Eurostat has expanded its statistical data base (NewCronos) to include information on dairy cows’ average milk yield. The data series currently includes information for the period 1973-1997, but will be updated when information on the most recent year becomes available. The new data series in NewCronos is being compiled to meet the administrative need for comparable data in a field which is extensively regulated.

In 1997 there were in Europe (EU-15) some 21.5 million dairy cows producing approximately 120 million tonnes of milk in all, or an annual yield of around 5 500 kg per cow.

Total milk production in EU-10 rose comparatively steeply up to the mid-1980s, but since the milk quota system was introduced in 1984, production has fallen slightly.

The annual milk yield per dairy cow has risen sharply over the past 20 years. There are various reasons for this tendency towards greater efficiency, including improved feeding methods and the breeding of high-yielding cattle strains. In the period 1975 to 1997, the average annual milk yield per dairy cow in EU-9 thus rose by almost 1 900 kg, or approximately 50%.

Almost half of this increase was in the period up to the introduction of the milk quota system in 1984, a clear indication of the importance of biological and technical developments when it comes to efficient milk production.

The introduction of the milk quota system in 1984 has nevertheless supported the tendency for increase in the yearly milk yield.

Over the past 22 years there has been a noticeable difference in the milk yield from one EU country to another. In 1997 the annual yield per cow was around 6 700 kg in Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands, for example, compared with a typical yield of around 4 100 kg for Greece or Ireland.

In France, efficiency gains over the past 22 years have been quite impressive, with a yield up by a good 74% since 1975.

Since the start of the 1970s, the Member States have carried out co-ordinated livestock censuses based on common, harmonised classifications and definitions. Information on dairy cows is collected every May/June and November/December, and average dairy cow numbers are calculated on the basis of these half-yearly results. The average annual milk yield per cow is then calculated from a comparison with the annual milk production of dairy cows.
Dairy cows are defined in the present statistics as cows intended solely or mainly for the production of milk for consumption and/or for the manufacture of dairy products. They include cull dairy cows (regardless of whether or not they are fattened between final milking and slaughtering). The fact that cull cows are included may mean that the milk yield figures differ from calculations in which cull dairy cows are not counted as dairy cows.

The information from the individual Member States is aggregated to describe changes in the EU overall. In this connection, EU-15 is defined as all countries which are currently members of the EU. EU-12 = EU-15 excluding Finland, Sweden and Austria, EU-10 = EU-12 excluding Spain and Portugal and EU-9 = EU-10 excluding Greece.
### Yearly milk production per dairy cow

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU-15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-9</td>
<td>3.669</td>
<td>4.153</td>
<td>4.473</td>
<td>4.874</td>
<td>5.276</td>
<td>5.323</td>
<td>5.448</td>
<td>5.531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deutschland</td>
<td>4.011</td>
<td>4.542</td>
<td>4.684</td>
<td>4.919</td>
<td>5.308</td>
<td>5.319</td>
<td>5.457</td>
<td>5.531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellada</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.162</td>
<td>3.574</td>
<td>4.217</td>
<td>4.243</td>
<td>4.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>España</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>3.249</td>
<td>3.745</td>
<td>4.265</td>
<td>4.953</td>
<td>5.518</td>
<td>5.536</td>
<td>5.520</td>
<td>5.537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxemburg</td>
<td>3.481</td>
<td>3.958</td>
<td>4.310</td>
<td>4.914</td>
<td>5.311</td>
<td>5.291</td>
<td>5.529</td>
<td>5.560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Österreich</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.904</td>
<td>3.763</td>
<td>3.949</td>
<td>4.292</td>
<td>4.409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.789</td>
<td>6.025</td>
<td>6.122</td>
<td>5.993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sverige</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>4.224</td>
<td>4.874</td>
<td>5.010</td>
<td>5.297</td>
<td>5.449</td>
<td>5.466</td>
<td>5.537</td>
<td>5.692</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total cow milk production on farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU-15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danmark</td>
<td>4.918</td>
<td>5.117</td>
<td>5.099</td>
<td>4.742</td>
<td>4.661</td>
<td>4.641</td>
<td>4.673</td>
<td>4.630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellada</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>España</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5.755</td>
<td>6.030</td>
<td>5.656</td>
<td>6.150</td>
<td>6.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>3.591</td>
<td>4.709</td>
<td>5.823</td>
<td>5.396</td>
<td>5.324</td>
<td>5.402</td>
<td>5.352</td>
<td>5.354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Österreich</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.350</td>
<td>3.270</td>
<td>3.278</td>
<td>3.148</td>
<td>3.034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.548</td>
<td>1.428</td>
<td>1.474</td>
<td>1.575</td>
<td>1.606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.811</td>
<td>2.457</td>
<td>2.507</td>
<td>2.468</td>
<td>2.371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sverige</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.508</td>
<td>3.352</td>
<td>3.421</td>
<td>3.304</td>
<td>3.316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- non available

* provisional or estimated data
Further information:

- **Databases**
- **New Cronos Theme 5**
- **Domain: Milk**

To obtain information or to order publications, data bases and special sets of data, please contact the Data Shop network:

**BELGIQUE/BELGIË**
- EuroStat Data Shop Brussels/Bruussel
  - 1049 BRUXELLES/BRUSSEL
  - Tel. (32-2) 299 66 66
  - Fax (32-2) 295 01 25
  - E-Mail: datashop.brussels@eurostat.coe.be

**DENMARK/DAAN ARK**
- Bibliotek og Information EuroStat Data Shop
  - Sejelsgade 11
  - DK-2100 KØBENHAVN Ø
  - Tel. (45-39) 17 30 30
  - Fax (45-39) 17 30 03
  - E-Mail: info@eurostat.dk

**DEUTSCHLAND/STATISTIK**
- EuroStat Data Shop Berlin
  - Otto-Braun-Straße 10-12
  - D-10176 BERLIN
  - Tel. (49-30) 23 64 42 27
  - Fax (49-30) 23 64 42 30
  - E-Mail: info@eurostat.de

**ESPAÑA/INE**
- EuroStat Data Shop Madrid
  - C/Comillas 19
  - 28014 MADRID
  - Tel. (34-91) 583 90 17
  - Fax (34-91) 583 90 05
  - E-Mail: inesl@ine.es

**FRANCE/INSEE**
- EuroStat Data Shop Paris
  - 155, rue de Bercy
  - 75012 PARIS CEDEX 12
  - Tel. (33-1) 03 17 88 44
  - Fax (33-1) 03 17 88 22
  - E-Mail: infostat@insee.fr

**ITALIA – Roma**
- Centro di Informazione Statistica
  - via Salaria 22
  - 00198 ROMA
  - Tel. (39-06) 346 34 34
  - Fax (39-06) 346 34 35
  - E-Mail: dati@italia.it

**LUXEMBOURG/Etat**
- EuroStat Data Shop Luxembourg
  - 2 rue Mercier
  - L-2985 Luxembourg
  - Tel. (352) 43 35 22 51
  - Fax (352) 43 35 22 50
  - E-Mail: datashop@eurostat.lu

**NORGE/STATISTIK**
- EuroStat Data Shop Oslo
  - Storgaten 56
  - 0170 OSLO
  - Tel. (47-22) 86 45 04
  - Fax (47-22) 86 45 03
  - E-Mail: datashop@ssb.no

**PORTUGAL/EINE**
- EuroStat Data Shop Lisboa
  - Avenida da Liberdade 7
  - 1200-001 LISBOA
  - Tel. (351) 827 82 83 13
  - Fax (351) 827 82 83 14
  - E-Mail: data.shop@ine.pt

**SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA**
- EuroStat Data Shop Bern
  - Bleicherweg 5
  - 3000 Bern
  - Tel. (41-31) 381 01 00
  - Fax (41-31) 381 01 01
  - E-Mail: datashop@infor.ch

**SVERIGE/STATA**
- EuroStat Data Shop Stockholm
  - Kungsgränd 10
  - 113 23 STOCKHOLM
  - Tel. (46-8) 783 48 99
  - Fax (46-8) 783 48 01
  - E-Mail: stba-berlin.datashop@t-online.de

**UNITED KINGDOM**
- EuroStat Data Shop London
  - 308, Westminster Bridge Rd
  - SW1V 2QQ
  - Tel. (44-171) 212 212
  - Fax (44-171) 212 213
  - E-Mail: datashop@ons.gov.uk

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
- EuroStat Data Shop Washington DC
  - 1200 New Jersey Ave SE
  - 20003 WASHINGTON DC
  - Tel. (202) 212 212
  - Fax (202) 212 213
  - E-Mail: data.shop@infor.gov

Media Support EuroStat (for professional journalists only).
Buch Building Office A348 • Luxembourg • Tel: (352) 4301 3340 • Fax: (352) 4301 3349 • e-mail: media.support@eurostat.coe.be

For information on methodology

Albert Jerabek (in collaboration with Jakob Peter Hansen and Martin Boschma)
Eurostat/F2, L-2920 Luxembourg, Tel: (352) 4301 37250, Fax: (352) 4301 37318

ORIGINA L: English

Please visit our web site at http://europa.eu.int/eurostat for further information!