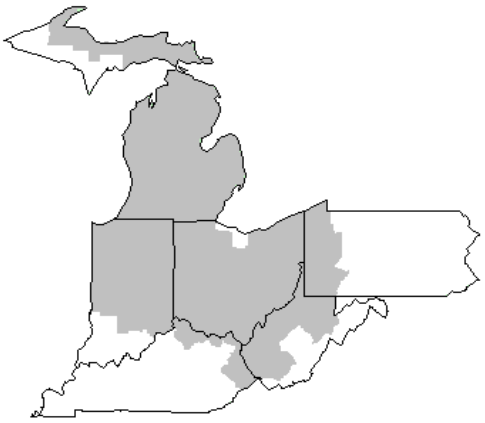
Mideast Market Administrator's Bulletin



Federal Order No. 33
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October 2026

Class III/IV Exports Surge

Year to date, dairy exports were up 27.4 percent on a milk-fat basis and 3.3 percent on a skim-solids basis compared to the same period in 2025. From January to August 2026, exports of cheese, butter, dry whey, and lactose increased, supported by strong demand and competitive prices, while shipments of dry skim milk products and whey protein concentrates declined relative to the same period in 2025, likely due to limited supplies offered at high prices.

Exports of milk and selected dairy products from January to August of 2025 and 2026

Product	Units	January to August 2025	January to August 2026	Change	Percent of change
Milk in all products (milk equivalents)					
Milk-fat basis	Billion pounds	10.8	13.7	3.0	27.4
Skim-solids basis		32.0	33.1	1.0	3.3
Dairy products					
American-type cheese	Million pounds	210.2	231.4	21.1	10.1
Other-than-American-type cheese		671.9	844.4	172.5	25.7
Butter		104.8	162.7	58.0	55.3
Dry skim milk products		989.7	911.4	-78.3	-7.9
Dry whey		283.2	449.6	166.3	58.7
Whey protein concentrate		190.5	169.6	-20.9	-11.0
Lactose		593.6	596.8	3.2	0.5

Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service calculation using information from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service; USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service; and U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Numerous sources were used for conversion factors. For more information, see the ERS Dairy Data Documentation webpage.

From January to August 2026, domestic use totaled 146.5 billion pounds on a milk-fat basis, up 0.5 percent from the same period in 2025. On a skim-solids basis, domestic use totaled 128.9 billion pounds, an increase of 2.2 percent year over year. From January to August 2026, domestic use of other-than-American-type cheese, butter, dry skim products, and whey protein concentrate increased compared to the same period in 2025, while domestic use of American type cheese, dry whey and lactose declined.

Domestic use of milk and dairy products from January to August of 2025 and 2026

Product	Units	January to August 2025	January to August 2026	Change	Percent of change
Milk in all products (milk equivalents)					
Milk-fat basis	Billion pounds	145.8	146.5	0.7	0.5
Skim-solids basis		126.2	128.9	2.8	2.2
Dairy products					
American-type cheese	Million pounds	3,646.8	3,643.3	-3.5	-0.1
Other-than-American-type cheese		5,390.3	5,438.9	48.6	0.9
Butter		1,522.9	1,572.2	49.3	3.2
Dry skim milk products		467.2	647.1	179.9	38.5
Dry whey		300.7	170.6	-130.1	-43.3
Whey protein concentrate		188.1	195.6	7.5	4.0
Lactose		182.3	139.3	-43.0	-23.6

Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service calculation using information from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service; USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service; and U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Numerous sources were used for conversion factors. For more information, see the ERS Dairy Data Documentation webpage.

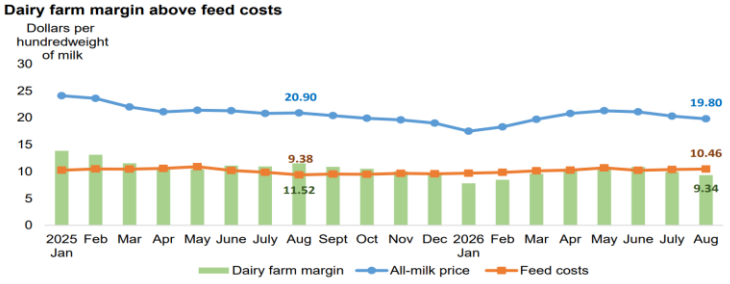
It is difficult to determine how much of each dairy product was used in each domestic market channel. Nevertheless, part of the increase in domestic use of other-than-American-type cheese and butter in 2026 likely reflects stronger demand from the food service sector.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, food service sales have grown faster than grocery store sales. Seasonally adjusted food service sales increased 4.1 percent from January through August 2026 compared with the same period in 2025, while grocery store sales rose 0.9 percent. According to USDA, NASS, year-to-date growth in the production of yogurt, cottage cheese, and ice cream also suggests stronger consumer demand for these dairy products.

DMC Program Enrollment Opens

In August 2026, the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program margin above feed costs was $9.34 per hundredweight (cwt), below the $9.50 per cwt Tier 1 coverage level, which triggered payments for that coverage level. In August 2026, the DMC margin was below August 2025 due to a decline in the all-milk price and an increase in feed cost. Enrollment for the 2027 DMC program opened on October 5 and remains available through December 18, 2026.

Dairy farm margin above feed costs



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using information from USDA, Farm Service Agency, Dairy Margin Coverage Program.

Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook: October 2026, LDP-M-388, October 16, 2026
USDA, Economic Research Service

September 2026 Pool Summary

Classification of Producer Milk

	Pounds	*Percent*
Class I	564,433,017	31.8
Class II	432,848,233	24.4
Class III	679,723,630	38.3
Class IV	96,506,012	5.4
Total	1,773,510,892	100.0

Producer Prices

Producer Price Differential	$2.11	/ cwt
Butterfat Price	1.4762	/ lb
Protein Price	2.6619	/ lb
Other Solids Price	0.4147	/ lb
Somatic Cell Adjustment Rate	0.00078	/ cwt
Statistical Uniform Price	18.15	/ cwt

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRODUCER PRICES
Federal Order No. 33
September 2026
MIDEAST MARKETING AREA

COMPUTATION OF PRODUCER PRICE DIFFERENTIAL

	POUNDS	BUTTERFAT	SKIM / PROTEIN	NONFAT SOLIDS	OTHER SOLIDS	PRICE		VALUE
Class I Skim Value			551,015,705			$15.96	/ cwt	$87,942,106.52
Class I Butterfat		13,417,312				1.5544	/ lb	20,855,869.77
Class I Location Differential	564,433,017							(1,239,541.76)
Class II SNF Value				38,395,908		1.3828	/ lb	53,093,861.61
Class II Butterfat		27,273,442				1.4832	/ lb	40,451,969.20
Class III Protein Value			22,726,550			2.6619	/ lb	60,495,803.44
Class III Other Solids Value					39,452,515	0.4147	/ lb	16,360,957.95
Class III Butterfat		24,018,635				1.4762	/ lb	35,456,309.02
Class IV SNF Value				8,168,485		1.5343	/ lb	12,532,906.53
Class IV Butterfat		9,871,112		10,250,117		1.4762	/ lb	15,131,222.70
Somatic Cell Value II/III/IV								1,496,628.65
TOTAL PRODUCER MILK VALUE	1,773,510,892	74,959,506	58,600,741	160,763,129	102,162,388			$342,578,093.63
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS								$1,207,346.44
TOTAL HANDLER OBLIGATIONS								$343,785,440.07
Total Protein Value			58,600,741			2.6619	/ lb	$155,989,312.47
Total Other Solids Value					102,162,388	0.4147	/ lb	42,366,742.30
Butterfat Value		74,959,506				1.4762	/ lb	110,655,222.76
Total Somatic Cell Values								2,139,213.64
TOTALS								$32,634,948.90
Net Producer Location Adjustments								$5,483,381.06
1/2 Unobligated Balance Producer Settlement Fund								34,000.00
Total - Divided by Total Pounds	1,773,510,892					$2.1512		$38,152,329.96
Rate of Cash Reserve						(0.0412)		(731,250.11)
PRODUCER PRICE DIFFERENTIAL *at Cuyahoga County, OH* [1]						**$2.11**	/ cwt	$37,421,079.85

COMPONENT PRICES

	September 2026	September 2025
Butterfat Price	1.4762 / lb	2.1925 / lb
Protein Price	2.6619 / lb	2.7062 / lb
Other Solids Price	0.4147 / lb	0.3207 / lb
Somatic Cell Adjustment Rate	0.00078 / cwt	0.00090 / cwt
Nonfat Solids Price [2]	1.5343 / lb	0.9773 / lb

COMPUTATION OF UNIFORM PRICE

	September 2026	September 2025
Class III Price - 3.5% BF	16.04	17.59
Producer Price Differential*	2.11	0.92
Statistical Uniform Price	18.15	18.51

CLASS PRICES

	September 2026	September 2025
Class I*	20.84	22.50
Class II	17.60	17.39
Class III	16.04	17.59
Class IV	18.94	16.17

CLASSIFICATION OF PRODUCER MILK

	September 2026 *Product lbs.*	September 2025 *Product lbs.*
Class I	564,433,017	587,967,382
Class II	432,848,233	436,385,723
Class III	679,723,630	613,989,294
Class IV	96,506,012	203,136,578
Total	1,773,510,892	1,841,478,977

[1] Subject to Location Adjustment.
[2] Producers are not paid on this component.

ORDER 33 MARKET SUMMARY

The Producer Price Differential for the Mideast Marketing Area for September 2026 was 2.11 and the Statistical Uniform Price was 18.15 for the month. The Statistical Uniform Price is 0.74 less than last month and is 0.36 less than September 2025. The Producer Butterfat Price of 1.4762 per pound is down 0.0345 from August and is down 0.7163 from a year ago. The Protein Price of 2.6619 is down 0.1662 from last month and is down 0.0443 from September 2025. The Other Solids Price in September was 0.4147 per pound, an increase from last month's price of 0.4052 and 0.0940 greater than last September. The Somatic Cell Adjustment rate for September was 0.00078 per cwt. September producer receipts of 1.774 billion pounds were 1.4 percent less than August's and 3.7 percent less than September 2025's production of 1.841 billion pounds. Producer milk allocated to Class I accounted for 31.8% percent of the total producer milk in September 2026 greater than 31.2% percent in August, and greater than 31.9% percent in September 2025. A total of 3,268 producers were pooled on the Mideast Order in September compared to 3,281 producers pooled in September 2025. The market average content of producer milk was as follows: Butterfat 4.23%; Protein 3.30%; Other Solids 5.76% and Nonfat Solids 9.06%.

August 2026 Highlights

Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 1.25 billion pounds, 1.4 percent above August 2025 but 1.4 percent below July 2026.

Italian type cheese production totaled 541 million pounds, 3.7 percent above August 2025 but 1.7 percent below July 2026.

American type cheese production totaled 477 million pounds, 0.9 percent below August 2025 and 0.6 percent below July 2026.

Butter production was 187 million pounds, 6.3 percent above August 2025 but 0.9 percent below July 2026.

Dry milk products (comparisons in percentage with August 2025)
Nonfat dry milk, human - 132 million pounds, up 9.6 percent.
Skim milk powder - 28.9 million pounds, down 33.1 percent.

Whey products (comparisons in percentage with August 2025)
Dry whey, total - 75.1 million pounds, up 8.2 percent.
Lactose, human and animal - 94.9 million pounds, down 1.3 percent.
Whey protein concentrate, total - 42.8 million pounds, up 4.6 percent.

Frozen products (comparisons in percentage with August 2025)
Ice cream, regular (hard) - 64.9 million gallons, down 2.3 percent.
Ice cream, lowfat (total) - 36.7 million gallons, up 9.8 percent.
Sherbet (hard) - 1.52 million gallons, down 11.8 percent.
Frozen yogurt (total) - 2.68 million gallons, down 5.2 percent.

Released October 5, 2026, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

August Milk Production Up 1.8 Percent

Milk production in the 24 major States during August totaled 19.2 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from August 2025. July revised production, at 19.3 billion pounds, was also up 1.8 percent from July 2025. The July revision represented a decrease of 100 million pounds or 0.5 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 24 major States averaged 2,070 pounds for August, 4 pounds above August 2025. The number of milk cows on farms in the 24 major States was 9.26 million head, 151,000 head more than August 2025, and 15,000 head more than July 2026.

The Mideast Marketing Area has four states represented in the 24 major states used above. They are Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Milk production in these Mideast states during August totaled 2.78 billion pounds, up 50 million pounds or 1.8 percent from August 2025. Production per cow in the Mideast states averaged 2,054 pounds for August, 12 pounds more than August 2025. The number of cows on farms in the Mideast states was 1.37 million head, 16,000 head more than August 2025.

Released September 22, 2026, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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Featured this month are:

- Producer Milk Classification
- Statistical Uniform Price
- Class and Component Prices
- National Product Prices

Weighted Averages - Butterfat, Protein, Other Solids, Somatic Cell Count by State
Federal Order No. 33

State	August 2026 Number of Producers	August 2026 Pounds of Milk (000)	August 2026 Weighted Averages Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids	SCC (000)	August 2025 Pounds of Milk (000)	August 2025 Weighted Averages Butterfat	Protein	Other Solids	SCC (000)
Michigan	727	936,068	4.18	3.27	5.77	199	937,602	4.14	3.22	5.79	199
Ohio	1,098	418,335	4.16	3.29	5.74	243	423,838	4.11	3.22	5.75	239
Indiana	601	294,178	4.12	3.23	5.75	252	287,300	4.02	3.14	5.69	237
Pennsylvania	592	80,790	4.17	3.21	5.70	277	81,506	3.97	3.11	5.66	275
New York	76	25,721	4.31	3.28	5.75	250	63,733	4.29	3.25	5.85	204
Other	145	44,458	4.25	3.25	5.77	232	35,083	4.09	3.18	5.77	230
Total/Average *	3,239	1,799,548	4.17	3.26	5.76	223	1,749,183	4.08	3.16	5.77	213

* Totals may not add due to rounding. Data provided on a one-month delay basis and includes only milk from the states *pooled* on the Mideast order.

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FEDERAL ORDER DATA
September 2026

Marketing Area [1]		Producer Milk Total (000)	Producer Milk Class I (000)	Class I Percent %	Producer Price Differential (per cwt.)	Statistical Uniform Price (per cwt.)
FO 1	Northeast - (*Boston*)	2,340,040	666,878	28.5	3.15	$19.19
FO 5	Appalachian - (*Charlotte*)	403,648	309,655	76.7	[2]	21.64
FO 6	Florida - (*Tampa*)	195,134	161,846	82.9	[2]	22.68
FO 7	Southeast - (*Atlanta*)	291,667	229,846	78.8	[2]	21.96
FO 30	Upper Midwest - (*Chicago*)	2,591,929	165,550	6.4	0.58	16.62
FO 32	Central - (*Kansas City*)	1,387,081	350,692	25.3	1.78	17.82
FO 33	**Mideast - (*Cleveland*)**	**1,773,511**	**564,433**	**31.8**	**2.11**	**18.15**
FO 51	California - (*Los Angeles*)	1,942,101	386,931	19.9	1.26	17.30
FO 124	Pacific Northwest - (*Seattle*)	409,037	78,589	19.2	1.19	17.23
FO 126	Southwest - (*Dallas*)	1,249,275	330,604	26.5	1.92	17.96
FO 131	Arizona - (*Phoenix*)	292,297	106,702	36.5	[2]	18.20

[1] Names in parentheses are principal points of markets.

[2] Producers in these markets are paid on the basis of a uniform skim and butterfat price.

MINIMUM PARTIAL PAYMENT PRICE FOR October 2026 .....16.04/cwt.

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