STATISTICS DENMARK

Documentation of statistics for Milk and Dairy Products 2026

Statistics Denmark
Sankt Kjelds Plads 11
DK 2100 København Ø

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1 Introduction

The statistics are used to describe the purpose of the statistics on milk and dairy products is to illuminate the size and value of the milk production on the farms and the use of milk for dairy products. The statistics on milk and dairy product have a long history and the key figures covering the past 100 years are comparable. The statistics in their present form are comparable from 1990 onwards.

2 Statistical presentation

The statistics on milk and milk products are a monthly and annual estimate of the total milk production of farmers. The delivered amount of milk on the dairies and the dairies' primary use of the milk weighed in and the production of a variety of fresh and processed dairy products as drinking milk and cheese. The statistics also contain data on organic milk delivered to dairies and the production of organic whole milk products for human consumption, butter and cheese. Every month data are transfer to Euro stat.

2.1 Data description

The statistics provide data on milk delivered to dairies and the dairies's use of milk delivered analyzed by a wide range of fresh and processed dairy products. Fat content and protein content in the delivered milk. Among fresh dairy products are consumer's milk, buttermilk, cream, acidified milk products, milky beverages, etc. Among processed dairy products are condensed milk, powered milk, butter, cheese, process cheese, casein, whey, etc. The statistics also contain data on organic milk delivered to dairies and the production of organic whole milk products for human consumption, butter and cheese. Data on quantities (kg) for all dairy products, while there are prices (DKK øre per kg) for the main products and an estimated value for the production (DKK mio.)

2.2 Classification system

The statistics provide data on milk delivered to dairies and the dairies's use of milk delivered analyzed by a wide range of fresh and processed dairy products.

2.3 Sector coverage

All the milk farms and dairies.

2.4 Statistical concepts and definitions

Delivered Milk to Dairies: The total milk (natural milk) delivered to the dairies in millions kg.

Liquid milk: Liquid milk, milk used directly by consumers.

Natural Milk: Natural milk is the untreated milk from the cow, which are deliver to the dairy or used for feed or for human consumption at the farm.

2.5 Statistical unit

Milk and dairy products.

2.6 Statistical population

The statistic cover the total production of milk and the use to dairy products

2.7 Reference area

Denmark.

2.8 Time coverage

The statistics cover the period from 1990 onwards.

2.9 Base period

Not relevant for this statistics.

2.10 Unit of measure

The data for quantity are in million kg and all prices are in Danish øre per kg. The calculated values for the total production in mill. kr.

2.11 Reference period

Calendar month and calendar year.

2.12 Frequency of dissemination

Monthly

2.13 Legal acts and other agreements

The legal authority to collect data is provided by the Act on Statistics Denmark, section 8.

The statistics are regulated by REGULATION (EU) 2022/2379 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 November 2022 on statistics on agricultural input and output (SAIO).

2.14 Cost and burden

The statistics are based on administrative data. There is thus no direct response burden in relation to the compilation of these statistics.

2.15 Comment

Further information can be obtained on request by contacting Statistics Denmark directly or on subject pages.

3 Statistical processing

Data is collected monthly on milk and dairy products. Data comes primary from administrative records. The data received is checked for completeness and consistency, as well as consistency with previous periods.

3.1 Source data

Data on milk and dairy products comes from administrative register. The primary administrative register are Danish Dairy Board (which collects data from every single dairy in Denmark), public institutions, trade and industry organizations and private business enterprises. The others data comes from SEGES, the Danish Agriculture & Food Council and Cattle survey.

3.2 Frequency of data collection

Month.

3.3 Data collection

Data from administrative registers is sent to Statistic Denmark.

3.4 Data validation

Material is subjected to a check for completeness and consistency, by comparing data with earlier periods.

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3.5 Data compilation

Data is checked, summarized and compiled into tables to the statistics bank.

The price of milk is calculated for milk with a standard fat content (4.20 per cent) and protein content (3,40 per cent) and for milk with the real(varying) content of fat content and protein content. There is no existing estimation of the average prices for milk ex farmer, these prices are therefore calculated by Statistic Denmark. A price is calculated for both conventional and organic milk.

The annual price of milk is calculated against the background of the annual statistics compiled by the Society of Dairies yearly statistics on the dairies profit and loss account. The monthly prices are calculated on the basis of the account prices to the producer/farmer and an estimate of the expected additional/back payment.

The estimated prices include all payable supplements, among these back payment and seasonal supplement (which are equalized on an annual basis), while allowances for quality and the like as well as the duties paid by the producers (production duty, co-responsibility duty) are deducted, together with the amounts, which withheld by the dairies for consolidation, etc. Furthermore, the stated prices for milk with real fat content and protein content are adjusted for collection of any super taxes after conducting an annual equalization.

The total sales value for milk out of agriculture is equal to the total quantity sold (the delivered milk to the dairies plus the consumption at the producers/farms) multiplied by with the average sales price ex producer, which is equal to the previous defined sales price for milk with real fat and protein content.

After consultation with the Society of Dairies, Statistic Denmark has determined that the consumption of milk by the producers/farmers is 3,67 million kilo and the consumption of milk for feed at the farms is 75 million kilo.

Milk ex farmer total in kilo million is the total milk production (including organic milk). The total milk production is calculated as the delivered milk to the dairies plus milk used for human consumption at the farm (this is the farmers own/private consumption and the farmers sales directly to the consumers) and the milk used as feed at the farm (it is only yielded milk, i.e. exclusive of milk sucked by the calf).

The average milk yield per dairy cow is calculated by Statistics Denmark, as the total milk production divided by the average number of dairy cows. The average number of dairy cows is calculated as the sum of the number of dairy cows in the 4 quarter counts of the cattle stock divided by 4.

A price relationship is calculated on the ratio between what the farmer receives for the milk he sells to the dairy and what to give for cattle feed: Price ratio of milk / cattle feed mixture (relationship figures) This is calculated as the milk price (the milk price exclusive of seasonal supplement but less deductions) in relation to the price for feeding stuffs for cattle (feeding stuff with high protein content) in the proportion 10 to 1.

3.6 Adjustment

No correction of data is made except what has already been described during data validation and data processing. There is no seasonal adjustment.

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4 Relevance

The statistics is of great interest to agricultural organizations, the Ministry of Environment and Food and the EU. The figures is used intern in Statistics Denmark to estimate quantity and price index, and the Account for Agriculture, which is included in the National Accounts. Data on milk and dairy product are delivered every month to Euro stat.

4.1 User Needs

The statistics is of great interest to agricultural organizations, the Ministry of Environment and Food and the EU. The figures is used intern in Statistics Denmark to estimate quantity and price index, and the Account for Agriculture, which is included in the National Accounts. Data on milk and dairy product are delivered every month to Euro stat.

4.2 User Satisfaction

There is no expert group linked to the statistics, but there is ongoing dialogue with the users of the statistics. The main impression is that most users are satisfied with the statistics. Data are delivered to Euro Stat, where data also being checked.

4.3 Data completeness rate

This statistics affected by demands from EU in directive 96/16/EF and Commission decision 97/80/EF.

5 Accuracy and reliability

Information on weighed milk and dairy production is generally accurate, as dairies are required to register and report these data. Since the weighed milk forms the basis for payments to milk producers, a high degree of precision is ensured. However, there may be uncertainty in the calculation of prices and values, as supplementary payments are only determined after the end of the dairy year. In addition, the consumption of milk on farms and for feed is based on professional estimates, which introduces a minor degree of uncertainty.

Foreslå en ændring

5.1 Overall accuracy

The reporting of milk quantities delivered to dairies is of high quality, as dairies are legally required to register this data, and it forms the basis for payments to milk producers. Dairies are also legally required to register their production volumes.

The calculation of prices and values is based partly on actual on-account prices and partly on estimates of the expected supplementary payments. These payments are distributed by the cooperatives and are only finalized after the end of the dairy year, which can lead to uncertainties in the periodization. Once the supplementary payment is finalized, the prices are adjusted accordingly.

The figures for milk consumption on farms and for animal feed are determined by professional estimates in consultation with the Danish Dairy Board. These quantities are reassessed annually.

5.2 Sampling error

Not relevant for this statistics.

5.3 Non-sampling error

There is some uncertainty in the estimated milk consumption by producers, as it is based on average assumptions regarding the amount of milk consumed by calves and the volume used for on-farm human consumption. The estimate has been established in consultation with a dairy production expert, ensuring that the degree of uncertainty is low.

- From 1 January 2025, the volume of milk for human consumption by producers is 2.376 million kg, while the volume for animal feed is 75 million kg.
- From 1 January 2025, the consumption of milk for human consumption at the farm is 2.376 million. kg and consumption for feed for the young cattle is 75 million. kg. milk.
- From 1 January 2020, the consumption of milk for human consumption at the farm is 3.024 million. kg and consumption for feed for the young cattle is 75 million. kg. milk.
- From 1 January 2015, the consumption of milk for human consumption at the farm is 3.87 million. kg and consumption for feed for the young cattle is 75 million. kg. milk.
- From 1 January 2012, the consumption of milk for human consumption at the farm was 4.32 million. kg and consumption for feed for the young cattle was 75 million. kg. milk.
- From 1 January 2009, the consumption of milk for human consumption at the farm was 5 million. kg and consumption for feed for the young cattle was 75 million. kg. milk.
- Before 1 January 2009, the consumption of milk for human consumption at the farm was 10 million. kg and consumption for feed for the young cattle was 125 million. kg. mil

5.4 Quality management

Statistics Denmark follows the recommendations on organisation and management of quality given in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and the implementation guidelines given in the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF). A Working Group on Quality and a central quality assurance function have been established to continuously carry through control of products and processes.

5.5 Quality assurance

Statistics Denmark follows the principles in the Code of Practice for European Statistics (CoP) and uses the Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System (QAF) for the implementation of the principles. This involves continuous decentralized and central control of products and processes based on documentation following international standards. The central quality assurance function reports to the Working Group on Quality. Reports include suggestions for improvement that are assessed, decided and subsequently implemented.

5.6 Quality assessment

The calculation of the amount of milk weighed on dairies is of high quality as it is compulsory for dairies to register this and report it to the central livestock register, as owner of the Ministry of Environment and Food. The information is also the basis for the settlement to the milk supplier (farmer).

5.7 Data revision - policy

Statistics Denmark revises published figures in accordance with the Revision Policy for Statistics Denmark. The common procedures and principles of the Revision Policy are for some statistics supplemented by a specific revision practice.

5.8 Data revision practice

Data for the past three months are preliminary, as some dairies are slow to report final production figures. The difference between preliminary and final figures is usually very small. The figures are revised continuously and are generally considered final after three months.

Once a year, milk prices are adjusted to reflect the actual year-end bonus (supplementary payment), which is typically available in the spring. Until then, the previous year's bonus is applied.

6 Timeliness and punctuality

The statistics are published every month. For a specific month it will be published 1½ month after the end of the month concerned. A more detail year statistics will be publish ½ year after the end of the year concerned. The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

6.1 Timeliness and time lag - final results

Preliminary monthly figures are published 1½ months after the end of the month in question. The figures are revised in the following months and finalized in connection with the publication of the annual statistics, approximately six months after the end of the year.

6.2 Punctuality

The statistics are usually published without delay in relation to the scheduled date.

7 Comparability

The statistical compilation methods have remained relatively stable over time, allowing for long time series. Much of the data is comparable with other EU countries, as it is prepared in accordance with the EU regulation on milk. Similar data for milk production in EU member states can be found on the Eurostat website.

7.1 Comparability - geographical

Every month and year figures are submitted to the statistical office of EU, Euro stat. Data for all EU countries can be found in the Eurostat database . The statistics are produced following the principles of an EU regulation, so the results are comparable.

7.2 Comparability over time

The statistics cover the period from 1990 onwards. However, comparable main figures are available from the beginning of the 1900s, allowing for long time series. The statistics were improved in the late 1920s, and since the Second World War more comprehensive statistics have been available in this area.

Older data can be found in the publication series Landbrug 1999-2011, Landbrugsstatistik 1998-1959 and Landbrugsstatistik 1900-1965.

On-farm milk consumption is included in the calculation of total milk production. This consumption comprises milk that is not delivered to the dairy, but is instead used for animal feed or human consumption on the farm. The calculation is based on estimates that have been adjusted several times over time. These changes may affect the levels in the time series for the years concerned. Most recently, the estimate was adjusted in 2025, with previous adjustments in 2020, 2015, and 2012.

In the past, the production of milk has been regulated in the EU, in the period 1984 up to and including April 2015 there have been milk quotas which have controlled the production of cow's milk in Denmark. As compensation for the declining milk price (incorporated in the EU agricultural reform), a total milk prize of DKK 389,1 million was paid out in 2004. In 2005, the milk prize premium ceased to exist and was replaced by an extra charge, which is included in the farmers subsidies according to the new single-farm payment scheme.

7.3 Coherence - cross domain

Danish Agriculture & Food Council publishes comprehensive statistics.

Also Danish Dairy Board publishes dairy statistics and other figures for the Danish dairy industry.

7.4 Coherence - internal

No comment.

8 Accessibility and clarity

New month figures are published in Statbank in the tables ANI71: Milk production and use of milk by unit (month) and yearly figures ANI7: Milk production and use of milk by unit.

8.1 Release calendar

The publication date appears in the release calendar. The date is confirmed in the weeks before.

8.3 User access

Statistics are always published at 8:00 a.m. at the day announced in the release calendar. No one outside of Statistics Denmark can access the statistics before they are published.

8.2 Release calendar access

The Release Calender can be accessed on our English website: Release Calender.

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8.4 News release

The statistics are not published separately, but are included in New from Statistics Denmark : * Animal production * and * Agricultural price ratio * (in Danish only).

8.5 Publications

Annual figures was included in Statistical Yearbook and Statistical Ten-Year review. In the publication Jordbrugets prisforhold see subject pages Prices and price index for agriculture, which which was last published in 2022.

8.6 On-line database

The statistics are published in StatBank Denmark under the subjects Livestock production and Production and accounts of organic farming and horticulture in the following tables:

- ANI7: Production and use of milk by unit and time
- ANI71: Production and use of milk by unit and time

8.7 Micro-data access

There is no micro-data access.

8.8 Other

Some of the data are transmitted to and disseminated by [Eurostat](https://ec .europa.eu/eurostat/data/database?node_code=apro_mk).

8.9 Confidentiality - policy

Data Confidentiality Policy for Statistics Denmark is applied.

8.10 Confidentiality - data treatment

Data is published at a level that does not require special measures in relation to discretion.

8.11 Documentation on methodology

Not relevant for these statistics.

8.12 Quality documentation

Results from the quality evaluation of products and selected processes are available in detail for each statistics and in summary reports for the Working Group on Quality.

9 Contact

The administrative placement of these statistics is in the division of Food Industries, Business Statistics. The contact person is Mona Larsen, tel.: + 45 2481 6847, and e-mail: MLA@dst.dk.

Statistics Denmark
Sankt Kjelds Plads 11
DK 2100 København Ø