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PRESS RELEASE

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For an accurate interpretation of the results, please see the methodological explanations on page 3 of the press release.

Cow's milk collected and production of milk products in December and in the year 2014

The quantity of cow's milk collected by processing units from agricultural holdings and collection centres in the year 2014 rose by 12.8% compared to the year 2013.

The quantity of cow's milk collected by processing units from agricultural holdings and collection centres in December 2014 decreased by 1.2% compared to the previous month and was up 2.6% from December 2013.

December 2014 compared to November 2014

The quantity of cow's milk collected by processing units in December 2014 decreased by 844 tonnes (-1.2%) compared to the previous month.

Of the main milk products, decreases in production were recorded for acidified milk (yogurt, drinking yogurt, curd and others), with 175 less tonnes produced (-1.3%) in December 2014 than in November 2014, and cheese products, including the cheese obtained exclusively from cow's milk (91.3% of the total production of cheese products), for which a 63 tonne drop (-1.3%) was reported.

Increases in production were recorded for butter, with 212 more tonnes produced (+22.4%) in December 2014 than the previous month, cream, for which a 1019 tonne rise was reported (+19.9%), and drinking milk, with 551 more tonnes produced (+2.6%).

The quantity of imported raw milk increased from 5794 tonnes in November 2014 to 6935 tonnes in December 2014 (+19.7%).

December 2014 compared to December 2013

The quantity of cow's milk collected by processing units in December 2014 was up 1765 tonnes (+2.6%) from the same month of the previous year.

The following increases in production were recorded for the main milk products in December 2014 compared to the same month of 2013: 676 tonnes (+12.4%) for cream, 126 tonnes (+12.2%) for butter, 518 tonnes (+11.7%) for cheese products, including the cheese obtained exclusively from cow's milk, 1597 tonnes (+7.9%) for drinking milk, and 943 tonnes (+7.9%) for acidified milk (yogurt, drinking yogurt, curd and others).

The quantity of imported raw milk dropped from 8517 tonnes in December 2013 to 6935 tonnes in December 2014 (-18.6%).

The year 2014 compared to the year 2013

The quantity of cow's milk collected by processing units in the year 2014 was up 112994 tonnes (+12.8%) from the year 2013.

The following increases in production were recorded in the year 2014 compared to the year 2013: 32926 tonnes (+15.0%) for drinking milk, 6010 tonnes (+11.2%) for cream, 792 tonnes (+8.1%) for butter, 3971 tonnes (+5.6%) for cheese products, including the cheese obtained exclusively from cow's milk (86.2% of the total production of cheese products), and 5973 tonnes (+3.6%) for acidified milk (yogurt, drinking yogurt and others).

The quantity of imported raw milk dropped from 96105 tonnes in the year 2013 to 76723 tonnes in the year 2014 (-20.2%).

Cow's milk collected and production of milk products

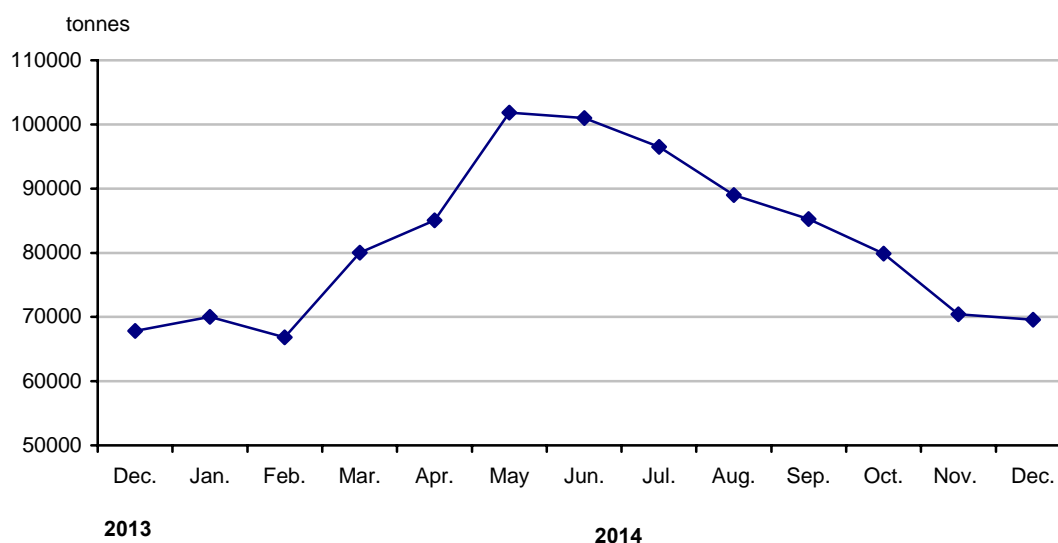
	MU	Dec. 2013	Nov. 2014 ^{r)}	Dec. 2014	The year 2013	The year 2014 ^{r)}
Cow's milk collected by processing units	tonnes	67818	70427	69583	882381	995375
Average fat content	%	3.84	3.85	3.85	3.79	3.77
Average protein content	%	3.28	3.29	3.29	3.27	3.25
Milk products obtained						
Drinking milk	tonnes	20154	21200	21751	219026	251952
Cream	tonnes	5466	5123	6142	53742	59752
Acidified milk ^{*)}	tonnes	11976	13094	12919	166454	172427
Butter	tonnes	1034	948	1160	9801	10593
Cheese products – total –	tonnes	4409	4990	4927	70477	74448
of which: cheese obtained exclusively from cow's milk	tonnes	3990	4603	4499	62757	64151

The data for the year 2013 are final, and the ones for the year 2014 are provisional.

^{*)} It includes yogurt, drinking yogurt, curd and others.

^{r)} The previously published data have been rectified.

Evolution of the quantity of cow's milk collected by processing units during the period December 2013-December 2014



METHODOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS

1. The **data source** is the Monthly Statistical Survey of Milk and Milk Products, in accordance with Council Directive 96/16/EC of 19 March 1996 on statistical surveys of milk and milk products.

2. **This statistical survey is an exhaustive survey.** It is addressed to all the enterprises whose main or secondary activity is the "Manufacture of milk products and cheese products", class 1051 according to CANE Rev. 2. These units buy whole milk or, in some cases, milk products directly from agricultural holdings, from collection centres or units, or they import them, with a view to turning them into milk products. The observation unit is the enterprise or the local work facility. The data are collected from approximately 400 economic operators.

3. Basic definitions

Cow's milk collected by processing units: raw milk produced by the secretion of the mammary glands of one or more cows, which has not been heated beyond 40 °C or undergone any treatment that has an equivalent effect.

Drinking milk: whole milk, semi-skimmed and skimmed milk containing no additives.

Cream: cream which has been processed and is available for delivery outside dairies (i.e. for human consumption, as raw material for the manufacture of chocolate, ice cream, etc.); it does not include intermediate production intended for the manufacture of other dairy products.

Acidified milk: milk products with a pH of between 3.6 and 5.5. It relates to yoghurts, drinkable yoghurts, curd and others. It also includes products containing bifidus.

Cheese products: fresh or matured, solid or semi-solid products, obtained by coagulating milk and cream, alone or in combination, by the action of rennet or other coagulating agents, and by partly draining the whey resulting from such coagulation.

Average fat content: the quantity of fat contained in 100 grams of product and expressed in percentages.

Average protein content: the quantity of proteins contained in 100 grams of product and expressed in percentages.

For more information, see the Industry Statistical Bulletin (date of issue February 19, 2015).

The **next press release** will be issued on Monday, March 9, 2015.