



Dairy Products Prices

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Dairy Products Prices Highlights

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grade AA standards averaged \$1.50 per pound for the week ending February 11, 2012. The United States (US) price per pound decreased 4.9 cents from the previous week.

Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound blocks averaged \$1.53 per pound for the week ending February 11, 2012. The price per pound decreased 2.8 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.53 per pound, down 1.2 cents from the previous week.

Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote, and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 64.1 cents per pound for the week ending February 11, 2012. The US price per pound decreased 2.3 cents from the previous week.

Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote, and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Grade A standards averaged \$1.40 per pound for the week ending February 11, 2012. The US price per pound increased 1.9 cents from the previous week.

Butter Prices and Sales – United States: January 14, 2012-February 11, 2012

Region	Week ending				
	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012
	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
Price weighted by sales					
United States	1.5828	1.5923	1.5897	* 1.5485	1.4991
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Sales					
United States	6,927,814	6,386,835	3,885,001	* 3,675,542	4,269,729

* Revised.

**40 Pound Block Cheddar Cheese Prices and Sales – Region and United States:
January 14, 2012-February 11, 2012**

Region	Week ending				
	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012
	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
Price weighted by sales					
Minnesota and Wisconsin	1.6508	1.6944	1.6780	1.6454	1.6451
Other States	* 1.5694	1.5824	1.5757	1.5513	1.5202
United States	1.5787	1.5899	1.5832	1.5587	1.5311
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Sales					
Minnesota and Wisconsin	1,315,808	707,768	803,333	879,642	953,031
Other States	10,217,117	9,861,423	10,193,068	10,242,503	9,932,488
United States	11,532,925	10,569,191	10,996,401	11,122,145	10,885,519

* Revised.

**500 Pound Barrel Cheddar Cheese Prices, Sales, and Moisture Content – Region and United States:
January 14, 2012-February 11, 2012**

Region	Week ending				
	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012
	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
Price weighted by sales					
Minnesota and Wisconsin	1.6912	1.6930	1.6480	1.6116	1.6069
Other States	1.6796	1.6772	1.6582	1.6203	1.6033
United States	1.6851	1.6844	1.6528	1.6161	1.6047
Price adjusted to 38% moisture weighted by sales					
Minnesota and Wisconsin	1.6178	1.6148	1.5785	1.5429	1.5402
Other States	1.6017	1.5975	1.5778	1.5390	1.5222
United States	1.6093	1.6053	1.5782	1.5409	1.5294
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
Sales					
Minnesota and Wisconsin	4,911,558	3,889,985	5,329,866	5,507,082	4,865,676
Other States	5,500,583	4,670,857	4,759,024	5,886,300	7,364,460
United States	10,412,141	8,560,842	10,088,890	11,393,382	12,230,136
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Moisture content weighted by sales					
Minnesota and Wisconsin	35.18	35.00	35.27	35.24	35.32
Other States	34.99	34.91	34.84	34.73	34.70
United States	35.08	34.95	35.07	34.97	34.94

Dry Whey Prices and Sales – United States: January 14, 2012-February 11, 2012

Region	Week ending				
	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012
Price weighted by sales	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
United States	0.7021	0.7113	0.6751	0.6648	0.6414
Sales	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
United States	7,986,805	7,194,549	10,988,613	9,723,049	9,655,720

Nonfat Dry Milk Prices and Sales – United States: January 14, 2012-February 11, 2012

Region	Week ending				
	January 14, 2012	January 21, 2012	January 28, 2012	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012
Price weighted by sales	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
United States	1.4149	1.3654	1.3936	1.3853	1.4039
Sales	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
United States	18,358,075	27,125,986	22,583,767	* 22,190,967	15,793,617

* Revised.

Statistical Methodology: Dairy Products Prices

Data collection period: Dairy Products Prices statistics are based upon survey data collected after Saturday of each week.

Sampling frames and sample size: The Dairy Products Prices program consists of 80 manufacturing plants selling one million pounds or more of dairy products as defined by Public Law Number 106-532. There are 18 plants reporting 40 pound cheddar blocks, 14 plants reporting 500 pound cheddar barrels, 19 plants reporting butter, 28 plants reporting nonfat dry milk, and 20 plants reporting dry whey. There are 8 plants in the Minnesota and Wisconsin Region reporting 40 pound cheddar blocks and 8 plants in the Minnesota and Wisconsin Region reporting 500 pound cheddar barrels.

Modes of data collection: Data are collected by electronic data reporting, telephone, and facsimile.

Term and definitions: Firms complete the weekly questionnaires using definitions from Public Law Number 106-532 and through the aid of instructions provided during the Annual Validation interview as well as provided information on the questionnaire.

Reliability: Price data included in the Dairy Products Prices report are collected through a Census of all qualifying manufacturers of the following products:

- 1) **Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks**, colored between 6 and 8 on the National Cheese Institute color chart, meeting Wisconsin State Brand, USDA Grade A, or better standards.
- 2) **Cheddar cheese in 500 pound barrels**, white, meeting Wisconsin State Brand, USDA Grade A, or better standards.
- 3) **Salted butter (80% butterfat)**, fresh or storage, in 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards.
- 4) **Non-fortified, nonfat dry milk** in 25 kilogram bags, 50 pound bags, totes, and tankers meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards.
- 5) **Edible non-hygroscopic dry whey** in 25 kilogram bags, 50 pound bags, totes, and tankers meeting USDA Extra Grade standards.

Estimating Procedures: Price data reported by manufacturers are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported in prior weeks and by data reported by other firms in their region and national trends. During weekly review both field office and Agricultural Statistics Board re-contact manufacturers to verify any unusual

data relationships. The Agriculture Marketing Service conducts on-site verifications if manufacturers fail to sufficiently explain any unusual data relationships.

Revision Policy: Dairy Products Prices information is subject to revisions to the previous four weeks. The previous two calendar years of estimates for the weekly dairy products prices are subject to verification by AMS.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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