



11th May 2017

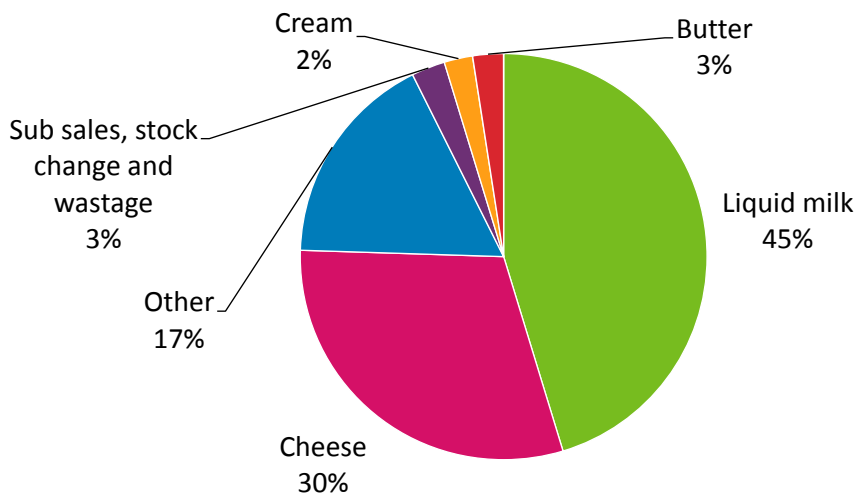
Usage of milk by dairies in England & Wales – March 2017

Note: The methodology used in the production of these data is currently under review.

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. This data comes from a survey, which covers around 90% of all milk available for processing.

The key results for March 2017 are given below:

- In March, dairies used 820 million litres of milk, an increase of 18% on February and a decrease of 12% on March 2016.
- Of the milk used, 45% goes to liquid milk production, 30% for cheese production, butter 2.4% and cream production 2.3%.



The next monthly release will be published at 09:30 on 8th June 2017.

A full time series of milk utilisation, UK production volumes of milk products (butter, cheese etc.) and import/export volumes of milk products are all available at:

[Milk utilisation by dairies - Publications - GOV.UK](#)

Enquiries on this publication to:

Julie Rumsey, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 201, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1 - 2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX. Tel:++ 44 (0) 2080 266306, email:julie.rumsey@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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 during March 2017. The majority of milk is used to make liquid milk, cheese and products such as powders, yoghurt and condensed milk.

Table 1 excludes some data this month in order to preserve company confidentiality.

**Table 1: Availability & usage of milk by dairies in England and Wales
– March 2017 (see notes below)**

	Total ('000 litres)	Whole milk ('000 litres)	Skim milk ('000 skim litres)	Cream ('000 cream litres)
Total Availability/Usage	822,618	608,949	164,968	48,701
Liquid milk	372,590	342,387	30,202	-
Butter	20,133	-	-	20,133
Cheese (d)	248,503	213,383	35,120	(d)
Cheddar		184,306	..	..
Other long life territorials		14,872	..	..
Cheshire (e)		(e)	..	..
Other short life territorials (e)		4,785	..	..
Blue vein		6,997	..	..
Other cheese		2,422	..	..
Cream	18,570			18,570
48% fat and over		-	-	8,474
29% to 48% fat		-	-	9,358
under 29% fat		-	-	739
Other (inc. powders, yoghurt & condensed milk) (d)	140,881	32,048	100,874	7,959
Sub sales, stock change and wastage	21,941	21,131	-1,229	2,039

(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.

(d) When the volume of cream used for cheese is confidential, the volume of cream used is included with ‘Other products’.

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. Milk utilisation statistics are also used heavily by the British Cheese Board to monitor volumes of national cheese production over time.
4. 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.
5. Contact details are available on the front page of this notice, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.

Methodology

6. 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 26 dairies surveyed quarterly. The response rate is regularly 100%. Monthly estimates are made for the dairies which are only sampled quarterly.
7. Based on long term comparisons with information collected by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on the volume of milk delivered to dairies (information collected under milk quota regulations until March 2015), we calculate the 58 dairies in this survey cover approximately 90% of the total milk available for processing. The E&W statistics are not raised to account for the remaining 10% of milk deliveries.
8. UK statistics are compiled from the survey data collected by Defra for England and Wales, RESAS for Scotland, DAERA for Northern Ireland and prior to March 2015, information collected by the RPA 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. In the short term, this estimate is based on the long term comparison with RPA volume data which indicates coverage of approximately 90%.
9. Similar surveys are run by the Rural & Environment Science and Analytical Service (RESAS) for Scotland and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland results are available at: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/milk-utilisation-statistics> Data for Scotland are not available separately due

to confidentiality reasons. If you have any further questions regarding data for Scotland then please contact RESAS in Scotland by either email agric.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or phone 0300 244 9717.

10. 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.
11. 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

12. 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.