



13 February 2014

Availability & usage of milk by dairies in England & Wales – December 2013

Contents

Section 1	England & Wales results	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 December 2013 are given below:

- The intake of raw whole milk was 908 million litres. This represents a 15% increase on the same period last year as a result of stronger milk prices, lower feed costs and improved weather conditions.
- 486 million litres (54%) were used for liquid milk production.
- 230 million litres (25%) were used for cheese production.

This monthly release will be updated at 09:30 on 13 March 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.

Enquiries on this publication to:

Leigh Riley, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Room 201, Foss House, Kings Pool, 1 - 2 Peasholme Green, York YO1 7PX. Tel:++ 44 (0)1904 455095, email:leigh.riley@defra.gsi.gov.uk

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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 December 2013. 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 – December 2013 (a)(b)(c)

	Whole milk (<i>'000 litres</i>)	Skim milk (<i>'000 skim litres</i>)	Cream (<i>'000 cream litres</i>)
Total Availability	659,508	237,792	39,280
Intake	907,946	14,821	13,812
Separation			
Total separated	-248,439	-	-
Obtained from separation	-	222,971	25,468
Total Usage	659,508	237,792	39,280
Liquid milk	381,456	104,777	-
Butter	-	-	16,483
Cheese (d)	203,336	26,691	..
Cheddar	166,668	..	..
Other long life territorials	18,936	..	..
Cheshire	1,275	..	..
Other short life territorials	4,964	..	..
Blue vein	8,268	..	..
Other cheese	3,226	..	..
Cream			
48% fat and over	-	-	7,677
29% to 48% fat	-	-	5,201
under 29% fat	-	-	1,465
Other (inc. powders, yoghurt & condensed milk) (d)	29,523	105,369	3,331
Sub sales to other organisations	<i>44,079</i>	3,544	5,342
Stock change and wastage	1,114	-2,589	-219

(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’.

The figures in grey italics are currently under review (see point 7 on the 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: Methodology, Notes and Revisions Policy

1. The information in this release 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 96/16EC (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. The statistics presented in this release 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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

6. 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:
 - 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.
7. 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.
8. **This month there are minor revisions to previously published figures from April 2013. These are due to revised survey data for one company and extra survey returns from several other companies replacing estimates with actual data. The scale of revision is very small. For example, the 'Total intake' figure for November 2013 has only decreased by 0.4% (3.3 million litres).**