

Utilisation of milk by dairies in England and Wales

The latest national statistics produced by Defra on the utilisation of milk by dairies in England and Wales were released on 12 April 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This monthly notice will be updated at 09:30 on 17 May 2012.

Contents

Section 1	England & Wales milk utilisation	page 2
Section 2	Methodology, Notes and Revisions Policy	page 3

Key points

This release shows the latest monthly information on the volume of milk used by dairies in England and Wales for the production of a range of liquid milk and milk products.

The key results for February 2012 are given below:

- The intake of raw whole milk was 761 million litres, 9.1% higher than in February 2011
- 355 million litres of whole milk and 101 million litres of skim milk were used for liquid milk.
- 160 million litres of whole milk and 24 million litres of skim milk were used for cheese production.

This notice and additional tables are available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/statistics/foodfarm/food/milk/milk-utilisation/>

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Section 1: Utilisation of milk by Dairies in England and Wales – February 2012

Table 1 shows the volume of milk used by dairies in England and Wales for the production of a range of milk products during February 2012. Over the last 3 months the survey is estimated to have accounted for approximately 95% of the milk available for processing in England and Wales. The majority of the remaining milk is used to make liquid milk and cheese, with small amounts being used for cream, yogurt and other milk products.

Table 1: Utilisation of milk by Dairies in England and Wales – February 2012 (a)(b)(c)

A. AVAILABILITY		Whole milk ('000 litres)	Skim milk ('000 skim litres)	Cream ('000 cream litres)
1. TOTAL INTAKE		760,555	12,814	10,912
2. SEPARATION: Total separated		-196,864		
Obtained from separation			163,322	33,542
3. TOTAL AVAILABLE		563,691	176,136	44,454
B. DISPOSALS		Whole milk ('000 litres)	Skim milk ('000 skim litres)	Cream ('000 cream litres)
4. Liquid milk		355,181	100,534	
5. Butter				18,644
6. Cheese:				
Cheddar		124,502		
Other long life territorials		16,005		
Cheshire	c			
Other short life territorials		7,796		
Blue vein		6,610		
Other cheese		5,429		
Total Cheese		160,342	23,519	1,785
7. Cream:				
48% fat and over				9,711
29% to 48% fat				4,277
under 29% fat				1,685
8. Other (inc.powders,yoghurt & condensed milk)		25,589	47,193	1,645
9. Sub sales to other organisations		13,105	1,381	7,183
10. Stock change and wastage		9,474	3,509	-477
11. TOTAL DISPOSALS		563,691	176,136	44,454

Notes:

(a) To protect the confidentiality of individual respondents, it is not possible to publish all the data that are collected.

(b) Individual figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

(c) Where milk used for Cheshire is confidential, the milk used is included with 'Other short life territorials'.

Section 2: Methodology, Notes and Revisions Policy

1. The information in this notice is used by the UK government and the EU as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy. Statistics on milk used by dairies in the production of drinking milk and milk products is required by the EU under Council Directive 19/16EC (and subsequent amendments). Other users include the food and farming industry, academia and the general public. Our contact details are available on the front page of this notice for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.
2. Defra runs a regular survey of milk utilisation by dairies in England and Wales. It is a voluntary sample survey with 32 monthly respondents and 30 quarterly respondents. The response rate is regularly 100 per cent. The figures presented in this notice are aggregated totals for these respondents. The figures are not raised to account for all the milk delivered to dairies in England and Wales. Similar surveys are run by RERAD in Scotland and DARD in Northern Ireland, though their surveys account for all milk used by dairies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.
3. The total volume of milk recorded by the Defra survey for England and Wales is compared with information from the Rural Payments Agency on the volume of milk delivered to dairies (information which is collected under milk quota regulations). Further information regarding survey coverage is contained in Section 1 of this notice.
4. The data are subject to a variety of validation checks which identify inconsistencies in the data. All data are cleaned prior to publication in discussion with the survey respondents.

Revisions policy

5. Figures in this notice are provisional and subject to revision. We will provide information about any revisions we make to previously published information in this statistics notice, and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including:
 - a. if we have not received survey data from respondents we make an estimate based on their previous returns. These estimates are replaced with actual figures when they are received.
 - b. survey respondents occasionally supply amended figures for previous periods.
6. **This month there are no revisions to previously published data.**