



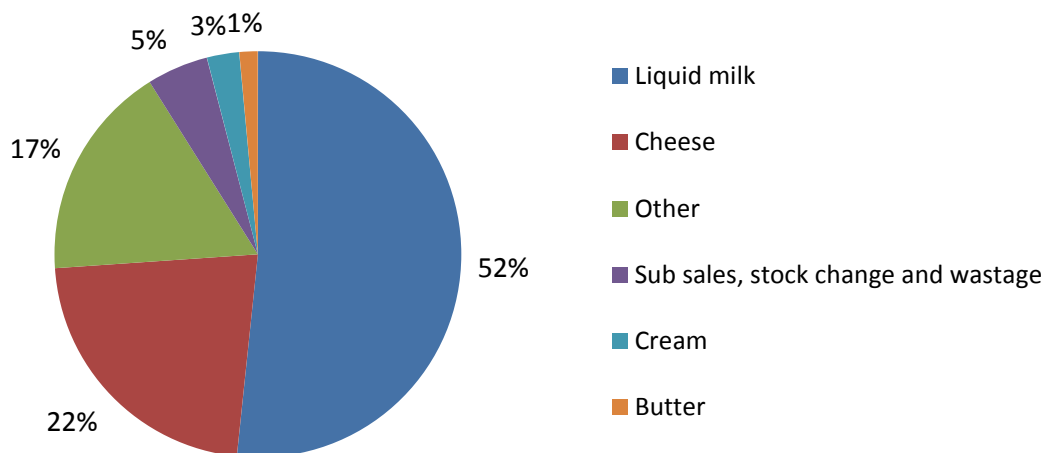
12 February 2015

Usage of milk by dairies in England & Wales – December 2014

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 2014 are given below:

- 934 million litres of milk were used by dairies, a 7.8% increase on November 2014 and a 2.7% increase on December 2013. This is in line with the recent trend of increased monthly milk production and availability. Low feed costs are contributing to the high levels of milk production.
- Of the milk used, 52% was used for liquid milk production, 22% for cheese production and 1.5% was used for butter production.



The next monthly release will be published at 09:30 on 12 March 2015.

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:

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

A National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs. They are produced free from political interference. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Enquiry Service: tel. 0845 601 3034 email info@statistics.gov.uk. You can find National Statistics on the internet at www.statistics.gov.uk.

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 2014. 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 2014 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)

	Total (‘000 litres)	Whole milk (‘000 litres)	Skim milk (‘000 skim litres)	Cream (‘000 cream litres)
Total Availability/Usage	933,985	634,348	252,036	47,602
Liquid milk	482,478	393,819	88,659	-
Butter	13,753	-	-	13,753
Cheese (d)	207,839	179,613	28,227	(d)
Cheddar		146,804	..	..
Other long life territorials		15,001	..	..
Cheshire (e)		(e)	..	..
Other short life territorials (e)		6,385	..	..
Blue vein		7,955	..	..
Other cheese		3,467	..	..
Cream	24,013			24,013
48% fat and over		-	-	11,781
29% to 48% fat		-	-	9,250
under 29% fat		-	-	2,982
Other (inc. powders, yoghurt & condensed milk) (d)	160,354	25,424	130,792	4,138
Sub sales, stock change and wastage	45,548	35,493	4,358	5,698

(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. 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. 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. **Previously published monthly data for Q4 2014 has been revised due to the receipt of actual data from the smaller companies who are surveyed on a quarterly basis. For example, the total intake of all milk during November 2014 was revised from 869m litres to 866m litres (-0.3%)**