USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DAIRY MARKET NEWS

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WEEK OF JULY 13 – 17, 2026
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DAIRY MARKET NEWS AT A GLANCE

CME GROUP CASH MARKETS (7/17)

BUTTER: Grade AA closed at $1.5900. The weekly average for Grade AA is $1.6085 (-0.0415).

CHEESE: Barrels closed at $1.6125 and 40# blocks at $1.6275. The weekly average for barrels is $1.5950 (+0.0680) and blocks $1.6055 (+0.0905).

NONFAT DRY MILK: Grade A closed at $1.4700. The weekly average for Grade A is $1.5045 (-0.0115).

DRY WHEY: Extra grade dry whey closed at $0.6950. The weekly average for dry whey is $0.6940 (+0.0.150).

BUTTER HIGHLIGHTS: Domestic butter demand is steady across all three regions. Export demand varies from steady to strong. Spot cream loads are tighter in some parts of the country. Spot cream demand from butter manufacturers varies from steady to stronger. Butter production schedules are mixed but are generally busier in the West region. Some stakeholders are more actively seeking open capacity for micro-fixing butter inventories. Spot loads are available for 80 or 82 percent butterfat buyers. Bulk butter overages range from 3 below to 5 above market across all regions.

CHEESE HIGHLIGHTS: East region cheese production is steady as cheesemakers receive adequate milk supplies. Hot weather is impacting milk volumes and components, but cheesemakers are not concerned. Demand is seasonally soft. Inventories are stable and the market tone is steady to slightly weaker. High temperatures are affecting cow comfort and milk output. Spot milk offers are light, but some contacts are able to secure loads below Class, while other cheesemakers are paying higher prices to keep vats full. Demand is steady, spot loads of cheese are available, but lighter production schedules will tighten inventories. Cheese makers are receiving contractual milk loads and spot milk availability is tight in the West. Production schedules are stable, and production is on pace or slightly ahead of demand for most types of cheese. Domestic and International demand is steady.

FLUID MILK HIGHLIGHTS: Milk production is mixed across regions this week, with ongoing operational challenges influencing both milk and cream movement. In the East, several facilities encountered unplanned downtime, leading to rerouting of milk and cream to other processors. Cream and condensed skim supplies are ample, and Class II continues to absorb much of the available cream. Condensed skim demand is light to steady, with slight upward price movement reported. In the Central region, summer conditions continue to limit farm level milk output. Some plants experiencing downtime are offering small volumes of spot milk, though overall availability remains lighter. Class I demand is steady to lighter. Demand for Classes II and IV remains strong. Cheesemakers continue to seek additional Class III spot milk, though offers are limited. Class III spot prices range from $2 under to $5 over this week. Butter makers are searching for additional volumes of Class IV supply to maintain churn activity. Across the West, production varies by area. Some California processors report above expected intakes, while processors in other states report lighter farm level output and occasional equipment issues are restricting operating schedules. Open processing capacity is tight in areas such as the Central Valley, and spot milk loads are more limited. Cream is available, with mixed demand. Multiples moved higher at the top of the range. Condensed skim availability in the West is comparatively stronger, with firm interest from buyers in the Central and East regions. Cream multiples for all Classes range: 1.22 – 1.56 in the East; 1.10 – 1.40 in the Midwest;1.00 – 1.24 in the West.

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DAIRY MARKET NEWS PRICE SUMMARY FOR JULY 13 - 17, 2026
PRICES ($/LB) & CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS PUBLISHED PRICES

Commodity		Range		Mostly	
NDM					
Central Low/Med. Heat		1.4500	1.8200	1.5500	1.6500
	Change	-0.0500	-0.0800	N.C.	0.0500
Central High Heat		1.6000	1.9000		
	Change	-0.0200	-0.0100		
West Low/Med. Heat		1.5175	1.7000	1.5600	1.6600
	Change	-0.0225	-0.0400	-0.0200	-0.0200
West High Heat		1.6200	1.7600		
	Change	-0.0200	-0.0400		
DRY WHOLE MILK					
National		2.0300	2.2300		
	Change	-0.0600	-0.0600		

Commodity		Range		Mostly	
DRY BUTTERMILK					
Central/East		1.5400	1.7200		
	Change	-0.0600	-0.0600		
West		1.6000	1.8500	1.7000	1.8000
	Change	0.0600	0.0500	0.0600	0.0600
DRY WHEY					
Central		0.6000	0.7200	0.6200	0.7000
	Change	N.C.	0.0200	N.C.	0.0200
West		0.6500	0.7300	0.6700	0.7100
	Change	N.C.	-0.0300	0.0100	N.C.
Northeast		0.6400	0.7300		
	Change	0.0200	0.0400		

Commodity		Range		Mostly	
LACTOSE					
Central/West		0.5000	0.7500	0.5900	0.7100
	Change	N.C.	0.0100	N.C.	0.0200
WPC 34%					
Central/West		1.6300	2.1800	1.8500	2.0000
	Change	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.	0.0500
CASEIN					
Rennet		4.4000	5.6000		
	Change	N.C.	N.C.		
Acid		4.3000	4.9000		
	Change	N.C.	N.C.		
ANIMAL FEED WHEY					
Central		0.3500	0.3800		
	Change	N.C.	N.C.		

DAIRY MARKET NEWS PRICE SUMMARY FOR JULY 6 - 17, 2026
PRICES ($/MT) & CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS PUBLISHED PRICES

Commodity		Range	
SMP			
Europe		3000	3325
	Change	50	100
Oceania		3050	3450
	Change	-325	-500
S. America		3200	3750
	Change	-300	N.C.
DRY WHEY			
W. Europe		1475	2325
	Change	N.C.	-75

Commodity		Range	
WHOLE MILK POWDER			
Europe		3375	3825
	Change	50	200
Oceania		3375	3575
	Change	-175	N.C.
S. America		3500	4500
	Change	-100	N.C.

Commodity		Range	
BUTTER			
W. Europe		4325	4575
	Change	75	75
Oceania		5375	5750
	Change	-250	-300
BUTTEROIL			
W. Europe		5825	6075
	Change	-300	-175
CHEDDAR CHEESE			
Oceania		3900	4300
	Change	-400	-375

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DRY PRODUCTS HIGHLIGHTS: Low/medium heat nonfat dry milk prices moved lower across the prices for all regions except for the Central and East mostly price series moving higher. High heat prices moved lower in both regions. Buttermilk powder prices were lower at both ends in the East and higher on both ends in the West. Dry whey pricing varied in each region. The top of range and mostly series increased in the Central region. Both ends of the range increased in the East, and the West held steady at the bottom but saw a decrease at the top of the range. The lactose price range increased at the top of the range and the mostly price series and held steady at the bottom. Whey protein concentrate 34% price range was unchanged but the mostly series increased at the top. Dry whole milk prices decreased at both ends of the range with trades falling squarely in the middle of the range. Acid and rennet casein prices remained the same this week.

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY MARKET NEWS: **WEST EUROPE**: A major UK dairy cooperative raised its conventional milk price for July. The organic price remained unchanged. A major European dairy processor reduced its guaranteed milk price for July, reflecting expectations that conventional milk values across northwestern Europe will remain under pressure. **EAST EUROPE**: Poland's UHT milk export market remained under modest price pressure in June. Despite softer pricing, Poland maintained steady export activity, Latvia has further strengthened its position in the Eastern European dairy sector with the launch of a new large-scale cheese production facility aimed at expanding export capacity. **OCEANIA**: **AUSTRALIA**: Dairy Australia reports Australian milk exports are higher from July 2025 to May 2026. Dairy Australia also reports June 2026 production inputs had a sharp decline in overall prices. Fuel prices fell 15 percent as global oil values continued to ease. **NEW ZEALAND**: The spot value of milk decreased. Also, prices for SMP, WMP and milk fats declined. Milk output is generally higher year-over-year. **SOUTH AMERICA**: South American milk production is seasonally lighter. Milk output is reported higher year-over-year. Demand from Brazilian buyers is holding up better than Algerian buyers. Prices for many dairy commodities are higher this week compared to the start of July.

MAY ESTIMATED PRICES: 3.5 billion pounds of packaged fluid milk products were shipped by milk handlers in May 2026. This was 2.1 percent lower than a year earlier. Estimated sales of total conventional fluid milk products decreased 2.2 percent from May 2025 and estimated sales of total organic fluid milk products decreased 1.0 percent from a year earlier.

JULY SUPPLY AND DEMAND: Milk production forecasts are raised for both 2026 and 2027. Based on the latest Milk Production report, cow inventories are raised for both 2026 and 2027. For 2027, exports are also raised on both a fat basis and skim-solids basis due to increased shipments of cheese, butter, and whey-containing products. Imports are increased on both a fat basis and skim-solids basis for 2026 due to increased shipments of butter, fluid milk and cream, and milk proteins. Imports are also increased on both a fat basis and skim-solids basis for 2027 on increased shipments of butter and miscellaneous dairy products.

JUNE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: The June CPI for all food is 349.7, up 3.0 percent from 2025. The dairy products index is 271.7, up 0.4 percent from a year ago. The following are June year to year percentage changes for selected products: fresh whole milk is 9.0 percent, cheese -3.6 percent, and butter -8.7 percent.

JUNE PRODUCER PRICE INDEX: The June all food is 274.9, up 1.7 percent from 2025. The dairy products index is 247.3, up 0.7 percent from a year ago. The following are the June, year to year percentage changes for selected products: fresh whole milk is 15.5, cheese -1.8, and butter -33.0.

WEEKLY GROCERY STORE ACTIVITY: In Week 29 conventional dairy ads increased 3 percent, and organic ads are up 14 percent. The most advertised conventional commodity is cheese, which appeared in 3 percent more ads this week. Ads for the most advertised organic commodity, milk, declined 1 percent.