



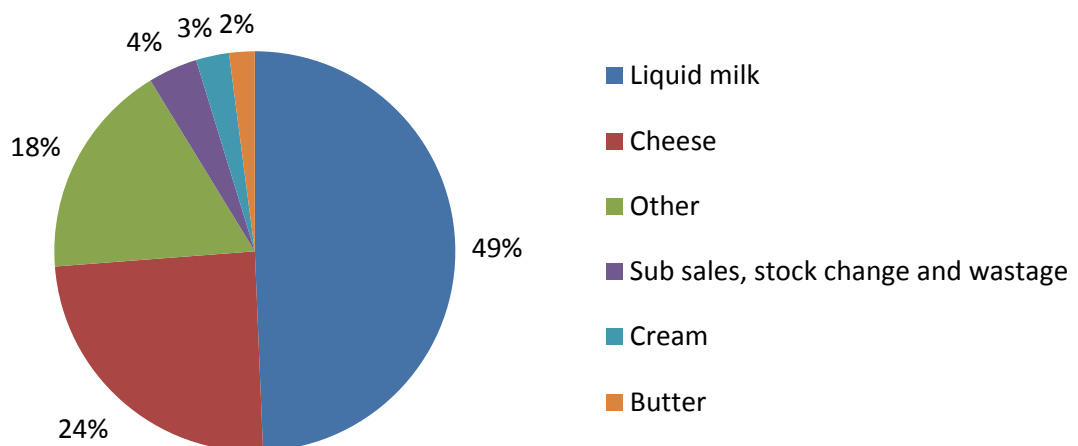
11th February 2016

Usage of milk by dairies in England & Wales – December 2015

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 is sourced from a survey which covers around 90% of all milk available for processing.

The key results for December 2015 are given below:

- 921million litres of milk was used by dairies, a 7.8% increase on November 2015 and a 1.3% decrease on December 2014.
- Of the milk used, 49% was used for liquid milk production, 24% for cheese production and 2.1% was used for butter production.



The next monthly release will be published at 09:30 on 10th March 2016.

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](#)

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

Table 1 shows the volume of milk reported in the survey which was used by dairies in England and Wales during December 2015. The majority of milk is used to make liquid milk, cheese, and products such as powders, yoghurt and condensed milk.

Some data has been excluded from Table 1 this month in order to preserve company confidentiality.

Table 1: Availability & usage of milk by dairies in England and Wales – November 2015 (see notes below)

	Total (‘000 litres)	Whole milk (‘000 litres)	Skim milk (‘000 skim litres)	Cream (‘000 cream litres)
Total Availability/Usage	921,522	612,718	254,167	54,637
Liquid milk	454,693	371,870	82,824	-
Butter	18,993	-	-	18,993
Cheese (d)	225,264	191,327	33,937	(d)
Cheddar		159,078	..	..
Other long life territorials		17,182	..	..
Cheshire (e)		949	..	..
Other short life territorials (e)		3,383	..	..
Blue vein		8,148	..	..
Other cheese		2,587	..	..
Cream	24,620			24,620
48% fat and over		-	-	8,703
29% to 48% fat		-	-	13,463
under 29% fat		-	-	2,454
Other (inc. powders, yoghurt & condensed milk) (d)	161,259	25,711	131,073	4,475
Sub sales, stock change and wastage	36,693	23,809	6,334	6,549

(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’.

(e) When the volume of whole milk used for Cheshire cheese is confidential, the volume of milk used is included with ‘Other short life territorials’.

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. 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, DARD 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 and Rural Development (DARD) for Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland results are available at: <https://www.dardni.gov.uk/articles/milk-price-quality-and-production-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.
13. Revisions were published in February 2014 because of a review of data coverage from individual companies. Historic results were revised back to February 2013 (though the main revisions are only apparent from September 2013 to January 2014). The main effect of these revisions was to the volume of whole milk used for cheese production. For the period September 2013 to January 2014, the volumes of whole milk for cheese production were 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 the period were revised down by an average of 4 thousand tonnes (11%) per month, from an average of 35 thousand tonnes to 31 thousand tonnes.
14. **This month there are minor revisions to data for October and November 2015. This is due to actual survey data for Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec) replacing estimates. The revisions are small for example the total utilisation of liquid milk in November has been revised by 4699 thousand litres (-0.6%).**