



10 April 2014

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

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 2014 are given below:

- The intake of raw whole milk was 807 million litres. This represents an 8% increase on the same period last year as a result of stronger milk prices, lower feed costs and improved weather conditions.
- 437 million litres (53%) were used for liquid milk production.

Revision of previously published data

We have concluded our recent review of data coverage from individual companies. We established that there had been a degree of double counting by a small number of companies so we have revised results back to February 2013 (though the main revisions are only apparent from September 2013 to January 2014). You can see the revised timeseries using this weblink: [Availability and usage of milk: E&W and UK](#).

The main effect of these revisions has been to the volume of whole milk used for cheese production. Across the months September 2013 to January 2014, the volumes of whole milk for cheese production have been revised down by an average of 42 million litres per month (26%) per month, from an average of 204 million litres to 162 million litres. As a consequence, provisional UK cheese production volumes for these months have been revised down by an average of 4 thousand tonnes (11%) per month, from an average of 35 thousand tonnes to 31 thousand tonnes.

The next monthly release will be published at 09:30 on 15 May 2014.

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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 February 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 – February 2014 (a)(b)(c)

	Whole milk ('000 litres)	Skim milk ('000 skim litres)	Cream ('000 cream litres)
Total Availability	591,997	194,939	43,837
Intake	807,340	11,486	11,947
Separation			
Total separated	-215,343	-	-
Obtained from separation	-	183,453	31,890
Total Usage	591,997	194,939	43,837
Liquid milk	355,413	82,148	-
Butter	-	-	16,119
Cheese (d)	169,593	23,929	..
Cheddar	135,295	..	..
Other long life territorials	16,086	..	..
Cheshire	1,501	..	..
Other short life territorials	5,220	..	..
Blue vein	8,471	..	..
Other cheese	3,019	..	..
Cream			
48% fat and over	-	-	8,570
29% to 48% fat	-	-	9,061
under 29% fat	-	-	2,042
Other (inc. powders, yoghurt & condensed milk) (d)	26,108	89,796	3,266
Sub sales, stock change and wastage	40,884	-934	4,779

(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 cream for cheese production is confidential, the volume is included in ‘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 28 dairies surveyed quarterly. The response rate is regularly 100%. Monthly estimates are made for the dairies which are only sampled quarterly.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Similar surveys are run by the Rural & Environment Research and Analysis Directorate (RERAD) for Scotland and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) for Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland results are available at <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/statistics/agricultural-inputs-and-outputs/milk-utilisation-statistics.htm>. Please contact RERAD in Scotland by either email

agric.stats@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or phone 0300 244 9723 for further information on Scottish milk utilisation statistics.

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.
13. **This month, the main revisions have been described on the front page. In summary, whole milk for cheddar cheese production has been revised down by approximately 25% (45 million litres) per month from September 2013 onwards due to a review of company level data. There are other minor revisions to previously published figures from February 2013 due to revised survey data for a small number of companies. For example, the 'Total intake of whole milk' figure for June 2013 has increased by 4.7% (41 million litres).**