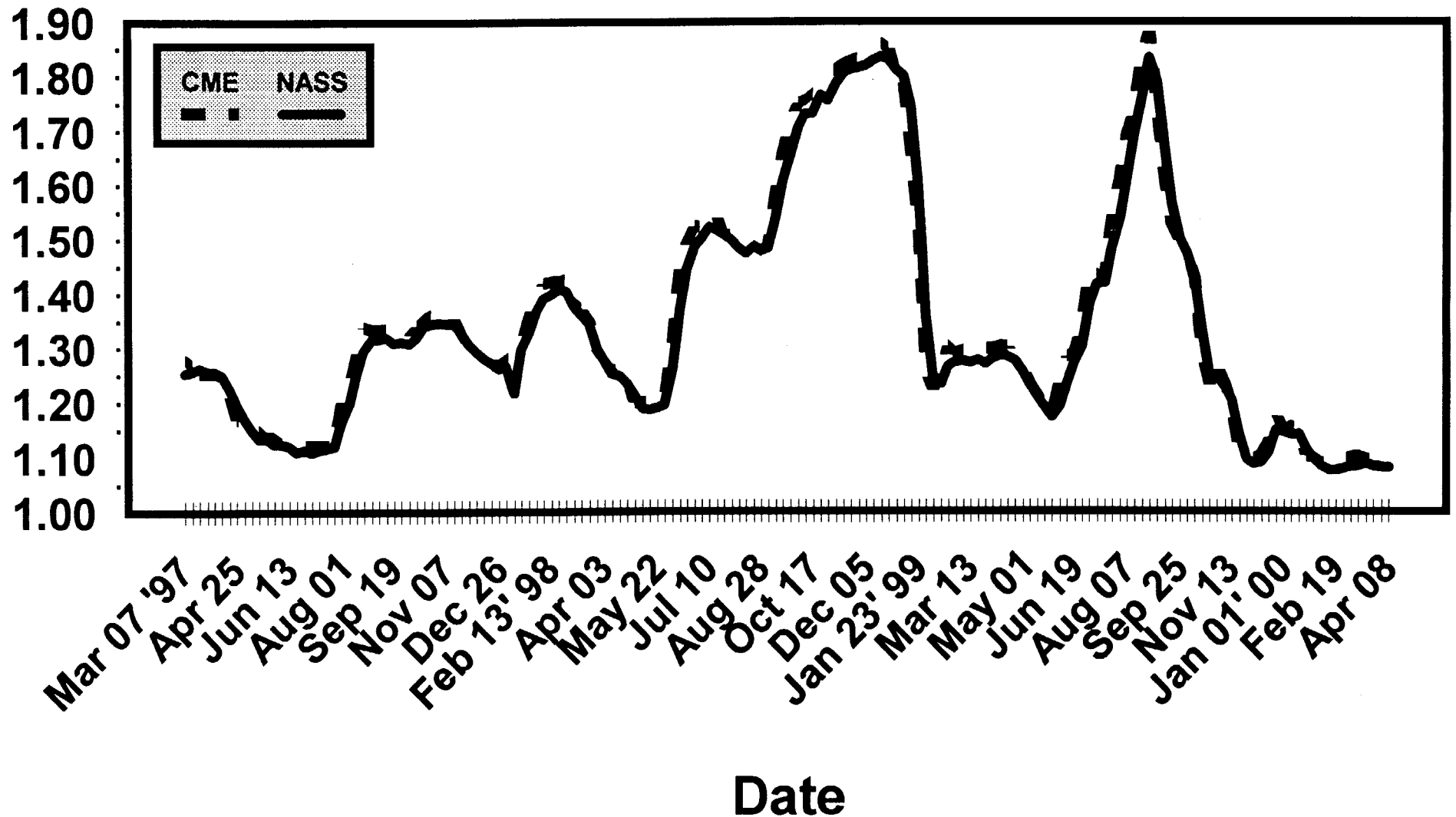
Million lbs.



Cheddar Cheese Price

500 Lb. Barrels

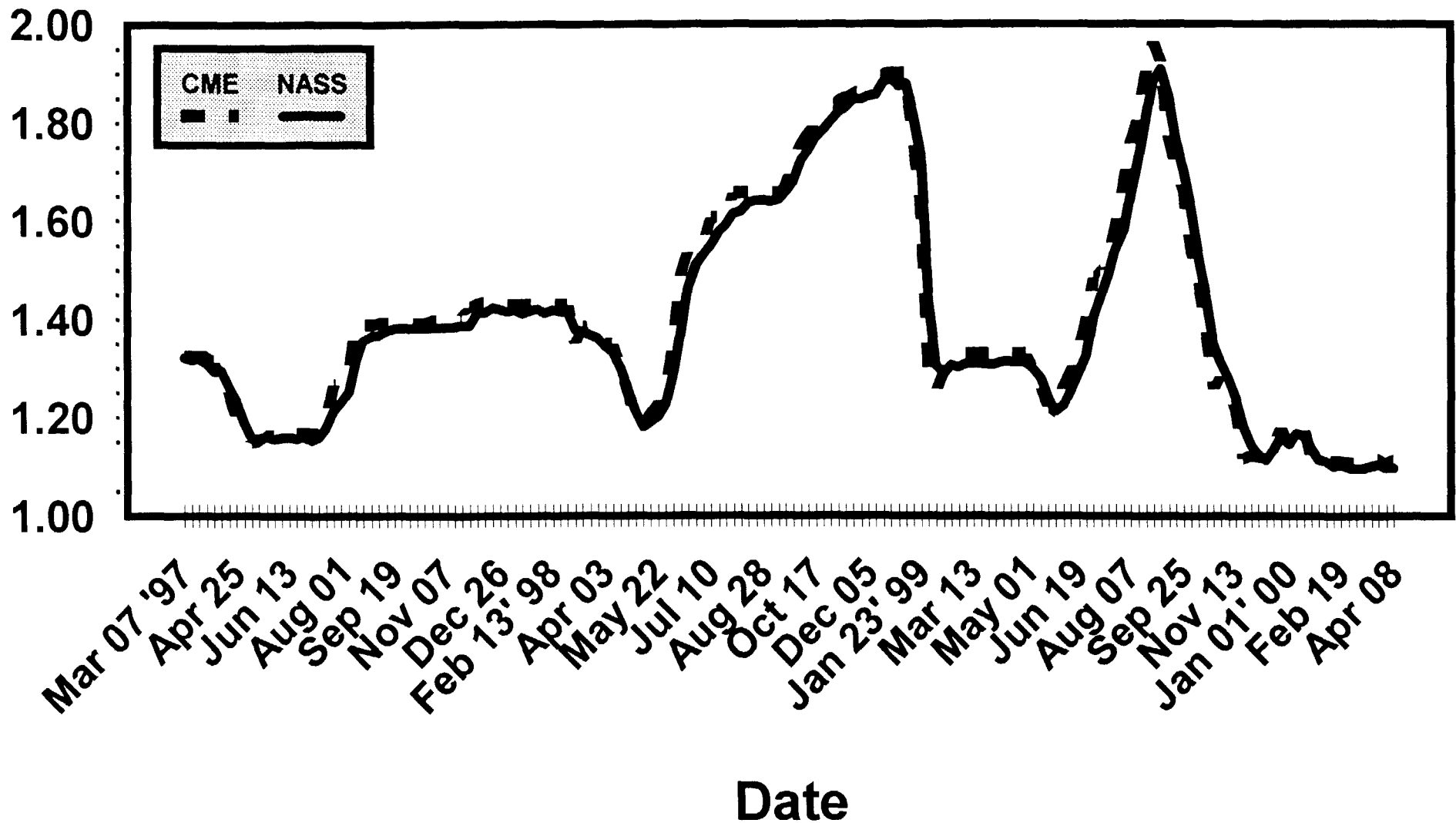
\$ / lb.



Cheddar Cheese Price

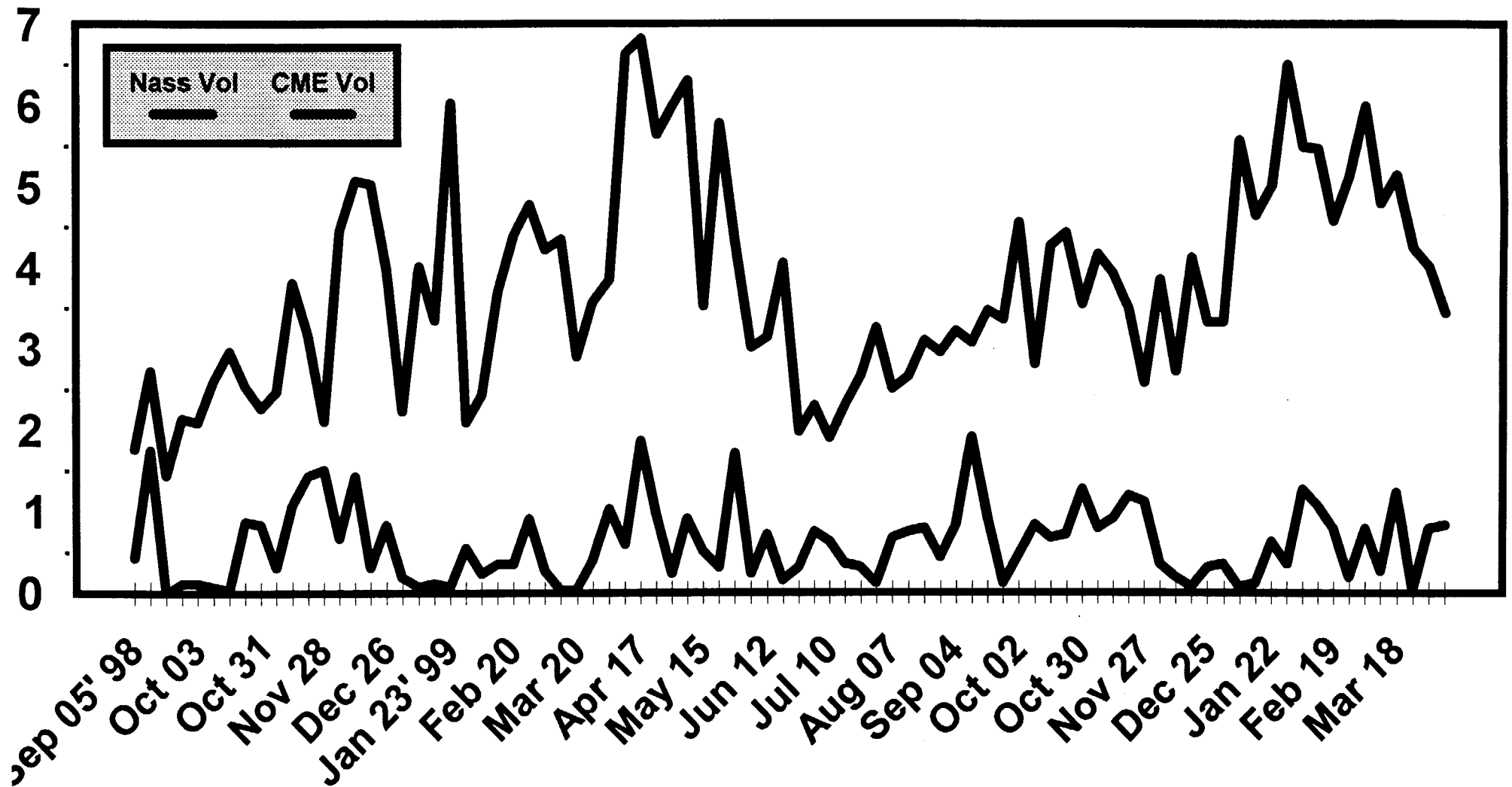
40 Lb. Blocks

\$ / lb.



Butter Volume

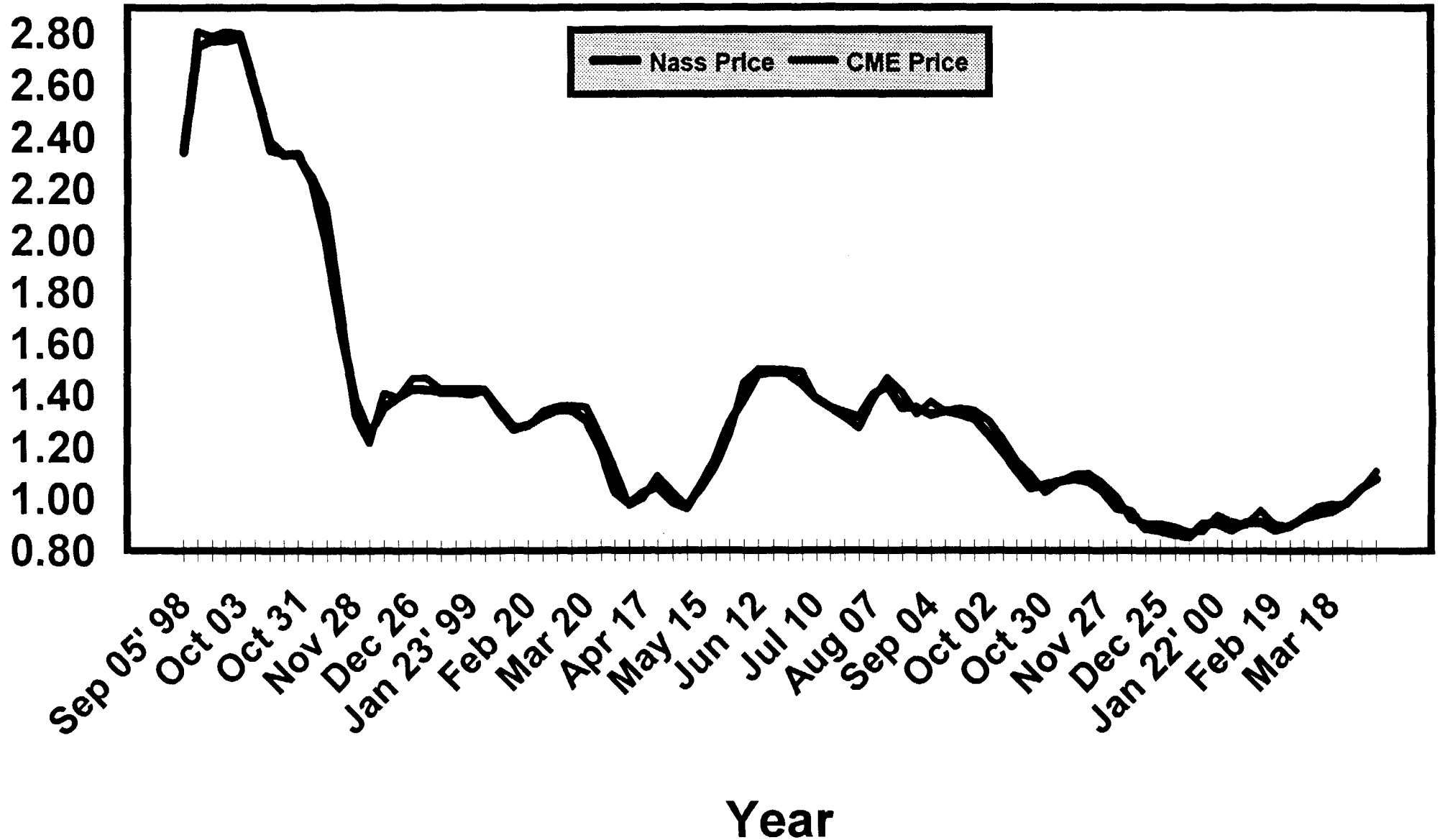
Million lbs.



Year

Butter Price

\$/lb.

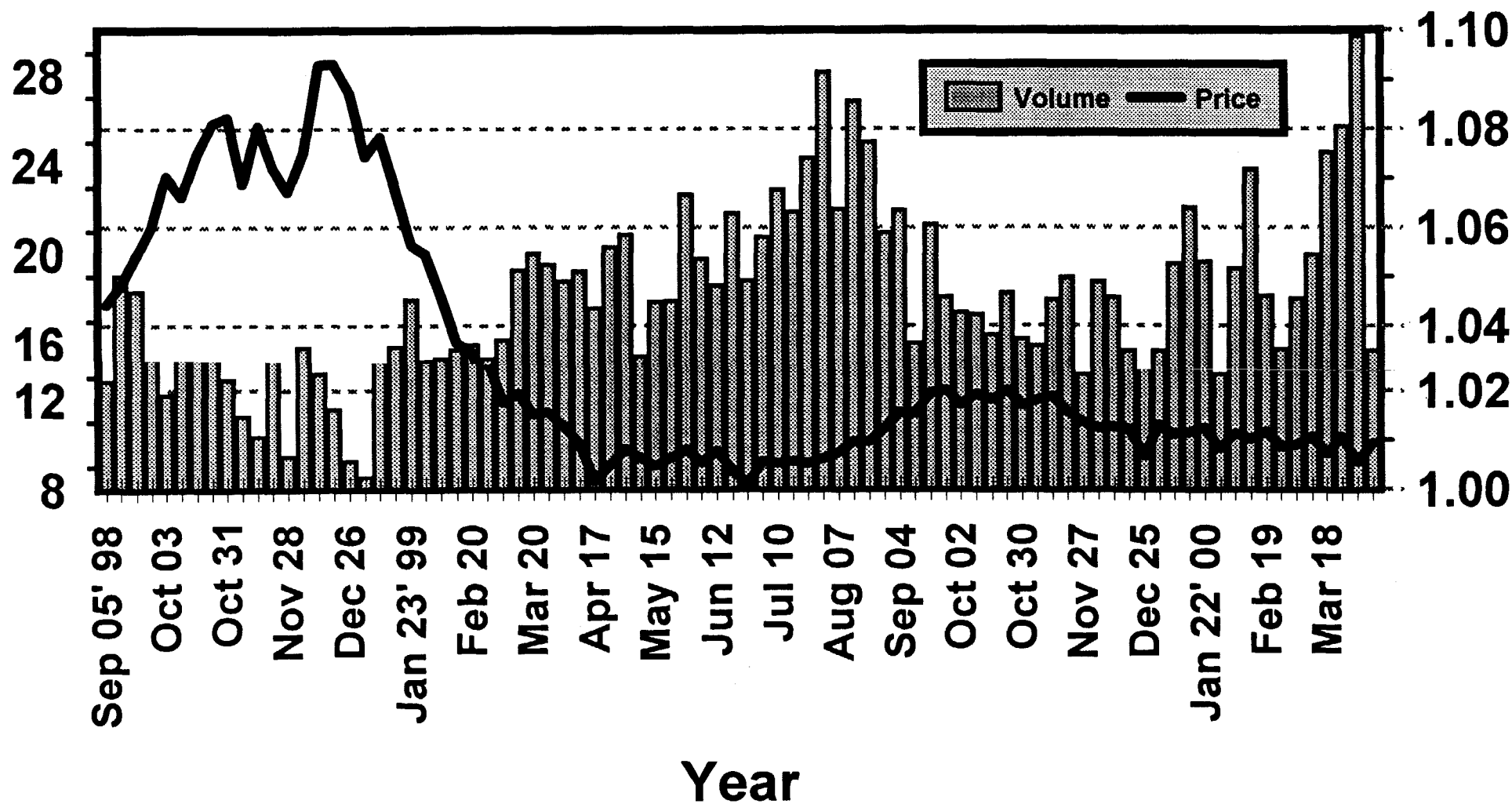


Nonfat Dry Milk, U. S.

Volume vs Price

Million lbs.

\$/lb.



Dry Whey, U. S.

Volume vs Price

Million lbs.

\$/lb.

