

# The Australian dairy industry

Australia is one of the world's largest dairy exporters and recognised globally as a trusted source of safe, high-quality and nutritious products. This is underpinned by the pristine landscape, clean air and water across our dairy regions, strict food-safety systems and the world-leading Australian Dairy Industry Sustainability Framework.

Our diversity of dairy farms across eight key regions and processors large and small, allows us to deliver a wide range of world class dairy products and ingredients, all year round. Across our supply chain, we work together to create a positive culture where everyone thrives, from our farmers to our valued global partners.

**Australian milk production** dipped 0.7% in 2024–25, from 8,376 million litres to 8,315 million litres. The decline was largely due to seasonal weather conditions. However, strong investment in research and technology is driving productivity to ensure a sustainable dairy supply into the future.

**Farmgate milk prices** remained high during the 2024–25 season, with Australian dairy farmers receiving an average of A\$9.35/kg MS (US\$47 per 100kg of milk). Across calendar year 2024, this was above the milk price paid in New Zealand but lower than other key global competitors the United States, United Kingdom and the European Union.



Thrive with  
**Australian**  
Dairy



**8,315 million litres** of milk produced worth **\$5.966 billion**. Average annual production per cow **6,287 litres**.

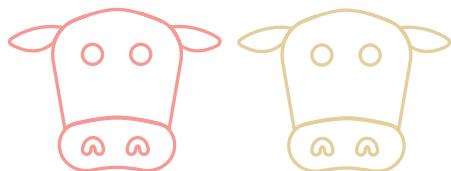


The average size of dairy farms has grown, with the number of large farms – and their share of milk production – increasing. However, the number of dairy farms declined three per cent from the previous year.

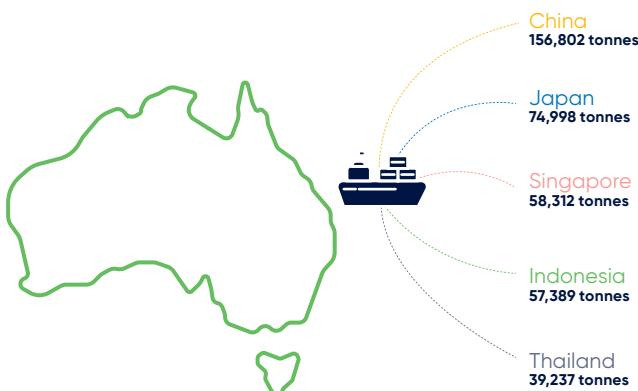
#### 36% of milk produced in Australia was exported.

Australian milk accounted for just over one per cent of the world's estimated milk production. While Australian milk accounted for over one per cent of the world's estimated milk production, it is ranked fifth globally on dairy exports.

**3,772** dairy farms and a national herd of **1.3 million cows**. Average herd size **345 cows**.



Total value of Australia's dairy exports was A\$3.8 billion – a five per cent increase on previous year – with the top five Australian export markets measured by dollar value being Greater China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The industry has a wide range of processors who work directly with customers, tailoring products to specific market requirements, both now and into the future.



**Australian consumption trends** show that dairy continues to be a 'staple' food in many households. In Australia, the main consumer dairy products are drinking milk, cheese, yoghurt, and butter/butter blends. Per capita consumption of yoghurt remained steady at 10kgs while drinking milk is estimated at around 85 litres.

#### Australian milk utilisation

- 40%** Cheese
- 32%** Drinking milk
- 21%** Skim milk powder or butter
- 2%** Whole milk powder
- 5%** Other

#### Annual production

- Cheese **430,068 tonnes**
- Milk powders **198,440 tonnes**
- Butter & anhydrous milk fat **72,021 tonnes**

#### More information

To find out more about Australian dairy industry's data and insights visit [dairyaustralia.com.au/industry-reports](http://dairyaustralia.com.au/industry-reports).



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