

Statistics in focus

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

THEME 5 – 17/2002

AGRICULTURE

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Milk production¹ : slight increase in collection during 2001

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Since 1984, milk production in the European Union has come under the system of quotas. There has therefore not been much change in the milk resources available for processing. However, milk products continue to adapt to market demand: steady increase in products with lower fat levels and the development of cheese production.

Collection of cows' milk : +0.4% in 2001

At 114.7 million tonnes in 2001, the collection of cows' milk saw a slight increase compared with 2000 (0.4%). The increase recorded since 1997 is about 1%. With the exception of Greece, Portugal, Spain and Denmark, the other Member States saw slight variations.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Change over 01/00
BELGIE-BELGIQUE	2944	3287	3264	3124	3088	-1.2
DANMARK	4433	4468	4456	4519	4418	-2.2
DEUTSCHLAND	26986	26752	26783	26984	26883	-0.4
ELLADA	617	648	656	670	611	-8.8
ESPAÑA	5463	5482	5664	5413	5814	7.4
FRANCE	23045	23032	23109	23303	23196	-0.5
IRELAND	5256	5091	5121	5160	5338	3.4
ITALIA	10130	10292	10325	10084	10183	1.0
LUXEMBOURG	255	255	258	256	256	0.1
NEDERLAND	10458	10541	10777	10545	10683	1.3
ÖSTERREICH	2419	2448	2540	2661	2651	-0.4
PORTUGAL	1662	1696	1844	1892	1816	-4.0
SUOMI /FINLAND	2370	2363	2394	2442	2459	0.7
SVERIGE	3276	3278	3299	3297	3290	-0.2
UNITED KINGDOM	14261	14063	14456	13929	14155	1.6
EU-15	113576	113696	114946	114279	114741	0.4

Table 1 : Changes in the collection of cows' milk over the period 1997 to 2001, 1000 tonnes

Stable fat and protein composition

The composition of cows' milk has hardly changed during the last five years, either in terms of fat or protein.

The average fat content of cows' milk collected by EU dairies was 40.83% in 2001. The southern countries (Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain) and the Republic of Ireland have fat levels well below 40%. The United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Sweden, Austria and Luxembourg represent the middle ground, with milk containing 40-42% fat. Germany, Finland, Denmark have fat levels greater than 42%, with the Netherlands recording the highest level of 44%.

The average protein content in 2001 was 33.13%, with very slight variations over time. The variations recorded between Member States are less than those recorded for fat.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Fat	40.88	41.00	40.73	40.74	40.83
Protein	33.51	33.38	33.38	33.46	33.13

Table 2 : Changes in the fat and protein content(%) at EU-15 level, 1997-2001



¹ Please see methodological notes page 3

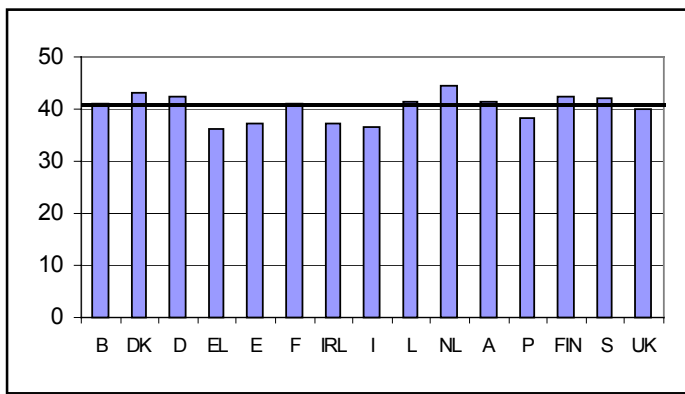


Figure 1 : Level (%) of fat by country, 2001

Collection of goat's and sheep's milk on the increase

In addition to the 114 million tonnes of cows' milk, EU dairies collected 2.4 million tonnes of milk of other species in 2000. This amount represents only 2.1% of total milk

resources. Nevertheless, it has been a constant progression over the last five years. Three countries, Greece, Spain and France account for 97% of the collection of goats' milk. These three countries plus Italy account for 98% of sheep's milk collected. Italy is the only country to produce buffalo's milk. These three types of milk show a high rate of fat content (generally near to 60%). They constitute more than 60% of the fat content resource of the Greek dairies, 15% in Spain and almost 10% in Italy.

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Goat's milk	774.6	779.9	836.7	894.5
Sheep's milk	1263.9	1407.3	1377.4	1444.5
Buffalo's milk	73.0	89.0	122.9	103.9
Total	2111.5	2276.2	2337.0	2442.9

Table 3 : Changes in the collection of milk of other species, 1997-2000. 1000 tonnes

Drinking milk stable, yoghurt increasing

The production of drinking milk settled at nearly 29 million tonnes in 2000. It has been little change since 1997. However the composition of milk has been subject to constant change. Whereas the production of whole drinking milk declined by nearly 8% between 1997 and 2000, the production of semi-skimmed and skimmed milk has increased by 5 and 7% respectively. The United Kingdom produces nearly 24% of total drinking milk. Whole milk is mainly produced in Germany (27%), which produces only 3.3% of skimmed milk. The situation is reversed for Spain, which produces 16% of whole milk but 23.2% of skimmed milk.

The production of yoghurts (acidified milk) has been increasing steadily, reaching 5.45 million tonnes in 2000. Milk is less and less the single component of yoghurt, since the production of acidified milk without additives has changed little, whereas production incorporating other additives has increased by 27%. France and Germany account for 53.2% of acidified milk production. With the exception of Spain, no other Member State accounts for more than 10% of European production.

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Drinking milk	28988	29083	29109	28795
of which : whole milk	12901	12464	12194	11853
semi-skimmed milk	13639	14027	14305	14324
skimmed milk	2447	2592	2609	2618

Table 4 : Changes in the production of drinking milk 1000 tonnes, EU-15

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Acidified milk	5018	5280	5339	5451
of which : with additives	3209	3489	3520	4086
without additives	1810	1790	1819	1782

Table 5 : Changes in the production of acidified milk 1000 tonnes, EU-15

Cream production increasing, butter production stable

In 2000, cream production continued the rise which began in 1997, reaching 1.9 million tonnes, i.e. 5.7% higher than in 1997. With the exception of Denmark and Ireland, all Member States saw an increase. France and Italy saw the highest growth (+16.6% and +15.5% respectively). Germany, the main producer state, saw the smallest increase (+0.7%). Mirroring drinking milk, low-fat cream saw a sharp increase, rising 7.3% higher than in 1997.

The pattern in butter production has been less clear. Over the period 1997-2000, production was stable. The main producer states (France, Germany) saw a declining trend, whereas other Member States saw a marked increase in production. This was particularly the case for Belgium and France, where production was 23% and 29% respectively between 1997 and 2000.

Butter production				
	1997	1998	1999	2000
	1944	1922	1949	1919
Cream production				
	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total	1797	1845	1896	1900
content > 29%	546	543	586	561
content < 29%	1251	1302	1310	1339

Table 6 : Changes in cream and butter production, 1000 tonnes, EU-15, 1997-2000

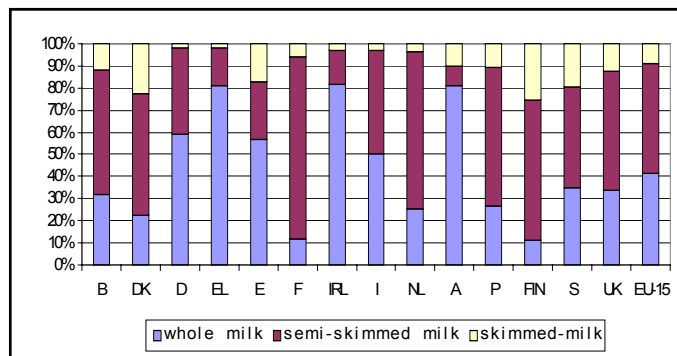


Figure 2 : Percentage breakdown of the various categories of drinking milk by Member State, %, 2000

Cheese production increasing, powder milk products declining

In 2000, cheese production in the European Union rose to 6.68 million tonnes. This is the highest figure ever achieved by the European Union in its present configuration. This represents an increase of 5.4% compared with 1997 and 8.2% compared with 1995. With the exception of the Netherlands, all the major producer states recorded increases of the order of 6%. Italy, Portugal and Greece saw the sharpest increases (ranging from 12% to 23%).

The production of milk powder products saw a decline in 2000. The changes have followed even

less of a pattern than that of cheese. A maximum level of 2.11 million tonnes was recorded in 1999, compared with which there has been a decline of nearly 6%.

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Cheese production	6341	6434	6530	6681
Powder products	2090	2078	2107	2000

Table 7 : Changes in the production of cheese and milk powder products, 1000 tonnes, EU-15, 1997-2000

➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

European milk statistics are governed by Council Directive 96/16/EC and Commission Decision 97/80/EC, which provide for monthly sample surveys and full annual surveys of dairies and an estimate of the milk production of agricultural holdings.

According to the legislation, the data collected refer to the concept of "national dairy"; this involves therefore **net production** which must avoid the double accounts such as Community legislation envisages it.

Some definitions (extracted partially from the explanatory notes of Decision 97/80/EC).

The "cow's milk" concerns all the cow's milk other than the milk directly suckled but including that coming from milking (including the colostrum) used as animal feed.

The yoghurt is included in the group of the "acidified milks" which are dairy products with a PH level of between 3.8 and 5.5.

Cream which forms naturally on the milk surface through slow agglomeration of emulsifying fat globules is extracted from the milk and has a fat content which is usually greater than 10 % of product weight.

Butter is a product of a dairy fat equal to 82% by weight of product.

Cheese is a solid or semi-solid, fresh or refined product, obtained by milk or cream coagulation, only or combined, thanks to the action of the rennet or of other suitable coagulant agents.

Milk powder products are obtained by eliminating the water from cream, whole milk, semi-skimmed milk, buttermilk and acidified milk.

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➤ Databases

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