

# Statistics: Dairy cows

## Population & Production

### World

- **There are over 264 million dairy cows worldwide, producing nearly 600 million tonnes of milk every year** (source FAOstat – see table 1).
- **The global average for milk production is approximately 2,200 litres per cow** (source FAOstat 2012).
- **The largest producer of milk is the USA producing over 87 million tonnes per annum** (source FAOstat 2012).
- **India has the greatest number of dairy cows in the world with over 40 million cows.**

Top 15 milk producing countries in the world			
World Rank	Country	Tonnes of milk	Percentage of world milk production
1	United States of America	87,461,300	14.6
2	India	50,300,000	8.4
3	China	36,036,086	6.0
4	Russian Federation	31,895,100	5.3
5	Brazil	31,667,600	5.3
6	Germany	29,628,900	4.9
7	France	23,301,200	3.9
8	New Zealand	17,010,500	2.8
9	United Kingdom	13,960,000	2.3
10	Turkey	12,480,100	2.1
11	Pakistan	12,437,000	2.1
12	Poland	12,278,700	2.0
13	Netherlands	11,631,000	1.9
14	Ukraine	10,977,200	1.8
15	Mexico	10,676,700	1.8
<b>World</b>		<b>599,438,003</b>	

Top 15 Dairy cow populations in the world			
World Rank	Country	Number of dairy cows	Percentage of world dairy cow population
1	India	43,600,000	16.5
2	Brazil	22,924,900	8.7
3	Sudan	14,968,800	5.7
4	China	12,503,190	4.7
5	Pakistan	10,100,000	3.8
6	Kenya	9,350,000	3.5
7	United States of America	9,117,000	3.4
8	Russian Federation	9,022,000	3.4
9	Tanzania	6,900,000	2.6
10	Ethiopia	6,604,300	2.5
11	Colombia	5,300,000	2.0
12	New Zealand	4,680,100	1.8
13	Turkey	4,384,130	1.7
14	Germany	4,183,100	1.6
15	Bangladesh	4,047,000	1.5
<b>World</b>		<b>264,470,504</b>	

**Table 1 & 2: These tables compare the top milk producing countries in comparison to the number of dairy cows in the top 15 countries. While India has the most cows it produces only around two-thirds of the amount of milk that the USA produces every year.**

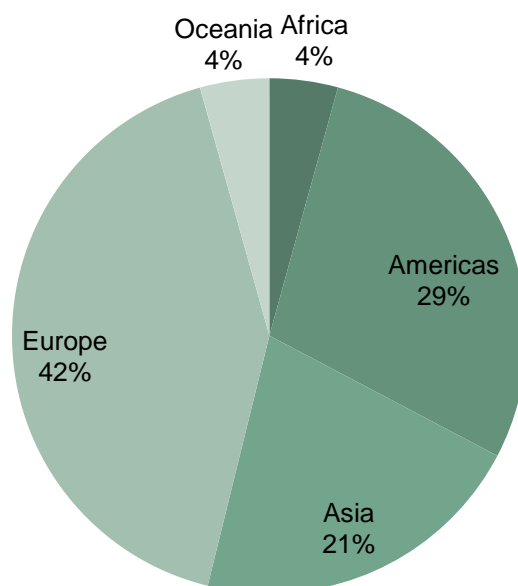
Source: FAOstat 2012.

**Table 3:** This table shows the top 20 average yield per cow in the world in 2010. Source: FAOstat 2012

World Rank	Country	Average litres per cow
1	Saudi Arabia	10,133
2	Israel	10,035
3	Republic of Korea	9,816
4	United States of America	9,314
5	Denmark	8,389
6	Sweden	8,144
7	Canada	7,963
8	Finland	7,873
9	Japan	7,284
10	Spain	7,278
11	Netherlands	7,277
12	United Kingdom	7,271
13	Luxembourg	7,002
14	Czech Republic	6,884
15	Germany	6,877
16	Estonia	6,780
17	Switzerland	6,651
18	Hungary	6,596
19	Jordan	6,521
20	Kuwait	6,448
<b>World</b>		<b>2,200</b>

**Figure 1:** Source FAOstat 2012

**Production of milk around the world by region (Average 1992 - 2010)**



**Table 4:** Global top 10 Dairy companies in 2009.

Source: [http://www.rabobank.com/content/images/Global\\_dairy\\_top-20\\_Voorbergen\\_jul2009\\_tcm43-89002.pdf](http://www.rabobank.com/content/images/Global_dairy_top-20_Voorbergen_jul2009_tcm43-89002.pdf)

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Dairy turnover in USD billions</b>
<b>1</b>	Nestlé	Switzerland	25.90
<b>2</b>	Danone	France	14.79
<b>3</b>	Lactalis	France	12.68
<b>4</b>	FrieslandCampina	Netherlands	11.17
<b>5</b>	Fonterra	New Zealand	10.20
<b>6</b>	Dean Foods	USA	9.74
<b>7</b>	Arla Foods	Denmark/Sweden	8.64
<b>8</b>	Dairy Farmers of America	USA	8.10
<b>9</b>	Kraft Foods	USA	6.79
<b>10</b>	Unilever	Netherlands/UK	6.38

## EU

- **There are over 23 million dairy cows in the EU** (Source: Eurostat 2010)
- **The EU produces over 135 million tonnes of milk per year** (Source: Eurostat 2010)
- **The top 3 producers are Germany, France and the UK** (See table 5 below)

**Table 5:** This table shows the number of cows in each EU state and the tonnage of milk produced in 2010 (Source: Eurostat 2012, \* FAOstat2010)

Country	Number of cows	Percentage of EU herd	Tonnes of milk	Percentage of EU milk production
Germany	4,181,700	18.1	28,659,000	21.1
France	3,641,000	15.8	23,370,000	17.2
Poland	2,529,400	11.0	8,990,000	6.6
United Kingdom	1,847,000	8.0	13,584,000	10.0
Italy	1,746,100	7.6	10,408,000	7.7
Netherlands	1,518,000	6.6	11,634,000	8.6
Romania	1,178,600	5.1	901,000	0.7
Ireland	1,027,000	4.5	5,344,000	3.9
Spain	845,300	3.7	5,832,000	4.3
Denmark	573,000	2.5	4,818,000	3.6
Austria	532,700	2.3	2,781,000	2.1
Belgium	517,700	2.2	3,067,000	2.3
Lithuania	359,800	1.6	1,278,000	0.9
Czech Republic	375,400	1.6	2,317,000	1.7
Sweden	348,600	1.5	2,860,000	2.1
Bulgaria	291,600	1.3	539,000	0.4
Finland	284,300	1.2	2,289,000	1.7
Portugal	275,100	1.2	1,824,000	1.3
Hungary	239,000	1.0	1,322,000	1.0
Latvia	164,100	0.7	625,000	0.5
Slovakia	159,300	0.7	800,000	0.6
Greece	144,000	0.6	688,000	0.5
Slovenia	109,500	0.5	519,000	0.4
Estonia	96,500	0.4	604,000	0.4
Luxembourg	46,000	0.2	282,000	0.2
Cyprus	23,400	0.1	151,000	0.1
Malta	6,400	0.03	42127*	0.03
<b>EU27</b>	<b>23,060,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>135,528,127</b>	<b>100</b>

## UK

- **The UK has over 1.8 million cows in the national herd** (see table 5 above) **this has dropped from 3.2 million cows in 1980** (DairyCo, Producer numbers)
- **The average yield for a dairy cow in the UK in 2010 was 7,271 litres per year almost two thirds more than the average 4,653 litres per year in 1980** (Source: FAOstat)

- **The average number of UK producers fell from 35,741 in 1995 to 15,716 in 2010** (DairyCo, Producer numbers)
- **The average size of a herd in the UK in 2009 was 113. In 1999 the average herd size was 80** (DairyCo, Producer numbers).

**Table 6:** This table shows in the UK by individual 2009 & 2010 figures.

Year	Number of cows		
	2000	2009	2010
England	1,575,000	1,163,000	1,160,000
Wales	269,000	221,000	222,000
Scotland	207,000	187,000	185,000
N. Ireland	284,000	285,000	281,000
UK	<b>2,336,000</b>	<b>1,857,000</b>	<b>1,847,000</b>

the number of dairy cows country, comparing 2000,

## Consumption

### World

- **The global average of whole milk consumption in 2007 was 50kg/capita/yr, the average for cheese was 2.84kg/capita/yr and for butter was 1.32kg/capita/yr** (Source: FAOstat).

### EU

- **In 2009, the EU-27 consumption for whole milk was 79kg/capita/yr. The consumption of cheese and butter was 18kg and 4kg per capita/yr** (Source: European Commission, 2011).
- **Germany and France have similar consumption rates with below EU average milk consumption (~64kg) and above average for cheese (~23kg) and butter (~7kg)** (Source: European Commission, 2011)

### UK

- **The UK average consumption of whole milk in 2009 was 116kg/capita/yr. The average cheese consumption was 10kg/capita/yr** (Source: European Commission, 2011).

## Trade

### World

- **Italy is the largest importer of fresh milk in the world, importing over 2 million tonnes of milk in 2009** (Source: FAOstat. See table 7)
- **The largest exporter in the world of fresh milk is Germany, exporting over 2.5 million tonnes of milk a year** (Source: FAOstat. See table 8)

**Table 7:** This table shows the worlds largest importers of fresh milk in 2009 (Source: FAOstat)

Ranking	Country	Import quantity of fresh milk (tonnes)
1	Italy	2,226,544
2	Germany	1,870,254
3	Belgium	831,011
4	France	739,163
5	Spain	721,898
6	Netherlands	663,761
7	Ireland	239,330
8	Portugal	198,052
9	Lithuania	175,258
10	Greece	172,416

**Table 8:** This table shows the worlds largest exporters in tonnage of whole milk in 2009 (Source: FAOstat)

Ranking	Country	Export quantity of fresh milk (tonnes)
1	Germany	2,535,653
2	France	1,069,897
3	Belgium	826,197
4	Austria	719,482
5	Netherlands	697,545
6	Czech Republic	646,151
7	United Kingdom	538,682
8	Denmark	363,641
9	Hungary	312,575
10	Poland	291,580

### EU

- **In 2009 the EU27 exported around 7,510,443 tonnes of whole milk and 836,636 tonnes of butter** (Source: FAOstat).
- **The EU27 imported around 6,639,155 of whole milk and 753,850 tonnes of butter in 2009** (Source: FAOstat).

### UK

- **The UK is the third largest global importer of dairy products** (Source: OFC, 2012)

## Housing systems

### World

- Globally the housing systems for dairy cows varies widely. Systems vary from cows reared on pasture to cows that are indoors all year round and may be tethered, in cubicles or in loose housing. There are no global statistics for housing systems around the world.

### EU

- Over 10 million dairy cows in the EU are housed in tie stalls and/or zero-grazed (based on many references – see [EU dairy tr5](#) for further details)

Member State	Dairy cows 2011 (head)	% not grazed	Number not grazed	Number in tie stalls
Austria	527,400	15	79,110	263,700
Belgium	510,600	15	76,590	n.d.
Bulgaria	306,800	n.d.	n.d.	58,292
Cyprus	24,100	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Czech Republic	374,100	80	299,280	7,482
Denmark	579,000	75	434,250	86,850
Estonia	96,200	n.d.	n.d.	86,580
Finland	281,500	5	14,075	140,750
France	3,678,000	15	551,700	367,800
Germany	4,190,100	58	2,430,258	1,131,327
Greece	130,000	85	110,500	260
Hungary	250,000	n.d.	n.d.	0
Ireland	1,055,300	1	10,553	0
Italy	1,755,000	90	1,579,500	157,950
Latvia	164,100	10	16,410	114,870
Lithuania	349,500	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Luxembourg	44,500	20	8,900	n.d.
Malta	6,300	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Netherlands	1,504,000	26	391,040	75,200
Poland	2,446,100	30	733,830	293,532
Portugal	242,000	50	121,000	2,420
Romania	1,154,000	n.d.	n.d.	992,440
Slovakia	154,100	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.
Slovenia	109,100	60	65,460	70,915
Spain	798,000	87	694,260	422,940
Sweden	347,600	0	0	156,420
United Kingdom	1,800,000	10	180,000	1,800
<b>EU27</b>	<b>22,877,500</b>		<b>8,685,523</b>	<b>4,653,061</b>
<b>Total in EU27</b>	<b>20,536,400</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7,796,716</b>	<b>4,431,528</b>

### World

- **In the USA, there is a 38% lameness incidence rate reported in the national dairy herd (Guard, 1996) and a mean prevalence of 25% (Espejo et al. 2006)**

### EU

- **The average number of cows believed to be lame at any one time is between 20 – 25%<sup>1</sup>**

### UK

- **Lameness incidence increased in UK dairy herds from lactational incidence rate (LIR) <10% reported prior to 1980 (Russell et al., 1982) to >20% after 1990 (Clarkson et al., 1996).**

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<sup>1</sup> Cook (2003); Espejo et al (2006); Whay et al (2003a) in Annex to the EFSA Journal (2009) 1143, 1 - 38  
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/1143r.pdf>