



13 March 2014

Availability & usage of milk by dairies in England & Wales – January 2014

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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 January 2014 are given below:

- The intake of raw whole milk was 902 million litres. This represents a 17% increase on the same period last year as a result of stronger milk prices, lower feed costs and improved weather conditions.
- 467 million litres (50%) were used for liquid milk production.
- 254 million litres (27%) were used for cheese production.

This monthly release will be updated at 09:30 on 10 April 2014.

A dataset for England & Wales and UK level information is available on the Defra website:
[Availability and usage of milk: E&W and UK.](#)

A dataset of size distributions showing the structure of UK dairy companies is now also available for 2012, 2009 and 2006 on the above website.

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Section 1: Availability & usage of milk by dairies in England and Wales

Table 1 shows the volume of milk used by dairies in England and Wales for the production of a range of milk products during January 2014. The majority of milk is used to make liquid milk and cheese, with small amounts being used for cream, yogurt and other milk products.

Table 1: Availability & usage of milk by dairies in England and Wales – January 2014 (a)(b)(c)

	Whole milk ('000 litres)	Skim milk ('000 skim litres)	Cream ('000 cream litres)
Total Availability	681,833	204,695	39,448
Intake	902,175	11,657	12,143
Separation			
Total separated	-220,342	-	-
Obtained from separation	-	193,037	27,305
Total Usage	681,833	204,695	39,448
Liquid milk	385,354	81,762	-
Butter	-	-	18,201
Cheese	225,551	26,912	1,293
Cheddar	189,208	..	..
Other long life territorials	17,296	..	..
Cheshire	1,719	..	..
Other short life territorials	5,260	..	..
Blue vein	9,573	..	..
Other cheese	2,495	..	..
Cream			
48% fat and over	-	-	7,740
29% to 48% fat	-	-	5,107
under 29% fat	-	-	953
Other (inc. powders, yoghurt & condensed milk)	25,812	99,098	1,894
Sub sales to other organisations	<i>43,897</i>	2,909	4,720
Stock change and wastage	1,219	-5,987	-461

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

(b) “-” denotes not applicable.

(c) Due to rounding, totals may not agree with the sum of the individual items.

The figures in grey italics are currently under review (see methodology page for more details). Any revisions resulting from this review are likely to have a particularly noticeable impact to decrease this value, so please treat with caution.

Section 2: Data users, methodology, notes and revisions policy

Data users

1. Users of the milk utilisation data include the EU Commission where the statistics are required monthly under Council Directive 96/16EC (and subsequent amendments). Detailed information on this legislation and successive amendments are available at: [European Commission legislation](#) European level statistics on the milk industry are available at: [European Commission statistics](#)
2. The milk utilisation statistics accompany another Defra monthly publication on farm gate milk prices (this is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-milk-prices-and-composition-of-milk>) which shows the prices paid to milk producers by dairies. This data, alongside the milk utilisation data, gives a comprehensive overview of the UK milk market and is used heavily by the dairy industry, in particular the division of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) known as DairyCo (who represent milk producers) and Dairy UK (who represent milk processors). DairyCo consider the price and utilisation statistics vital for assessing market trends and to carry out further analysis on how changing prices affect the sector. Milk utilisation data provides insight into market characteristics and to monitor where milk is being used for domestic production. It provides insight to how production of products (such as butter, cheese etc.) changes in response to changes in global demand and market conditions.
3. The information in this notice is also used by the UK government as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy. Other users include academia and the general public.
4. Contact details are available on the front page of this notice, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.

Methodology

5. E&W statistics presented in this dataset are from the monthly survey of milk availability and usage by dairies in England and Wales. It is a voluntary sample survey with 30 dairies sampled monthly and an additional 28 dairies surveyed quarterly. The response rate is regularly 100%. Monthly estimates are made for the dairies which are only sampled quarterly.
6. The 58 dairies in this survey population cover approximately 90% of the total milk available for processing (according to Rural Payments Agency data on the total volume of milk delivered to dairies). The figures are not raised to account for the remaining 10% of milk deliveries.
7. UK statistics are compiled from the survey data collected by Defra for England and Wales, RERAD for Scotland and DARD for Northern Ireland and the information collected by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on the volume of milk delivered to dairies under milk quota regulations. In the UK results the England and Wales survey data is raised to account for all the milk delivered to dairies in England and Wales using the RPA figures on the total milk volume.
8. The wholesale production figures (e.g. for butter and cheese) are estimated from the volume of milk used for each production using conversion factors advised by the dairy industry.
9. 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.
10. A review is currently being carried out into the possibility of a slight overlap in respondents, leading to possible double counting of some milk product volumes. If this review identifies any over-reporting of production, revised data will be published as soon as it is available.

Revisions policy

11. Figures in this release are provisional and subject to revision. We will provide information about any revisions we make to previously published information in this statistics release, and the associated datasets. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including:
 1. 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.
 2. survey respondents occasionally supply amended figures for previous periods.
12. **This month there are minor revisions to previously published figures for December 2013. These are due to revised survey data for a small number of companies. For example, the 'Total intake of skim milk' figure for December 2013 has decreased by 8.3% (1.2 million litres). However, the intake of skim milk is relatively small, amounting to approximately 1% of total milk intake.**