

Northern Ireland Milk Prices and Production

The latest national statistics produced by DARD on Northern Ireland milk prices and production were released on 2nd February 2012 according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This monthly notice will be updated at 9.30am on 1st March 2012.

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Key Points

This release shows the latest monthly information on the average Northern Ireland far gate milk prices and the volume of raw milk produced.

- In December 2011 the Northern Ireland average farm gate price of milk (including retrospective bonuses) was 28.65 pence per litre, 2.16 pence per litre higher than December 2010.
- In December 2011 the amount of raw milk produced from Northern Ireland farms was 154.21 million litres, 5.6 per cent higher than December 2010.

This notice and additional information is available at:

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/publications/pubs-dard-statistics/pubs-dard-statistics-milkprice-2007.htm>

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Section 1: Northern Ireland farm gate milk price (pence per litre)

Table 1 shows average Northern Ireland farm gate prices calculated from monthly surveys of milk purchasers in Northern Ireland.

Average producer prices for raw milk include all retrospective bonuses paid to date and are subject to further minor adjustments to take account of any future retrospective payments. Transport charges have been deducted, but there has been no deduction in respect of any super-levy liabilities.

Table 1: Northern Ireland farm gate price of milk (pence per litre)

		Net producer price
2005		17.89
2006		16.75
2007		21.78
2008		22.92
2009		19.48
2010		25.06
2011		27.25
2010	Dec	26.49
2011	Jan	26.08
	Feb	27.30
	Mar	27.89
	Apr	25.88
	May	25.73
	Jun	26.10
	Jul	26.84
	Aug	27.91
	Sep	28.51
	Oct	28.55
	Nov	28.76
	Dec	28.65

Section 2: Northern Ireland Milk Production (million litres)

Table 2 shows the amount of raw milk produced from Northern Ireland farms calculated from monthly surveys of milk purchasers operating in Northern Ireland.

Table 2: Northern Ireland Raw Milk Production (million litres)

2005		1,886.07
2006		1,905.24
2007		1,917.65
2008		1,902.84
2009		1,772.23
2010		1,849.46
2011		1,964.35
2010	Dec	146.10
2011	Jan	157.38
	Feb	148.88
	Mar	173.44
	Apr	183.07
	May	198.22
	Jun	185.15
	Jul	179.91
	Aug	160.58
	Sep	142.30
	Oct	140.36
	Nov	140.85
	Dec	154.21

Section 3: Methodology, Notes and Revisions Policy

User Statement

The information in the milk price and production publication is used by the Northern Ireland government as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy. The milk production statistics are used to estimate the milk component of the Aggregate Agricultural Account for Northern Ireland. DEFRA also use the data in the UK Agricultural Account which is required by EU legislation. Other users include the food and farming industry, academia and the general public. Contact details are available in the publication, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.

Survey Methodology

DARD runs a monthly survey of registered milk purchasers in Northern Ireland. It is a voluntary survey of 10 respondents that collects information on the volume and value of milk purchased, transport costs and the value of bonuses paid. All major milk purchasers take part in the survey. Information from the Rural Payments Agency on the volume of milk delivered to dairies (information which is collected under milk quota regulations) is used for smaller firms who do not take part in the monthly survey. The smaller firms are surveyed on an annual basis.

Milk Price and Production Statistics

Estimates are based on returns made to DARD by milk purchasers operating in Northern Ireland. The data relates to the volume and value of raw milk purchased from Northern Ireland farms and the report is published monthly.

Accuracy and Reliability of the Results

The total volume of milk recorded by the surveys is compared with information from the Rural Payments Agency on the volume of milk delivered to dairies (information which is collected under milk quota regulations). The milk production surveys account for over 90 per cent of milk purchased from farms in the Northern Ireland.

Revisions policy

Figures in the publication are provisional and subject to revision. We will provide information about any revisions we make to previously published information in the publication.

Revisions could occur for various reasons, including:

- a. survey respondents occasionally supply amended figures for previous periods.
- b. payment of retrospective bonuses which affect the net producer price.