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PRODUCTION OF MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, 2024

In 2024, as compared to 2023, the quantity of collected cows' milk increased by **0.5%**. The quantity of ewes' milk decreased by **7.2%** and of goats' milk by **4.8%**.

Expressed in quantities, it means that in 2024, approximately 1 700 t more cows' milk, 129 t less ewes' milk and 151 t less goats' milk were collected.

The quantity of whole milk imported by dairies in 2024, as compared to 2023, decreased by about 1.5%, i.e., by about 2 610 t, while the quantity of imported cream increased by 46.7%, i.e., by about 2 560 t.

Compared to the previous year, the production of drinking milk decreased by about 32 930 t (**13.0%**), while the production of cream increased by 1 000 t (3.1%), of fermented products by 1 057 t (1.1%) and of drinks with a milk base by 6 775 t (38.1%).

There was an increase of 481 t (**14.2%**) in the production of butter, while the total cows' cheese production decreased by 1 337 t (**4.1%**) in 2024 compared to 2023. The production of cheese from ewes' milk decreased by 21.3%, while the production of cheese from goats' milk decreased by 34.6%.

Regarding the production of other types of cheese, the production of medium-hard cheese decreased by 14.2% (1 690 t) and of medium-soft cheese by 4.9% (9 t). There was an increase in the production of soft cheese, of 10.4%, of hard cheese, of 11.1%, of extra hard cheese, of 8.9%, and of fresh cheese, of 0.4%.

As compared to the previous year, the milk fat content in collected cows' milk decreased by 1.2%, in ewes' milk by 9.0%, and in goats' milk by 7.6%.

Regarding individual dairy products, the milk fat content in drinking milk decreased by **8.8%**, in fermented products by 1.3% and in cheese from pure cows' milk by 5.2%. The milk fat content increased in cream by 1.5% and in butter by 17.5%.

The cows' milk protein content increased in drinking milk, by **1.7%**, and in cream, by 1.0%, while it decreased in cows' cheese by 5.9%.

1 MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS, 2024¹⁾

	Quantities, t		Indices <u>2024</u> 2023
	2023	2024	
Availability			
Cows’ milk collected	376 980	378 681	100,5
Ewes' milk collected	1 781	1 652	92,8
Goats' milk collected	3 145	2 994	95,2
Cream	z	-	-
Whole milk import – only dairies	175 287	172 673	98,5
Skimmed milk import – only dairies	z	z	z
Cream import – only dairies	5 483	8 042	146,7
Import of other products (e.g. cheese, butter, yoghurt) – only dairies	z	z	z
Production of fresh products			
Drinking milk	252 898	219 966	87,0
Whole and raw milk	129 226	128 307	99,3
Semi-skimmed milk	120 610	88 338	73,2
Skimmed milk	3 062	3 321	108,5
Buttermilk	z	z	z
Cream	32 114	33 114	103,1
With fat content of < 29%	21 049	21 658	102,9
With fat content of > 29%	11 065	11 456	103,5
Fermented products (yoghurts, drinking yoghurts and other)	92 851	93 908	101,1
With additives	19 471	25 044	128,6
Without additives	73 379	68 864	93,8
Drinks with a milk base	17 784	24 559	138,1
Other fresh products (milk jelly and other)	12 177	12 457	102,3
Production of other products			
Powdered dairy products	z	z	z
Butter	3 388	3 869	114,2
Other yellow fat dairy products	1 738	1 547	89,0
Cheese from cows' milk (pure)	32 574	31 237	95,9
Cheese from ewes' milk (pure)	202	159	78,7
Cheese from goats' milk (pure)	208	136	65,4
Other cheese (mixed)	15	15	100,0
Soft cheese (> 68% of moisture)	570	629	110,4
Medium-soft cheese (62% – 68% of moisture)	184	175	95,1
Medium-hard cheese (55% – 62% of moisture)	11 868	10 178	85,8
Hard cheese (47% – 55% of moisture)	640	711	111,1
Extra hard cheese (< 47% of moisture)	417	454	108,9
Fresh cheese	19 320	19 400	100,4
Processed cheese	2 809	3 008	107,1
Whey – total	25 627	25 098	97,9
Export of milk and cream in bulk – only dairies	z	z	z

1) See Notes on Methodology.

2 MILK FAT CONTENT IN MAIN DAIRY PRODUCTS, 2024

	Milk fat content, t		Indices <u>2024</u> 2023
	2023	2024	
Availability			
Cows' milk collected	15 325	15 145	98,8
Ewes' milk collected	122	111	91,0
Goats' milk collected	105	97	92,4
Cream	z	-	-
Whole milk import – only dairies	7 084	6 972	98,4
Skimmed milk import – only dairies	z	z	z
Cream import – only dairies	2 157	3 210	148,8
Products			
Drinking milk	6 579	6 000	91,2
Buttermilk	z	z	z
Cream	6 290	6 384	101,5
Fermented products (yoghurts, drinking yoghurts and other)	2 871	2 835	98,7
Drinks with a milk base	243	334	137,4
Other fresh products (milk jelly and other)	391	395	101,0
Concentrated milk	-	-	-
Powdered dairy products	z	z	z
Butter	2 778	3 263	117,5
Other yellow fat dairy products	417	572	137,2
Cheese from cows' milk (pure)	4 446	4 215	94,8
Whey – total	81	79	97,5
Export of milk and cream in bulk – only dairies	z	z	z

3 COWS' MILK PROTEIN CONTENT IN MAIN DAIRY PRODUCTS, 2024

Products	Protein content, t		Indices 2024 2023
	2023	2024	
Drinking milk	6 704	6 820	101,7
Whole milk	3 430	3 978	116,0
Semi-skimmed milk	3 193	2 740	85,8
Skimmed milk	81	102	125,9
Buttermilk	z	z	z
Cream	970	980	101,0
Powdered dairy products	z	z	z
Butter and other yellow fat dairy products	30	33	110,0
Cheese from cows' milk	4 183	3 935	94,1
Processed cheese	329	376	114,3
Whey	187	132	70,6

NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

Sources and methods of data collection

Data on the annual production of milk and dairy products are taken over from the Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food – the Central Laboratory for Milk Quality Control (SLKM). The data collected that way refer to the quantity of cows' milk collected, milk fat and protein contents, the production of dairy products and the dairies' foreign trade in milk and dairy products.

The Laboratory processes the collected data and submits them, according to the previously defined deadlines and in suitable form, to the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for further processing.

The methodology for carrying out the survey on milk and dairy products is based on the Methodological Basis for Gathering Data on Milk and Dairy Products Statistics (NN, No. 42/13).

Coverage and comparability

There are about forty dairies operating in the Republic of Croatia for which the SLKM analyses purchased milk and from which it collects data on the production. The coverage includes industrial and registered small dairies.

Confidentiality

Aggregate data from which individual reporting units could be identified (due to their small number) or to which the dominance rule or secondary confidentiality rule apply, according to the Official Statistics Act (NN, Nos 25/20 and 155/23) and the Instruction on the Method of Protection of Confidential Statistical Data in the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, are treated as confidential and are, therefore, not published.

Definitions

Drinking milk comprises raw milk, whole milk, semi-skimmed milk and skimmed milk containing no additives.

Raw milk comprises milk that has not been heated beyond 40 °C or undergone any treatment that has an equivalent effect.

Whole milk (pasteurised, sterilised and uperised) comprises milk with fat content $\geq 3.5\%$, subject to heat treatment.

Semi-skimmed milk (pasteurised, sterilised and uperised) comprises milk with fat content 1.5% – 2.8%, subject to heat treatment only once.

Skimmed milk (pasteurised, sterilised and uperised) comprises milk with fat content $< 1.5\%$, subject to heat treatment.

Pasteurised milk – milk treated with high temperature (at least 72 °C for 15 seconds).

Sterilised milk – milk treated with high temperature (120 °C for 30 minutes) in hermetically sealed containers.

Uperised milk – milk treated with high temperature (135 °C for not less than 1 second).

Buttermilk is a residual product of the processing of milk or cream into butter.

Cream comprises cream for direct consumption, containing more or less than 29% of milk fat.

Fermented products include yoghurts, drinkable yoghurts, acidophilus milk and other fermented products either with or without additives.

Drinks with a milk base comprise products containing at least 50% milk equivalent (chocolate milk, buttermilk with additives, etc.).

Other fresh products comprise fresh milk products not elsewhere specified (mainly milk-based desserts).

Concentrated milk comprises milk obtained by partial elimination of water from whole milk, semi-skimmed or skimmed milk.

Powdered dairy products comprise products obtained by eliminating water from cream, all kinds of milk, buttermilk and fermented products.

Butter includes traditional butter, melted butter, butter oil and similar products containing more than 80% of milk fat.

Other yellow fat products comprise products based on butter with milk fat content of less than 80%.

Cheese includes fresh or matured, solid or semi-solid products, obtained by coagulating milk, cream, buttermilk or other products.

Processed cheese comprises products obtained by grinding, mixing, melting and emulsifying one or more varieties of cheese, with or without additives.

Whey includes liquid whey and whey in either powder or block form. It is a by-product obtained during the manufacture of cheese or casein.

Abbreviations

°C	degree Celsius
NN	Narodne novine, official gazette of the Republic of Croatia
t	tonne
z	data are not published for confidentiality reasons

Symbols

-	no occurrence
<	less than
>	more than
≥	more than or equal to

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