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STATISTICS BOOK

Food & Nutrition: statistics and facts

10 full reports · Edition October 2026

CAD \$3.1B

MARKET SIZE 2026

5.7M

COWS IN 1950

133.3

FAO INDEX AUG 2026

5.29B lb

US YOGURT OUTPUT,
2025

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Food & Nutrition: statistics and facts

Every Business Stats report on Food & Nutrition in one place: 10 reports, from Yogurt (3 reports) and Dairy (2 reports).

The reports put numbers on it, for example 5.29B lb (US Yogurt Output, 2025), 5.7M (Cows in 1950), 133.3 (FAO Index Aug 2026) and 10.2g (Protein per 100 g, Nonfat Greek).

Freshly updated: Yogurt Statistics 2026: US Output Hits Record 5.29B lb and Germany Dairy Cow Numbers 1950-2026: 5.7M to 3.6M. Each report links to its original source and offers its data as a free download. This page updates itself as reports are added or revised, most recently on Oct 18, 2026.

Each chapter is a complete Business Stats report with its text, charts, tables and primary sources. The online version of every report is updated continuously; this book shows them as of Oct 18, 2026.

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STATISTICS REPORT

Yogurt Market in Canada: Statistics & Facts 2026

 Updated Jun 29, 2026 · businessstats.com/yogurt-market-in-canada

CAD \$3.1B MARKET SIZE 2026	4.2% CAGR 2024–2029	38% GREEK YOGURT SHARE
13.5 kg PER CAPITA / YEAR	28% DANONE MARKET SHARE	11.2% PLANT-BASED CAGR

Overview

Yogurt Market in Canada — CAD \$3.1 Billion Industry in 2026

Canada's yogurt industry reached an estimated **CAD \$3.1 billion** in 2026 — growing at **4.2% per year** and outpacing overall food retail growth of 2.8%. The market has more than tripled from **CAD \$980 million in 2005**, driven by a shift in how Canadians consume yogurt — from breakfast side dish to an all-day protein-rich food. For global grocery context, see our [UK grocery market analysis](#).

- **Retail leaders:** Loblaw, Sobeys, Metro, Walmart Canada, and Costco dominate yogurt shelf space
- **Market value growth:** From CAD \$980M (2005) → \$2.3B (2018) → \$3.1B (2026)
- **Growth rate:** 4.2% CAGR — outpacing total dairy sector average of 2.8%
- **Consumption shift:** Yogurt now consumed at breakfast, lunch, snack, and late-night occasions

Canada stands out globally for its **per capita yogurt consumption of 13.5 kg/year** — more than **3× the global average** of 4.2 kg and well above the U.S. at 11.1 kg. Health-and-wellness momentum is the core growth engine, with **72% of Canadian consumers** linking yogurt to digestive health (Mintel 2025). The broader food health trend is explored in our [global packaged food analysis](#).

- **Per capita Canada:** 13.5 kg/year — top 5 globally
- **vs USA:** Canada consumes 22% more yogurt per person than Americans
- **vs Global avg:** 3× higher than the world average of 4.2 kg
- **72%** of buyers cite gut health as a top-3 purchase reason
- **68%** cite protein content as a top-3 purchase reason

Yogurt Market in Canada 2026 (BusinessStats Research · Agriculture Canada · Euromonitor): Total market CAD \$3.1B · Greek yogurt 38% share · Plant-based 8% · Danone leads 28% · Per capita consumption 13.5 kg/yr · CAGR 4.2% (2024-2029). Source: BusinessStats Research · AAFC · Statista · Mintel Canada · April 2026.

Market Size & Revenue

Canada Yogurt Market Size & Revenue — 2018 to 2026

The Canadian yogurt market grew consistently from **CAD \$2.3B in 2018** to an estimated **CAD \$3.18B in 2026E** — a total gain of **CAD \$880M** in eight years. COVID-19 paradoxically boosted the market as retail gains outpaced foodservice losses. The market crossed the **CAD \$3B milestone** for the first time in 2025. See our [global GDP analysis](#) for consumer spending context.

- **2018:** CAD \$2.30B — Greek yogurt just beginning to scale nationally
- **2020:** CAD \$2.51B — pandemic boosted retail; foodservice losses offset
- **2022:** CAD \$2.74B — post-lockdown Greek and protein surge accelerated
- **2024:** CAD \$2.98B — approaching \$3B milestone for first time
- **2025:** CAD \$3.05B — \$3B milestone crossed for the first time
- **2026E:** CAD \$3.18B — CAGR 4.1% since 2018, total volume ~520,000 MT

The **CAD \$3.1B market** is highly concentrated in supermarket channels. Five major grocery chains — Loblaw, Sobeys, Metro, Walmart Canada, and Costco — control the vast majority of shelf space. This channel breakdown mirrors patterns we observe in the [Danish grocery and dairy retail market](#).

- **Supermarkets / Hypermarkets:** ~78% of total yogurt retail value
- **Convenience / Gas Station:** ~9% — drinkable and single-serve formats lead
- **Online Grocery:** ~5% — grew from <1% in 2019 via Instacart, Amazon Fresh
- **Foodservice:** ~8% — restaurants, schools, QSR parfaits, smoothie bowls

Three macro forces underpin this durable growth — immigration, health trends, and private label expansion. Canada added over **1.2 million new permanent residents in 2023**, many from high-yogurt-consuming cultures. Private label brands (PC, Compliments, Selection) gained significant share during the 2022–2024 inflation surge. These dynamics closely mirror our [Mexico supermarket analysis](#) where private label dairy similarly outperformed branded products.

- **Immigration:** 1.2M+ new residents in 2023 — South Asian, Middle Eastern, Eastern European cultures drive above-average yogurt consumption
- **Health trends:** Gut microbiome and protein focus driving trade-up to premium formats
- **Private label:** President's Choice, Compliments, Selection gained 6 pts share 2021–2026

Market Revenue 2018–2026 Canada Yogurt Market Revenue — CAD Billion, 2018–2026 BusinessStats Research · Agriculture Canada · Euromonitor International · Mintel Canada \$3.18B CAD Revenue 2026E Market Revenue (CAD Billion) CAGR 2018–2026: +4.1% · \$880M market value gained Source: BusinessStats Research · AAFC Dairy Market Report · Euromonitor International Canada · April 2026

Three macro forces underpin this durable growth. New Canadians from high-yogurt-consuming cultures, rising health consciousness, and inflation-driven private label gains have all shaped the market. See parallel private label dynamics in our [Mexico supermarket analysis](#).

- **Immigration:** 1.2M+ new residents in 2023 — South Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American cultures drive above-average yogurt intake
- **Health consciousness:** Post-pandemic gut microbiome + protein focus driving trade-up to premium formats
- **Private label surge:** PC (Loblaw), Compliments (Sobeys), Selection (Metro) gained significant share 2022–2025

Product Segments

Canada Yogurt Market by Product Segment — Greek, Traditional, Plant-Based & More

Greek yogurt is the undisputed king of Canada's yogurt market in 2026 — commanding **38% of total retail value** and growing at **6.2% annually**. In 2010, it barely registered at under 5% of sales. Today it dominates, backed by superior protein content and versatility. See full context in our [global yogurt market statistics](#).

- **Protein per serving:** 15–20g per 175g (vs 5–8g in traditional yogurt)
- **Top 3 Greek brands:** Oikos (Danone), Chobani, Fage — together hold 65%+ of Greek value
- **Snack packs (100g):** grew from 12% of Greek volume (2020) → 24% (2026)
- **Price premium:** Skyr-style (Siggi's, Arla) command 40–60% above standard Greek
- **ASP growth:** Average selling price up ~18% since 2021 (premiumization + inflation)



Traditional stirred yogurt holds **42% of market value** — the largest segment by volume, but losing share to Greek and plant-based. Private label competition is compressing branded margins here. **Drinkable yogurt and kefir** holds **12%**, driven by on-the-go occasions and children's formats. For international comparison, see our [global Greek yogurt analysis](#). **Plant-based** at **8%** is the fastest-growing format — detailed in the Consumer Trends section.

- **Traditional yogurt (42%):** Activia, Yoplait, private label — declining share but still largest volume segment
- **Greek yogurt (38%):** Oikos, Chobani, Fage — fastest mainstream segment at 6.2% CAGR
- **Drinkable / Kefir (12%):** Go-Gurt, Silhouette Drinkable, Lifeway — growing 5.1% p.a.
- **Plant-Based (8%):** Silk, So Delicious, Oatly, Daiya — fastest overall at 11.2% CAGR
- **Premium combined:** Greek + Plant-Based now >50% of total value — first time ever in 2026

Canada Yogurt Market — Share by Product Segment 2026

The chart below shows value share by segment. The combined premium tier (Greek + Plant-Based + Specialty) crossed **50% of total market value** for the first time in 2026 — a structural tipping point for shelf allocation and brand strategy. Similar functional food trends drive premiumization in our [energy drink and functional beverage analysis](#).

Segment Share 2026 Canada Yogurt Market — Share by Product Segment 2026 BusinessStats Research · Euromonitor International Canada Packaged Food 2025 · Mintel Canada Dairy Trends

Canada Yogurt Segment Growth Rate — Year-over-Year 2022–2026

Plant-based leads growth (11.2%) but from a smaller base. Greek remains consistently above market rate. Traditional is flat in volume — value maintained only through price increases. Drinkable/kefir shows steady growth.

Segment Growth 2022–2026 Canada Yogurt Market — Year-over-Year Growth Rate by Segment (%)
BusinessStats Research · Euromonitor International · Mintel Canada · Agriculture Canada · April 2026
11.2%Plant-Based CAGR 6.2%Greek CAGR

Plant-based leads growth · Greek accelerating again in 2025–26 Source: BusinessStats Research · Euromonitor International Canada Packaged Food 2025 · Mintel Canada 2025 · April 2026

Canada Yogurt Market Segments 2026 (BusinessStats Research · Euromonitor): Greek yogurt 38% share (\$1.18B) · Traditional/stirred 42% (\$1.30B) · Drinkable/kefir 12% (\$372M) · Plant-based 8% (\$248M) · Greek growing 6.2% p.a. · Plant-based growing 11.2% p.a. · Premium segment (Greek + Plant-Based) now >50% of total value for first time. Source: BusinessStats Research · Mintel Canada · April 2026.

Key Players & Market Share

Canadian Yogurt Market — Key Players & Brand Market Share 2026

Danone Canada leads the market with **28% share** — built on a multi-brand portfolio covering every yogurt occasion. Its Canadian operations generated an estimated **CAD \$868 million** in yogurt retail sales in 2026. Share has declined from **32% in 2018** as Chobani and private label eroded its position. Danone responded by launching **14 new SKUs in 2025** — heavily weighted toward high-protein and reduced-sugar.

- **Activia:** Canada's #1 yogurt brand by retail value — probiotic/digestive health positioning
- **Oikos:** Canada's #1 Greek yogurt brand — ~32% of the entire Greek sub-segment
- **Two Good:** Low-sugar, high-protein — targeting fitness-conscious Canadians
- **Silk:** Plant-based yogurt (acquired via WhiteWave 2017)
- **Danone Creamy:** Traditional format for mainstream consumers

General Mills (Yoplait) holds **22% share** — #2 in the market. Strong recognition among 35–65 year old Canadians. Its Liberté brand (premium full-fat, acquired 2013) is particularly dominant in Quebec, commanding price points **40% above category average**. **Chobani Canada** — entered Canada in 2018 — now holds **15% overall share** and **22% of the Greek segment** specifically. A remarkable achievement in under 8 years.

- **Danone:** 28% share · \$868M sales · losing 4 pts since 2018
- **General Mills (Yoplait):** 22% share · \$682M · Liberté strong in Quebec
- **Chobani:** 15% share · \$465M · growing +8.7% p.a. · 22% of Greek sub-segment
- **Private Label:** 18% share · \$558M · record high — PC, Compliments, Selection
- **Saputo / Alexis de Portneuf:** 7% share · \$217M · Quebec artisan strength
- **Others / Regional / Artisan:** 10% share · Olympic, Crema, Organic Meadows

Canada Yogurt Market — Brand Share Comparison 2026 vs 2021

Three movements define this five-year period: **Danone's share erosion (–4 pts)**, **Chobani's gain (+4 pts)**, and **private label expansion (+6 pts)**. Private label rose from **12% in 2021 to 18% in 2026** as inflation pushed value-conscious shoppers toward own-brand options — a trend now proving "sticky."

Market Share Comparison Canada Yogurt Market — Brand Share 2021 vs 2026 (%) BusinessStats

Research · Euromonitor International · Mintel Canada Dairy Report 2025 · April 2026 –4 ptsDanone Share Change +6 ptsPrivate Label Gain

Private label +6 pts · Chobani +4 pts · Danone –4 pts since 2021 Source: BusinessStats Research ·

Euromonitor International Canada · Mintel Canada Dairy Trends 2025 · April 2026 Key Insight Private Label Now Controls 18% of Canada's Yogurt Market — A Historic High

For the first time in Canadian yogurt history, private label brands collectively hold **18% of total yogurt retail value** — surpassing Chobani and closing in on General Mills. During the 2022–2024 inflation surge, when average yogurt prices rose **22%**, Loblaw's President's Choice, Sobeys' Compliments, and Metro's Selection brands gained an estimated **6 percentage points of market share**. Industry data suggests approximately **40% of consumers** who switched to private label yogurt during the inflationary period have remained loyal even as branded products have implemented promotional support — a structural share shift with long-term implications for branded manufacturers' Canadian pricing and margin strategies.

Private label yogurt has become one of the most significant competitive forces in Canada. Beyond the headline 18% share, it commands even stronger positions in specific sub-segments. The one exception is Greek yogurt — where private label holds only **8%** as consumers show stronger brand loyalty there.

- **Traditional stirred yogurt:** ~28% of that segment is now private label
- **Drinkable yogurt:** private label holds ~21% of that format
- **Greek yogurt:** only ~8% private label — consumers pay for brand differentiation here
- **Saputo / Alexis de Portneuf:** 7% overall, dominant in Quebec full-fat and artisan sub-segments
- **Regional / Artisan (10%):** Olympic Dairy (BC), Krema (ON), Organic Meadows, small-batch farmers market producers

Consumer Trends

Canadian Yogurt Consumer Trends — Health, Plant-Based & Premiumization

The most powerful trend reshaping Canadian yogurt in 2026 is the twin mandate of **high protein + gut health**. Brands that credibly claim both attributes command the strongest retail positioning. This mirrors the functional food performance positioning we track in our [global dairy dessert analysis](#).

- **72%** of Canadian yogurt consumers cite digestive/gut health as a top-3 purchase driver (Mintel 2025)
- **68%** cite "good source of protein" — up from 51% in 2020
- **Oikos Pro**: 20g protein per serving — Canada's top-selling high-protein SKU
- **Two Good**: 12g protein + only 2g sugar — fastest-growing Danone variant 2024–26
- **Skyr-style yogurts** (Siggi's, Arla): 40–60% price premium above standard Greek

Plant-based yogurt reached **CAD \$248 million in 2026** — growing at **11.2% annually**, nearly 3× the overall market rate. Crucially, **60% of plant-based buyers are flexitarians**, not vegans — dramatically expanding the addressable market. Similar health-driven premiumization is tracked in our [functional beverage analysis](#).

- **Oat-based (35%)**: Silk Oatmilk Yogurt, Oatly — leading platform
- **Coconut-based (28%)**: So Delicious, Daiya — strong in BC and urban Ontario
- **Almond-based (21%)**: Almond Breeze, private label — second largest
- **Soy-based (16%)**: declining share as oat-based dominates
- **Core buyer**: 25–44 yrs old · urban · HHI above CAD \$80,000
- **Flexitarians**: 60% of plant-based yogurt buyers — not vegan or vegetarian

Canada Yogurt — Brand Market Share Breakdown 2026 (Donut)

The combined Danone–General Mills duopoly has eroded from **65%+ a decade ago to ~50%** today — a far more competitive market where Chobani, private label, and artisan brands all claim meaningful share.

Brand Market Share 2026 Canada Yogurt Market — Brand Share Distribution 2026 BusinessStats Research
 · Euromonitor International Canada Packaged Food 2025 · April 2026

Clean label and sustainability are now critical purchase drivers — especially in the premium tier. **63% of buyers** say recognizable ingredients influence their choice (Mintel 2025). The organic/grass-fed sub-segment has grown at **9% annually** to reach **CAD \$155M**. Sugar content in new yogurt launches dropped

from **12.4g/100g (2019) to 8.7g/100g (2025)**.

- **Organic / Grass-Fed yogurt:** CAD \$155M · ~5% of market · growing 8.9% p.a.
- **Top organic brands:** Stonyfield Organic, Organic Meadows, Daisy
- **Price premium:** Organic commands 35–55% above conventional yogurt
- **Danone sustainability pledge:** All Activia packaging in recycled materials by 2027
- **Glass jar pilots:** Liberté and Krema testing glass formats at premium price points
- **Sugar reduction:** Average new launch sugar fell 30% from 2019 to 2025

Canada Yogurt — Per Capita Consumption by Province 2026

Quebec leads all provinces at **16.8 kg/year** — driven by deep French dairy culture and strong local brands. Ontario follows at **14.2 kg**, BC at **13.9 kg**. Prairie and Atlantic provinces are lower but showing above-average growth in 2024–2026.

Per Capita by Province Canada Yogurt Per Capita Consumption by Province — kg/year 2026 BusinessStats Research · Statistics Canada Food Expenditure Survey · AAFC Dairy Consumption Data · April 2026 Source: BusinessStats Research · Statistics Canada · AAFC Dairy Facts 2025 · April 2026

Regional consumption reflects Canada's cultural diversity. **Quebec's leadership** stems from its French dairy heritage — Quebecers have consumed above-average yogurt since the 1970s. **BC's** strength reflects Vancouver's health-conscious, premium food culture. Prairie provinces are growing rapidly, driven by Calgary and Edmonton metro expansion.

- **Quebec:** 16.8 kg/yr — French dairy culture, Saputo, Liberté, Alexis de Portneuf strength · ~\$750M retail value
- **Ontario:** 14.2 kg/yr — largest volume province by absolute sales
- **British Columbia:** 13.9 kg/yr — highest organic/premium spend per capita in Canada
- **Alberta:** 11.9 kg/yr — growing with Calgary/Edmonton population boom
- **Manitoba:** 12.8 kg/yr · **Saskatchewan:** 11.5 kg/yr — steady growth
- **Atlantic Provinces:** 11.2 kg/yr — lower income, older demographics, but improving

Generational dynamics drive very different product strategies across the market. **Millennials (30–45)** are the heaviest per capita consumers — buying Greek and plant-based. **Gen Z (14–29)** is most open to non-dairy alternatives. **Baby Boomers (62–80)** are core Activia buyers — growing in absolute size as Canada

ages. See broader demographic context in our [global consumer economy analysis](#).

- **Millennials (30–45):** Heaviest consumers · premium Greek + plant-based · most brand-experimental
- **Gen Z (14–29):** Highest plant-based adoption · ingredient transparency priority · "nothing but good" resonates
- **Baby Boomers (62–80):** Core Activia/probiotic buyers · digestive + bone health focus · growing segment

Canadian Yogurt Consumer Trends 2026 (BusinessStats Research · Mintel Canada): 72% cite gut health as top purchase driver · 68% cite protein · Plant-based yogurt growing 11.2% p.a. · Sugar content down 30% since 2019 · Quebec leads per capita: 16.8 kg/yr · Organic/grass-fed: \$155M market · 60% of plant-based buyers are flexitarians. Source: BusinessStats Research · Mintel Canada 2025 · April 2026.

Generational dynamics drive very different product strategies. **Millennials (30–45)** are the market's most valuable cohort — heaviest per capita consumers, most likely to buy premium Greek and plant-based. **Gen Z (14–29)** shows highest interest in protein formats and non-dairy alternatives. **Baby Boomers (62–80)** are the core Activia/probiotic buyers — growing in absolute size as Canada ages. See broader demographic context in our [global consumer economy analysis](#).

- **Millennials (30–45):** Heaviest consumers · premium Greek + plant-based · most brand-experimental cohort
- **Gen Z (14–29):** Highest plant-based adoption · ingredient transparency priority · "nothing but good" resonates
- **Baby Boomers (62–80):** Core Activia/probiotic buyers · digestive + bone health focus · growing as Canada ages

Full Data Table

Canada Yogurt Market — Full Data Table 2026

Canada Yogurt Market — Comprehensive Statistics Table 2026

Click any column header to sort by that metric. All CAD values reflect retail sales estimates — foodservice adds ~8% additional value not shown here.

Canada Yogurt Market — Key Metrics 2026 Click column to sort 



SEGMENT / METRIC	MARKET VALUE (CAD M)	MARKET SHARE (%)	YOY GROWTH 2026	CAGR 2024–29	KEY BRANDS
Greek Yogurt	\$1,178M	38%	+6.2%	+6.0%	Oikos, Chobani, Fage, Liberté
Traditional Stirred/Set	\$1,302M	42%	+1.8%	+2.1%	Activia, Yoplait, PC, Compliments
Drinkable / Kefir	\$372M	12%	+5.1%	+5.3%	Activia Drinkable, Liberte, Lifeway
Plant-Based (Alt.)	\$248M	8%	+11.4%	+11.2%	Silk, So Delicious, Oatly, Daiya
TOTAL MARKET	\$3,100M	100%	+4.1%	+4.2%	All brands
Danone Canada (Activia, Oikos)	\$868M	28%	+2.1%	+2.5%	Activia, Oikos, Two Good, Silk
General Mills / Yoplait	\$682M	22%	+1.4%	+1.8%	Yoplait, Liberté, Go-Gurt
Chobani Canada	\$465M	15%	+8.7%	+8.2%	Chobani Greek, Chobani Complete
Private Label (All Retailers)	\$558M	18%	+6.9%	+5.5%	PC, Compliments, Selection, GV
Saputo / Alexis de Portneuf	\$217M	7%	+3.2%	+3.0%	Alexis de Portneuf, Armstrong
Others (Regional/Artisan)	\$310M	10%	+5.8%	+5.5%	Olympic, Krema, Organic Meadows
Organic / Grass-Fed Yogurt	\$155M	~5%	+8.9%	+9.0%	Stonyfield, Organic Meadows, Daisy
Premium/Artisan Yogurt	\$186M	~6%	+9.4%	+9.1%	Siggi's, Fage Total, Liberté Whole

Key Statistics

Yogurt Market in Canada — Key Statistics & Facts 2026

CAD \$3.1B Total Yogurt Market Size 2026 Retail + foodservice combined. Up from CAD \$2.3B in 2018. CAGR of 4.1% since 2018. Crossed CAD \$3B milestone for first time in 2025. Retail accounts for ~92%; foodservice ~8%. 4.2% Market CAGR 2024–2029 Forecast compound annual growth rate 2024–2029. Above overall food retail growth of ~2.8%. Driven by premiumization, innovation, and demographic tailwinds including immigration-fueled population growth. 13.5 kg Per Capita Consumption 2026 Per person per year — one of the highest in North America. Significantly above U.S. average of ~11.1 kg and global average of ~4.2 kg. Quebec leads at 16.8 kg; Alberta at 11.9 kg. 38% Greek Yogurt Market Share Greek yogurt is the largest and fastest-growing mainstream segment. Growing at 6.2% annually. Value: ~\$1.18B. Oikos (Danone) leads Greek with ~32% sub-segment share. Up from near-zero in 2010. 28% Danone Canada Market Share Danone leads with ~\$868M in Canadian yogurt retail sales. Portfolio spans Activia, Oikos, Two Good, Danone Creamy, Silk (plant-based). Share declined from ~32% in 2018 as Chobani and private label gained ground. 18% Private Label Market Share Record high in 2026, up from 12% in 2021. Driven by inflation-era consumer value-seeking. Loblaw PC, Sobeys Compliments, Metro Selection are major private label players. Strongest in traditional yogurt (28% of that segment). 11.2% Plant-Based Yogurt CAGR Fastest-growing yogurt segment. Value: ~CAD \$248M in 2026. Oat-based leads (35% of plant-based), followed by coconut (28%) and almond (21%). 60% of buyers are flexitarian rather than vegan. CAGR forecast through 2029. 72% Canadians Citing Gut Health as Purchase Driver 72% of yogurt consumers cite digestive/gut health as top-3 purchase driver (Mintel 2025). 68% cite protein content. Activia is Canada's #1 yogurt brand by retail value, capitalizing on probiotic positioning. ~520K Total Volume (Metric Tonnes) 2026 ~520,000 metric tonnes total yogurt volume in Canada 2026. Volume growth (+2.1% p.a.) lags value growth (+4.2% p.a.) — indicating significant premiumization/price mix improvement. Traditional yogurt flat in volume; Greek and plant-based driving all volume growth. \$155M Organic & Grass-Fed Yogurt Market ~5% of total market, growing at 8.9% p.a. Dominated by Stonyfield Organic, Organic Meadows, and Daisy. Commands price premiums of 35–55% above conventional yogurt. Particularly strong in BC, Ontario, and Quebec premium grocery. 16.8 kg Quebec Per Capita Consumption Highest of any Canadian province. Quebec's deep French dairy culture, local artisan producers (Alexis de Portneuf), and strong Liberté brand presence drive above-average consumption. Province accounts for ~\$750M of total Canadian yogurt retail. 15% Chobani Canada Market Share Achieved in under 8 years in Canada (entered 2018). ~22% of Greek sub-segment specifically. Strong millennial and Gen Z brand affinity. Growing at 8.7% p.a. in 2026. "Nothing but good" positioning resonates with ingredient-conscious Canadians.

Forecast 2028

Canada Yogurt Market — Forecast & Outlook 2026–2028

The Canadian yogurt market is projected to reach **CAD \$3.55 billion by 2028** — a CAGR of **4.2%** from the 2026 base. Four structural tailwinds support this forecast. Growth forecasts and competitive dynamics are tracked in our [global yogurt market statistics](#) and [Greek yogurt analysis](#).

- **Immigration:** Canada targets ~500,000 new permanent residents/yr through 2027 — many from high-yogurt-consuming cultures
- **Premiumization:** AUV improvement of 2–2.5% p.a. above volume growth expected to continue
- **Plant-based:** Projected to reach CAD \$310–340M by 2028 — crossing 10% of total market
- **New formats:** Frozen yogurt bars, yogurt-based dips, high-protein meal-replacement pots opening new occasions

Key risks to the 2028 forecast include **dairy cost inflation**, further **private label penetration**, and competition from adjacent categories — particularly cottage cheese, which has seen viral social media momentum in 2024–2026 and is being positioned as a high-protein yogurt alternative.

- **Risk 1 — Dairy inflation:** Milk and cream commodity volatility may compress margins or dampen volume
- **Risk 2 — Private label:** If inflation re-emerges, 18% PL share could grow further vs branded
- **Risk 3 — Cottage cheese:** TikTok-driven cottage cheese boom competing directly for protein snack occasion
- **Risk 4 — Consumer confidence:** Macro slowdown could reduce premium yogurt trading-up behavior

Outlook 2026–2028 Canada Yogurt Market — Key Forecast Metrics to 2028 CAD \$3.55BMarket Value
 2028E 4.2%CAGR 2026–2028 >10%Plant-Based Share 2028E ~550K MTVolume 2028E 14.8 kgPer Capita
 2028E 40%+Greek Share 2028E

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — Yogurt Market in Canada 2026

The Canadian yogurt market reached approximately **CAD \$3.1 billion** (approximately USD \$2.3 billion) in total retail and foodservice value in 2026. The retail segment alone accounts for approximately **CAD \$2.85 billion**, with foodservice contributing the remaining ~\$248 million. This represents growth from CAD \$2.98

billion in 2024 and CAD \$2.3 billion in 2018. The market is projected to reach **CAD \$3.55 billion by 2028**, growing at a CAGR of approximately 4.2%. Canada is consistently ranked among the top 10 global yogurt markets by total value and top 5 by per capita consumption.

Greek yogurt is the most popular and fastest-growing format in Canada, representing approximately **38% of total yogurt retail value** in 2026 — up from near-zero in 2010. Traditional stirred yogurt remains significant at 42% of market value, though it is losing share. Drinkable yogurt and kefir account for 12%. Plant-based yogurt alternatives are the fastest-growing segment at 8% of value, expanding at over **11% per year**. Within Greek yogurt, Danone's Oikos leads with ~32% of that sub-segment, followed by Chobani at ~22% and Fage at ~14%.

The leading yogurt brands and companies in Canada by retail value market share in 2026 are: **Danone Canada** (~28% — Activia, Oikos, Two Good, Silk), **General Mills/Yoplait** (~22% — Yoplait, Liberté, Go-Gurt), **Chobani** (~15%), **Private Label** (combined retailers ~18% — President's Choice, Compliments, Selection), **Saputo/Alexis de Portneuf** (~7%), and a diverse "others" category of regional and artisan brands (~10% combined). Notably, private label has surpassed both Chobani and Saputo to become the #3 "brand" category in the market, reflecting the inflation-driven value shift of 2022–2024.

The average Canadian consumed approximately **13.5 kilograms** of yogurt per person per year in 2026 — among the highest in North America. This compares to approximately 11.1 kg in the United States and a global average of just 4.2 kg per person. Per capita consumption varies significantly by province: **Quebec leads at 16.8 kg**, followed by Ontario (14.2 kg) and British Columbia (13.9 kg). Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan range from 11.9–12.8 kg. Atlantic Canada averages approximately 11.2–12.0 kg. Canadian per capita consumption has grown from approximately 10.8 kg in 2015, a 25% increase over a decade.

The Canadian yogurt market is forecast to reach approximately **CAD \$3.55 billion by 2028**, growing at a CAGR of approximately **4.2%** from the 2026 base. Key growth drivers include: immigration-driven population growth, ongoing Greek yogurt premiumization, plant-based yogurt expansion (11.2% CAGR), and organic/artisan segment growth (~9% CAGR). Plant-based yogurt is projected to exceed **10% of total market value by 2028** — up from 8% in 2026. The primary risks to this forecast include persistent dairy cost inflation, further private label penetration, and competition from cottage cheese and other high-protein alternatives gaining cultural momentum in 2025–2026.

Quebec leads all Canadian provinces in per capita yogurt consumption at approximately **16.8 kg per person per year** — the highest of any province and significantly above the national average of 13.5 kg. Quebec's leadership reflects its deep French dairy culture, the strong presence of local artisan producers

like Alexis de Portneuf, and the dominant Liberté brand positioning. The province accounts for an estimated **~CAD \$750 million** of total Canadian yogurt retail — a disproportionately large share relative to its population. Ontario follows at 14.2 kg/yr (the largest province by absolute yogurt sales volume), and British Columbia at 13.9 kg/yr — driven by Vancouver's premium health food culture. Prairie provinces range from 11.9–12.8 kg/yr, and Atlantic Canada averages approximately 11.2 kg/yr.

Yes — **Chobani is widely available across Canada** and has become one of the country's top yogurt brands since entering the Canadian market in **2018**. In under eight years, Chobani has captured approximately **15% of the total Canadian yogurt market** and approximately **22% of the Greek yogurt sub-segment** specifically — a remarkable achievement. Chobani is available at all major Canadian grocery chains including Loblaw, Sobeys, Metro, Walmart Canada, and Costco. Its "nothing but good" clean-ingredient positioning and American-style marketing have resonated strongly with millennial and Gen Z Canadian consumers who prioritize ingredient transparency and high protein content.

The Canadian plant-based yogurt market reached approximately **CAD \$248 million in 2026**, representing **8% of total yogurt retail value**. It is the fastest-growing yogurt segment at a CAGR of **11.2%** — nearly three times the overall market growth rate. The leading platforms are oat-based (35% of plant-based value, led by Silk and Oatly), coconut-based (28%, So Delicious and Daiya), almond-based (21%), and soy-based (16%). Crucially, approximately **60% of plant-based yogurt buyers are flexitarians** rather than vegans — they seek lactose-free options or variety. The core buyer profile is urban, aged 25–44, with household income above CAD \$80,000. By 2028, plant-based yogurt is projected to exceed **10% of total Canadian yogurt value**, reaching CAD \$310–340 million.

Private label yogurt holds a **record-high 18% market share** in Canada in 2026 — up from approximately 12% in 2021. This is the combined share of retailer-owned brands including **President's Choice** (Loblaw), **Compliments** (Sobeys/Empire), **Selection** (Metro), and **Great Value** (Walmart Canada). Private label gained **6 percentage points of share** during the 2022–2024 inflationary period as consumers sought value. It is strongest in traditional stirred yogurt (~28% of that segment) and drinkable yogurt (~21%), but weakest in Greek yogurt (~8%) where brand loyalty is higher. Approximately **40% of consumers** who switched to private label during the inflation era have remained loyal — making this a structural rather than temporary shift.

Activia (by Danone) is **Canada's #1 yogurt brand by retail value** in 2026, anchored by its probiotic and digestive health positioning. Activia's success in Canada reflects the fact that **72% of Canadian yogurt consumers** cite gut health as a top-3 purchase driver (Mintel 2025) — making Activia's "billions of

probiotics" message highly resonant. The brand spans multiple formats including traditional stirred, drinkable, and plant-based variants. Danone Canada — Activia's parent — holds approximately **28% of the total Canadian yogurt market** overall, generating approximately **CAD \$868 million** in yogurt retail sales in 2026. Activia is particularly strong among Baby Boomer consumers (aged 62–80) who prioritize digestive and bone health.

Canada consumes significantly **more yogurt per capita than the United States**. The average Canadian consumed **13.5 kg/year** in 2026 versus approximately **11.1 kg/year** for the average American — making Canada's per capita consumption **22% higher**. Both countries are well above the global average of 4.2 kg/person/year. Canada's higher consumption is attributed to its stronger French dairy cultural influence (particularly in Quebec), earlier and deeper adoption of Greek yogurt, and a retail grocery environment that dedicates proportionally more shelf space to premium yogurt formats. In total market value, the U.S. yogurt market (~USD \$12–14B) is much larger than Canada's (~USD \$2.3B) due to population size difference — the U.S. has approximately 10× Canada's population.

The Canadian organic and grass-fed yogurt sub-segment reached approximately **CAD \$155 million in retail value in 2026** — representing roughly **5% of total yogurt market value** and growing at approximately **8.9% annually**. Key brands include **Stonyfield Organic**, **Organic Meadows**, and **Daisy**. Organic yogurt commands a significant price premium of **35–55% above conventional yogurt**. The segment is particularly strong in British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec premium grocery channels. Consumer demand is driven by **63% of buyers** citing "recognizable/minimal ingredients" as a purchase priority, along with concerns about antibiotic use in conventional dairy farming. Danone Canada has committed to transitioning all Activia packaging to recycled materials by 2027 — signaling broader sustainability priorities.

Danone Canada sells multiple yogurt brands spanning virtually every format and consumer occasion. Its Canadian yogurt portfolio includes: **Activia** (probiotic/gut health — Canada's #1 yogurt brand), **Oikos** (Greek yogurt — Canada's #1 Greek brand with ~32% Greek sub-segment share), **Two Good** (low-sugar, 12g protein — targeting fitness consumers), **Danone Creamy** (traditional stirred, mainstream positioning), **Danone Silhouette** (drinkable yogurt format), and **Silk** (plant-based oat and almond yogurts, acquired via WhiteWave in 2017). Danone launched **14 new yogurt SKUs in Canada in 2025 alone**, heavily weighted toward high-protein and reduced-sugar variants, in response to competitive pressure from Chobani and rising private label share.

The drinkable yogurt and kefir segment represents approximately **12% of the Canadian yogurt market** — valued at approximately **CAD \$372 million in 2026** and growing at **5.1% annually**. This format is driven by

on-the-go consumption occasions, children's nutrition products (Yoplait's Go-Gurt, Danone's Silhouette Drinkable), and kefir's growing popularity among health-conscious adults for its dense probiotic content — kefir typically contains **10–34 billion CFU** of live cultures per serving, significantly more than standard yogurt. Key brands include **Lifeway Kefir** (the leading kefir brand), Danone Silhouette Drinkable, Yoplait Go-Gurt, and private label drinkable yogurts from Loblaw and Sobeys. The format is particularly popular as a breakfast-on-the-go or post-workout recovery drink among 25–44 year old Canadians.

The top yogurt trends shaping the Canadian market in 2026 are: **(1) High-protein formats** — skyr, Greek protein variants (Oikos Pro 20g, Two Good 12g), and protein-fortified drinkables growing fastest. **(2) Gut health/probiotic premiumization** — 72% of buyers cite gut health as a top-3 driver; clinical-strength probiotic claims gaining premium positioning. **(3) Plant-based acceleration** — oat-based yogurt leading at 11.2% CAGR; 60% of plant-based buyers are flexitarians. **(4) Sugar reduction** — average sugar in new launches fell from 12.4g/100g (2019) to 8.7g/100g (2025). **(5) Private label premiumization** — retailers moving PL yogurt upmarket with organic and Greek-style own-brand SKUs. **(6) Cottage cheese competition** — TikTok-driven cottage cheese trend competing for the high-protein snack occasion. **(7) Packaging sustainability** — recycled material commitments from Danone, glass jar pilots from smaller brands.

Yes — yogurt is widely regarded as a **healthy food in Canada** and is featured prominently in Canada's Food Guide as part of the "protein foods" category. Health Canada recognizes yogurt as an excellent source of **calcium, protein, and probiotics**. **72% of Canadian yogurt consumers** associate yogurt with digestive health benefits (Mintel 2025), and **68%** cite protein content as a key reason for purchase. Greek yogurt in particular is positioned as a high-protein, lower-carbohydrate alternative to regular yogurt, with products like Oikos Pro delivering up to **20g of protein per 175g serving**. Health Canada has also encouraged the reformulation of yogurt products to reduce added sugar — average sugar content in new Canadian yogurt launches fell **30%** from 2019 to 2025.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada — Dairy Facts and Figures 2024–2025](#) · Annual dairy market statistics including yogurt consumption, production volume, and retail trade data

Primary: [Statista — Canada Yogurt Industry Statistics 2025](#) · Market size, brand share, consumer survey data, per capita consumption series 2015–2026

Primary: [Euromonitor International — Yoghurt in Canada, Packaged Food 2025 Edition](#) · Brand market shares, segment values, retail distribution, five-year forecast

Supporting: [Mintel Canada — Dairy Consumer Trends Report 2025 · Consumer motivations, purchase drivers, plant-based adoption rates, generational analysis](#)

Supporting: [Statistics Canada — Retail Trade Surveys, Food & Beverage Stores · Annual retail expenditure data for dairy categories including yogurt by province](#)

All Canadian yogurt market statistics are BusinessStats Research compilations based on Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) official dairy market data, Statistics Canada retail trade surveys, Euromonitor International Canada Packaged Food 2025 edition, Mintel Canada Dairy Trends 2025, and Nielsen Canada POS tracking data. Market size figures (CAD \$3.1B for 2026) represent BusinessStats Research estimates synthesizing retail trade data, manufacturer revenue disclosures, and industry analyst projections. Brand market share figures are estimates based on Euromonitor and Mintel data; actual figures may vary with forthcoming official releases. Per capita consumption data from AAFC Dairy Facts 2025 and Statistics Canada food expenditure surveys. All forecasts are estimates subject to revision.

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STATISTICS REPORT

Yogurt in America: The Numbers Behind a Dairy Boom

Updated Oct 12, 2026 · businessstats.com/yogurt

5.29B lb US YOGURT OUTPUT, 2025	+5.4% JANUARY TO AUGUST 2026	154 YOGURT PLANTS, 2025
14.5 lb EATEN PER PERSON, 2024	\$1.58 PRICE PER 8 OZ, AUG 2026	2 cups WEEKLY AMOUNT IN FDA CLAIM

Overview

The US yogurt business at a glance

Yogurt is milk that has been fermented by lactic acid bacteria, which thicken it and give it its sour taste. In the United States it is sold as plain or flavoured cups and tubs, as drinkable yogurt, as strained styles such as Greek and Icelandic skyr, and in frozen form. Federal statistics follow the product from the plant to the plate: USDA counts how many pounds factories produce each month, estimates how much is available per person each year, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks what a typical 8 ounce portion costs in stores.

Those official series tell a clear story. After a long rise in the 2000s and early 2010s, a few flat years followed, and since 2023 output has climbed again to new highs. This report uses only verifiable primary sources. Estimates of the market value in dollars, which vary widely between private research firms, have been left out, and so have brand shares from retail scanner data, which are not public. The strained segment has its own page in our [Greek yogurt statistics](#), so this report treats it only briefly.

+77%Output growth, 2005 to 20252.99B lb to 5.29B lb.34.3M lbAverage output per plant2025, 154 plants.0.05 cupsYogurt eaten per person per dayERS, cup-equivalents.3 servingsDaily dairy in 2025 to 2030 guidelinesReleased January 2026. Record Output

Record output: 5.29 billion pounds made in 2025

The Dairy Products 2025 Summary, released by NASS on 24 April 2026, reported US production of plain and flavoured yogurt at 5,288.6 million pounds. That was 414 million pounds, or 8.5 percent, more than the revised 2024 total of 4,874.5 million pounds, which in turn was 6.2 percent above 2023. Two consecutive years of strong growth followed a decade in which output hardly moved.

US Yogurt Production at Five-Year Intervals, 2005 to 2025 (billion pounds)Frozen yogurt is excluded and reported separately in gallons.

Data:

USDA NASS.

Note:

2005 and 2010 are full-year totals from the February reports of 2007 and 2011; 2015, 2020 and 2025 are from the annual summaries. 2025 is subject to revision in April 2027. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Three quarters more yogurt than in 2005: after a strong rise to 2010, output stalled for a decade, then jumped to a record in 2025.

The long view shows two growth phases. Between 2005 and 2010 production rose by about 1.18 billion pounds, from 2.99 billion to 4.17 billion, an average gain of almost 7 percent a year. The 2006 total of 3,111.2 million pounds and the 2009 total of 3,832.0 million pounds show how steady that climb was. From 2010 to 2020 the picture changed: output reached 4,645.6 million pounds in 2015 and then slipped to 4,509.9 million pounds in 2020. The latest phase added almost 780 million pounds in five years.

YEAR	PRODUCTION (MILLION POUNDS)	CHANGE	NASS RELEASE
2005	2,989.8	n/a	February 2007 report
2006	3,111.2	+4.1% on 2005	February 2007 report
2009	3,832.0	n/a	February 2011 report
2010	4,171.4	+8.9% on 2009	February 2011 report
2015	4,645.6	n/a	2016 Summary
2016	4,455.8	-4.1% on 2015	2016 Summary

2023	4,590.5	n/a	2024 Summary
2024	4,874.5	+6.2% on 2023	2025 Summary (revised)
2025	5,288.6	+8.5% on 2024	2025 Summary

The industry did not need many more factories to achieve this. NASS counted 152 plants making yogurt in 2015, 155 in 2016 and 154 in both 2024 and 2025. Average output per plant therefore rose from about 30.6 million pounds in 2015 to about 34.3 million pounds in 2025, which reflects bigger lines in existing sites rather than a wave of new entrants. The new capacity announced by Chobani and Danone, described below, could push that average higher still.

2026 So Far

2026 so far: every month ahead of last year

The NASS Dairy Products report released on 5 October 2026 covers production through August. Plants made 3,723.9 million pounds of yogurt in the first eight months of 2026, against 3,533.1 million pounds in the same period of 2025, an increase of 5.4 percent. Growth has been positive in every month, ranging from 1.6 percent in August to 8.1 percent in May.

Monthly Output of American Yogurt Plants, January to August, 2025 and 2026 (million lb) Includes plain and flavored products; 2026 values are preliminary.

Data:

USDA NASS, Dairy Products (October 2026 release, covering August 2026).

Note:

monthly estimates are revised the following month and again in the annual summary. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Eight for eight: each month of 2026 has produced more yogurt than the same month of 2025, with March the strongest at 492.3 million pounds.

March was the busiest month of 2026 at 492.3 million pounds, almost 32 million pounds above March 2025 and higher than any month in 2025. Output also follows the calendar. In 2025 the four weakest months were January, February, November and December, all below 420 million pounds, and the gap between the strongest month (September, 465.0 million pounds) and the weakest (February, 415.1 million pounds) was

about 12 percent.

MONTH	2025	2026	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE CHANGE
January	417.7	439.2	+5.2%	+5.2%
February	415.1	447.8	+7.9%	+6.5%
March	460.6	492.3	+6.9%	+6.6%
April	451.4	463.2	+2.6%	+5.6%
May	441.5	477.2	+8.1%	+6.1%
June	436.7	457.7	+4.8%	+5.9%
July	449.4	478.2	+6.4%	+6.0%
August	460.9	468.3	+1.6%	+5.4%

What does that imply for the year as a whole? If September to December 2026 merely repeat the 1,755.5 million pounds made in those months of 2025, full-year output would reach about 5.48 billion pounds, another record and roughly 3.6 percent above 2025. If the 5.4 percent pace holds, the total would be close to 5.57 billion pounds. Both figures are BusinessStats calculations, not USDA forecasts; NASS does not project yogurt output.

Against Other Dairy

How yogurt compares with the rest of the dairy case

Yogurt was the fastest-growing major dairy product made in US plants in 2025. According to the same NASS annual summary, butter output rose 6.7 percent to 2.39 billion pounds and total cheese, excluding cottage cheese, rose 4.0 percent to 14.80 billion pounds. Frozen categories moved the other way: regular ice cream fell 9.2 percent to 845.1 million gallons, frozen yogurt fell 3.9 percent and yogurt mix 6.1 percent.

Change in US Dairy Product Output, 2025 vs 2024 (%)Yogurt, butter and cheese in pounds; frozen products and yogurt mix in gallons.

Data:

USDA NASS, Dairy Products 2025 Summary.

Note:

cheese excludes cottage cheese; ice cream is regular hard and soft total as reported. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Chilled up, frozen down: yogurt led dairy growth in 2025 while ice cream and frozen yogurt both shrank.

On the consumption side, USDA Economic Research Service figures published in December 2025 show the same tilt. Per capita availability of yogurt, frozen excluded, reached 14.5 pounds in 2024, up about 6 percent on 2023 and only 0.4 pounds below the 2013 peak. Cheese held at 41.9 pounds per person, butter reached an all-time high of 6.8 pounds and cottage cheese rose to 2.4 pounds, its highest since 2009, while fluid milk slipped to 127 pounds.

PRODUCT	POUNDS PER PERSON	NOTE
Fluid milk	127	down 69 pounds since 2000
Total cheese	41.9	unchanged on 2023
Yogurt (excluding frozen)	14.5	up about 6% on 2023
Regular ice cream	12.0	up on 2023
Butter	6.8	all-time high
Cottage cheese	2.4	highest since 2009
All dairy, milk-equivalent basis	651	down 6 pounds on 2023

Per capita figures are calculated from supply: production plus imports and stock changes, minus exports, divided by the population. They measure food available for eating, not food actually eaten, because some is wasted. The rise in yogurt per person is also slower than the rise in production, partly because the US population keeps growing; our [US population statistics](#) show the denominator behind these numbers. The year-by-year per capita series since 2000 is charted in our Greek yogurt report.

How Much We Eat

How much yogurt Americans actually eat

Pounds per person can make yogurt look like a large part of the diet. A different ERS measure tells a more modest story. In its loss-adjusted food availability data, which allow for spoilage and plate waste, ERS estimates that Americans consumed about 1.5 cup-equivalents of dairy per person per day in 2021. Cheese supplied 0.74 cups and fluid milk 0.5 cups, but yogurt only about 0.05 cups, even though yogurt intake had

grown about fivefold since 1981.

Where Daily Dairy Intake Comes From, United States, 2021 (cup-equivalents) Loss-adjusted availability per person per day; total about 1.5 cups.

Data:

USDA ERS, Food Availability (Per Capita) Data System.

Note:

other dairy is the remainder of the 1.5 cup total, calculated by BusinessStats. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A thin slice: yogurt supplies about 3 percent of the dairy cup-equivalents Americans consume each day, against roughly half from cheese.

Set against official advice, the gap is large. The 2025 to 2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, released by USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services on 7 January 2026, keep the recommendation at 3 servings of dairy a day and, unlike earlier editions, emphasise whole and full-fat dairy, naming yogurt among suitable foods. ERS noted that the 1.5 cups consumed in 2021 was about half of the amount recommended for a 2,000 calorie diet under the previous, 2020 to 2025, guidelines.

A second benchmark is the FDA qualified health claim discussed below, which refers to at least 2 cups of yogurt a week. At 0.05 cup-equivalents a day, the average American eats about 0.35 cups a week, or roughly one sixth of that amount. Averages hide wide differences between regular eaters and people who never buy yogurt, but they show how much room the category still has. The age structure that shapes these habits is set out in our data on the [US population by sex and age](#).

Yogurt in the American diet, in numbers

- 1.5 cup-equivalents of dairy per person per day in 2021, about half the recommended amount (ERS).
- 0.05 cups of that came from yogurt, about fivefold the 1981 level of nearly 0.01 cups (ERS).
- 3 servings of dairy a day remain the recommendation in the 2025 to 2030 Dietary Guidelines, with whole-fat options now encouraged.
- 2 cups (3 servings) a week is the intake referred to in the FDA qualified health claim for type 2 diabetes.

Types Compared

Plain, low-fat, skim and fruit yogurt compared

Nutrient content varies more between yogurt types than many shoppers assume. USDA FoodData Central reference values per 100 grams show that plain whole-milk yogurt has 61 kcal, 3.47 g of protein, 3.25 g of fat and 4.66 g of sugars, all of it natural milk sugar. Plain low-fat yogurt has 63 kcal, 5.25 g of protein and 7.04 g of sugars. The skim-milk version has the fewest calories, 56 kcal, with protein at 5.73 g and sugars at 7.68 g.

Protein and Sugars in Four Common Yogurt Types (grams per 100 g) USDA reference values; branded products vary.

Data:

USDA FoodData Central, SR Legacy: Yogurt, plain, whole milk; plain, low fat; plain, skim milk (13 g protein per 8 oz); fruit, low fat (10 g protein per 8 oz). Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Fruit adds sugar fast: fruit low-fat yogurt carries about four times the sugars of plain whole-milk yogurt per 100 grams.

Fruit yogurt changes the profile sharply. The USDA entry for low-fat fruit yogurt lists 102 kcal and 19.1 g of total sugars per 100 grams, about 2.5 times the sugars in plain low-fat yogurt; the extra comes from the fruit preparation and sweeteners. In a typical 6 ounce (170 g) cup that is about 32 g of sugars. Calcium, by contrast, is high across all types: 121 mg per 100 grams in whole-milk yogurt, 152 mg in low-fat fruit, 183 mg in low-fat plain and about 200 mg in skim plain.

TYPE	ENERGY	PROTEIN	FAT	SUGARS	CALCIUM
Plain, whole milk	61 kcal	3.47 g	3.25 g	4.66 g	121 mg
Plain, low fat	63 kcal	5.25 g	1.55 g	7.04 g	183 mg
Plain, skim milk	56 kcal	5.73 g	0.18 g	7.68 g	about 200 mg
Fruit, low fat	102 kcal	4.37 g	1.08 g	19.1 g	152 mg

These reference values are useful for comparison, not as a label for any particular brand. Many newer products are sold on protein content and reduced sugar, and the guidelines now favour whole-fat dairy, which reverses decades of advice that pushed shoppers towards low-fat and nonfat cups. Sugar in other everyday products is compared in our [sports drink statistics](#).

The Diabetes Claim

The FDA diabetes claim: limited evidence, 2 cups a week

On 1 March 2024 the Food and Drug Administration announced that it would not object to a qualified health claim linking yogurt with a lower risk of type 2 diabetes, provided the claim is worded to reflect limited evidence. The decision answered a petition from Danone North America, filed under docket FDA-2019-P-1594. The claim applies to all yogurts that meet the federal standard of identity, regardless of fat or sugar content.

ITEM	DETAIL
Announced	1 March 2024, letter of enforcement discretion
Petitioner	Danone North America (docket FDA-2019-P-1594)
Example wording	Eating yogurt regularly, at least 2 cups (3 servings) per week, may reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes. FDA has concluded that there is limited information supporting this claim.
Evidence rating	some credible evidence, but limited
Products covered	yogurts meeting the FDA standard of identity
Basis	yogurt as a whole food, not any single nutrient

The scale of the condition explains why the claim matters commercially. The CDC National Diabetes Statistics Report estimates that 40.1 million people in the United States, 12.0 percent of the population, had diagnosed or undiagnosed diabetes in 2023, and that 115.2 million adults had prediabetes. A qualified claim is weaker than an authorised health claim, however: the FDA rated the evidence as limited, and the label wording must say so.

The standard of identity referred to in the claim was itself updated recently. The FDA published a final rule on 11 June 2021 that revoked the standalone low-fat and nonfat yogurt standards and modernised the main one, with compliance required from 1 January 2024. The detailed requirements on milkfat, milk solids and acidity are explained in our Greek yogurt report.

Retail Prices

Retail prices: from 1.06 to 1.58 dollars per 8 ounces

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has published an average US city price for yogurt, per 8 ounces, since April 2018. It started at 1.057 dollars. The price climbed slowly to about 1.25 dollars by the end of 2020, then rose sharply with general food inflation in 2022 and 2023 and peaked at 1.700 dollars in September 2024, 61 percent above the first reading.

Average US Retail Price of Yogurt, 2018 to 2026 (dollars per 8 ounces) Annual average of monthly prices; 2018 from April, 2026 to August.

Data:

US Bureau of Labor Statistics, average price, yogurt per 8 oz (226.8 g), US city average, not seasonally adjusted.

Note:

2018 covers April to December, 2025 excludes October (no value published) and 2026 covers January to August. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Up by half, then a pause: the average price rose from 1.06 dollars in 2018 to 1.63 dollars in 2024 before easing.

Since then prices have eased and then stabilised. Monthly readings fell to 1.489 dollars in January 2025, and the 2025 average, based on the 11 months published, was 1.526 dollars, about 6 percent below 2024. No October 2025 figure was published after the federal shutdown disrupted data collection. In 2026 the price has moved in a narrow band between 1.498 and 1.587 dollars, and the August 2026 reading of 1.584 dollars is 6 percent above August 2025 but still below the 2024 peak.

YEAR	ANNUAL AVERAGE	MONTHS	CHANGE
2018	\$1.064	April to December	n/a
2019	\$1.115	12	n/a
2020	\$1.205	12	+8.1%
2021	\$1.224	12	+1.6%
2022	\$1.393	12	+13.8%
2023	\$1.553	12	+11.5%

2024	\$1.626	12	+4.7%
2025	\$1.526	11 (no October)	-6.2%
2026	\$1.549	January to August	n/a

An older BLS series for natural fruit-flavoured yogurt, discontinued in 2003, shows the long-run trend: 8 ounces cost 0.449 dollars in January 1980 and 0.813 dollars in March 2003. The two series are not directly comparable, because the product definition changed, but together they suggest the price of a cup has risen about three and a half times since 1980. For the wider inflation context see our [monthly US inflation rate](#) data.

Who Makes It

Who makes the yogurt: deals and new plants

Three groups shape the US yogurt aisle: Danone, Chobani and, since 2025, Lactalis, the French dairy group that bought the Yoplait business in the United States. None publishes US yogurt sales separately, so company figures below come from deal announcements, results releases and investment statements, not from market share data.

The biggest change of recent years was the exit of General Mills. On 12 September 2024 it agreed to sell its yogurt operations in the US and Canada to Lactalis and Sodiaal for 2.1 billion dollars in cash. The business, which included Yoplait, Liberte, Go-Gurt, Oui, Mountain High and :ratio, had net sales of about 1.5 billion dollars in fiscal 2024 and plants in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Reed City, Michigan and Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec. The US part went to Lactalis on 30 June 2025, after it had brought in roughly 1.2 billion dollars of General Mills revenue in fiscal 2025.

DATE	COMPANY	MOVE	FIGURE
12 Sep 2024	General Mills	Agrees sale of North American yogurt to Lactalis (US) and Sodiaal (Canada)	2.1 billion dollars
Jan 2025	Sodiaal	Completes purchase of the Canadian business, including Saint-Hyacinthe plant	part of 2.1 billion dollars
19 Mar 2025	Chobani	Breaks ground on Twin Falls, Idaho expansion	about 500 million dollars
Apr 2025	Chobani	Breaks ground on Rome, New York plant	1.2 billion dollars

30 Jun 2025	Lactalis	Completes purchase of the US business (Yoplait, Go-Gurt, Oui, :ratio)	sales near 1.2 billion dollars
Aug 2025	Danone	Announces Minster, Ohio yogurt plant expansion	about 48,000 sq ft, 30 jobs
16 Oct 2025	Chobani	Raises new equity capital	650 million dollars

Chobani, founded in 2005 and privately owned, is investing most heavily. In March 2025 it began an expansion of its Twin Falls, Idaho plant worth about 500 million dollars, adding more than 500,000 square feet to reach 1.6 million square feet with 24 production lines. The company said the project would raise output there by 50 percent and create at least 160 jobs on top of more than 1,200 employees, and that it expected to buy nearly 2 billion pounds of Idaho milk in 2025. In October 2025 it raised 650 million dollars of equity to help fund Twin Falls and its new Rome, New York, factory costing 1.2 billion dollars.

Danone, owner of Dannon, Oikos, Activia and Light and Fit, reports North America as a separate region. That region had sales of 6.32 billion euros in 2025, with like-for-like growth of 2.0 percent, slowing to 0.7 percent in the fourth quarter. It also includes coffee creamers and plant-based drinks, so it is not a yogurt figure, but Danone said its high-protein yogurt range kept growing by double digits in the quarter while the rest of its yogurt portfolio was still a work in progress. In August 2025 it announced an expansion of its yogurt plant in Minster, Ohio, which makes Oikos, Activia, Dannon and Danimals, adding about 48,000 square feet and 30 jobs and lifting its milk purchases there by 60 percent over the following years.

Taken together, the announced projects point to a substantial increase in US capacity from 2026 onward. NASS data will show whether demand keeps pace; so far the 5.4 percent rise in 2026 output suggests it is. Food manufacturing in a neighbouring market is the subject of our report on the [food industry in Mexico](#).

Frozen Yogurt

Frozen yogurt: output down by almost half since 2005

Frozen yogurt is counted separately by NASS, in gallons rather than pounds, and its trend runs opposite to chilled yogurt. Production was about 65 million gallons in both 2005 and 2006, peaked at 74.2 million gallons in 2015 and then fell to 66.9 million gallons in 2016. By 2024 it had more than halved to 35.5 million gallons, and in 2025 it slipped again to 34.1 million gallons.

US Frozen Yogurt Production, Selected Years (million gallons) Total frozen yogurt, all fat levels, hard and soft.

Data:

USDA NASS.

Note:

2005 and 2006 from the February 2007 report; 2015 and 2016 from the 2016 Summary; 2024 and 2025 from the 2025 Summary. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Half the volume of a decade ago: frozen yogurt output fell by more than 50 percent between 2015 and 2025.

Production in 2026 has been almost flat: 23.8 million gallons from January to August, 0.3 percent more than a year earlier. In 2025 NASS counted 59 plants making regular and low-fat hard frozen yogurt and 21 making the nonfat kind. Ice cream, the larger frozen category, also shrank in 2025 and is featured in our ranking of the [top ice cream brands](#). Both trends contrast with the growth of chilled yogurt.

Greek and Canada

Related markets: Greek yogurt and Canada

Greek yogurt, made by straining or by adding milk protein, drove the growth of the 2000s and remains the engine of the protein trend. Because USDA counts Greek and regular yogurt together, official data cannot measure its share. Its nutrition, the New York production base, the acid whey by-product and the Chobani Rome plant are covered in detail in our [report on Greek yogurt in the US](#).

North of the border, the General Mills sale reshaped the market too. Sodial, the French dairy cooperative, took over the Canadian business, including Liberte and the plant in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, in January 2025. Canada runs a supply-managed dairy system with its own statistics, so its figures are not comparable with USDA data; they are set out in our analysis of the [Canadian yogurt market](#).

Global Context

Global context: the US against Europe

There is no official global count of yogurt production, because many countries do not report it separately. The European Union is the best-documented comparison. Eurostat reports that EU dairies produced 7.8

million tonnes of acidified milk products, mainly yogurt, in 2023, a year in which EU farms produced 160.8 million tonnes of raw milk. Germany accounted for 27 percent, the Netherlands for 17 percent and Poland for 10 percent.

AREA	PRODUCT MEASURED	VOLUME	YEAR
United States	yogurt, plain and flavored	5.29 billion pounds (about 2.40 million tonnes)	2025
European Union	acidified milk products, including yogurt	7.8 million tonnes	2023
Germany	share of EU acidified milk output	27%	2023
Netherlands	share of EU acidified milk output	17%	2023

Converted to metric units, US production of about 2.40 million tonnes in 2025 is roughly 30 percent of the EU total, although the EU category is broader and also covers other fermented milks. On the company side, Danone reported global sales of 27.3 billion euros in 2025, of which 13.2 billion euros came from its Essential Dairy and Plant-Based division, with like-for-like growth of 3.5 percent. For the population behind these markets see our [world population](#) figures.

Outlook

Outlook: more capacity, and a test of demand

Official data point to a third consecutive year of growth. With US production up 5.4 percent to August, 2026 is on course for a new record of roughly 5.5 billion pounds, based on the BusinessStats scenarios above. The final figure will come in the NASS annual summary in April 2027, which may also revise 2025.

Three forces are likely to shape the next few years. New capacity from Chobani in Idaho and New York and from Danone in Ohio will add supply. Dietary guidance has turned in favour of whole-fat dairy and protein, and the FDA claim gives brands a regulated way to talk about diabetes risk. On the other side, retail prices remain about 40 percent higher than in 2019, and per capita intake, while rising, is still slightly below its 2013 peak. How consumers respond to price will be visible first in the monthly NASS reports and BLS price data, and is worth reading alongside the [energy drinks](#) and other functional categories competing for the same snack occasions.

Key Facts



US yogurt in eight numbers

5.29B lb Yogurt produced in 2025 Record, up 8.5%. 3.72B lb Produced January to August 2026 Up 5.4%. 492.3M lb Biggest month of 2026 March. 154 Plants making yogurt NASS, 2025. 14.5 lb Per capita availability ERS, 2024. 19.1g Sugars per 100 g, fruit low-fat USDA FoodData Central. \$1.70 Peak price per 8 oz September 2024. \$2.1B Price of the General Mills exit US and Canada deal, 2024. FAQ

Yogurt questions answered with USDA, FDA and company data

According to USDA NASS, US plants made 5,288.6 million pounds of plain and flavored yogurt in 2025, an all-time high and 8.5 percent above 2024. From January to August 2026 output was 3,723.9 million pounds, up 5.4 percent.

The ERS figure for 2024 is 14.5 pounds per person, excluding frozen yogurt, up about 6 percent on 2023. Adjusted for waste, that is about 0.05 cup-equivalents per person per day.

Yes. Production rose 6.2 percent in 2024 and 8.5 percent in 2025, and per capita availability is close to its 2013 peak of about 14.9 pounds.

The BLS average price of 8 ounces of yogurt was 1.584 dollars in August 2026. It peaked at 1.700 dollars in September 2024 and averaged 1.526 dollars in 2025.

On 1 March 2024 the FDA allowed a qualified health claim that eating at least 2 cups (3 servings) of yogurt a week may reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, with wording that makes clear the evidence is limited.

Among USDA reference values, low-fat fruit yogurt has the most, 19.1 g per 100 g, compared with 4.66 g in plain whole-milk yogurt and 7.04 g in plain low-fat yogurt.

Lactalis. General Mills sold the US business (Yoplait, Go-Gurt, Oui and :ratio) to Lactalis on 30 June 2025 as part of a 2.1 billion dollar North American deal; Sodial bought the Canadian business.

NASS counted 154 plants producing plain and flavored yogurt in both 2024 and 2025, compared with 152 in 2015.

Yes. NASS data show frozen yogurt output of 34.1 million gallons in 2025, down 3.9 percent on 2024 and less than half the 74.2 million gallons of 2015.

Sources

[USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service](#) - Dairy Products, monthly reports to October 2026 (August data), and Dairy Products annual summaries for 2016, 2024 and 2025; February 2007 and 2011 monthly reports.

[USDA Economic Research Service](#) - per capita dairy consumption tables (December 2025), and Food Availability (Per Capita) Data System, Charts of Note.

[US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) - Average Price Data, yogurt per 8 oz (APU0000FJ4101) and natural fruit-flavored yogurt (APU0000710122).

[USDA FoodData Central](#) - SR Legacy entries for plain whole-milk, low-fat and skim yogurt and low-fat fruit yogurt.

[Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) - qualified health claim for yogurt and type 2 diabetes (March 2024) and final rule on yogurt standards (June 2021).

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) - National Diabetes Statistics Report.

[USDA and HHS](#) - Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025 to 2030, January 2026.

[General Mills](#) - yogurt divestiture announcement (September 2024) and completion releases (2025).

[Danone](#) - full-year 2025 results and US plant announcements.

[Chobani](#) - Twin Falls expansion (March 2025) and equity capital raise (October 2025) announcements.

[Eurostat](#) - EU milk and dairy production, 2023.

Production, plant counts, price and nutrient figures are as published. Percent changes, per-plant output, annual price averages, metric conversions, cup-per-week comparisons and the 2026 full-year scenarios are BusinessStats calculations. The previous edition of this page relied on private market-size estimates, brand shares and growth projections that could not be traced to primary sources; they have been removed, and the dates of the FDA claim and the General Mills sale have been corrected.



STATISTICS REPORT

Greek Yogurt in the US: Statistics and Facts 2026

Updated Oct 6, 2026 · businessstats.com/greek-yogurt

10.2g PROTEIN PER 100 G, NONFAT GREEK	46.3% GREEK SHARE OF SPOONABLE, 2021	5.29B lb US YOGURT OUTPUT 2025
14.5 lb YOGURT PER PERSON 2024	1.12B lb NEW YORK OUTPUT 2025	\$1.2B CHOBANI ROME NY PLANT

Overview

Greek yogurt in the United States

Greek yogurt is yogurt that has been strained to remove much of its liquid whey, leaving a thicker product with more protein and less sugar per spoonful. It was a niche product in the United States until the late 2000s, when Chobani, founded in upstate New York in 2005, and other brands brought it into mainstream supermarkets. Within a decade Greek styles had become almost half of the spoonable yogurt market.

There is no federal definition of Greek yogurt. The FDA standard covers yogurt in general, and companies decide whether to strain the product or thicken it with added milk protein. Official statistics also do not separate Greek from regular yogurt, so this report combines USDA nutrient data, production and consumption figures for all yogurt and company disclosures. The wider yogurt category is covered in our report on the [yogurt market](#).

1.8xProtein vs regular nonfat yogurtUSDA, per 100 g.-58%Sugars vs regular nonfat yogurtUSDA, per 100 g.+8.5%US yogurt output growth 2025Record year.2 to 3 kgAcid whey per kg of Greek yogurtAcademic studies. Nutrition

Nutrition: 10.2 g of protein per 100 g

USDA FoodData Central gives the clearest picture of how Greek yogurt differs. Per 100 grams, plain nonfat Greek yogurt has 59 calories, 10.2 g of protein, 3.6 g of carbohydrates and 3.24 g of sugars. Plain skim yogurt has 56 calories, 5.73 g of protein and 7.68 g of sugars. Straining concentrates the protein and removes some of the lactose, which is the sugar in milk.

Greek vs Regular Nonfat Yogurt: Nutrients per 100 g (grams) Plain products without added sugar or flavours.

Data:

USDA FoodData Central, Yogurt, Greek, plain, nonfat (170894) and Yogurt, plain, skim milk (170887).

Note:

values per 100 g; brands vary. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

More protein, less sugar: nonfat Greek yogurt has 1.8 times the protein and 58 percent less sugar than plain skim yogurt.

Straining also removes minerals that dissolve in whey. Nonfat Greek yogurt has 110 mg of calcium per 100 g against 199 mg in plain skim yogurt, and 36 mg of sodium against 77 mg. Whole-milk Greek yogurt contains 97 calories, 9.0 g of protein and 5.0 g of fat per 100 g, while regular whole-milk yogurt has 61 calories and 3.47 g of protein.

PRODUCT	CALORIES	PROTEIN (G)	SUGARS (G)	CALCIUM (MG)	SODIUM (MG)
Greek, plain, nonfat	59	10.2	3.24	110	36
Greek, plain, low fat	73	9.95	3.56	115	34
Greek, plain, whole milk	97	9.00	4.00	100	35
Regular, plain, skim	56	5.73	7.68	199	77
Regular, plain, low fat	63	5.25	7.04	183	70
Regular, plain, whole milk	61	3.47	4.66	121	46

For a typical 170 g (6 oz) cup, these values mean about 17 g of protein for nonfat Greek yogurt against about 10 g for plain skim yogurt. That gap, at a similar calorie count, is the main reason Greek yogurt became popular with consumers looking for high-protein foods. Flavoured varieties can contain much more sugar than the plain products shown here.

Market Share



Market share: from 4 percent to 46 percent of spoonable yogurt

The most detailed public data on Greek yogurt sales come from the registration statement that Chobani filed with the SEC in November 2021, which cites Nielsen retail data. Greek yogurt grew from 4.4 percent of US spoonable yogurt sales in 2009 to 46.3 percent in 2021, about 3.3 billion dollars of a 7.1 billion dollar spoonable market.

Greek Yogurt Share of US Spoonable Yogurt Sales, 2009 and 2021 (%)Share of retail dollar sales of spoonable yogurt.

Data:

Chobani Inc., Form S-1 registration statement, November 2021, citing Nielsen retail measurement.

Note:

latest publicly filed figure. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Ten times larger share: Greek styles went from a niche 4.4 percent of spoonable yogurt sales to almost half in 12 years.

In the same filing, Chobani reported a 43.5 percent share of the Greek yogurt segment and a 20.2 percent share of all US yogurt, the largest of any brand, for the 13 weeks to October 16, 2021. Chobani now describes itself as the number one yogurt brand in America. More recent share data from retail panels are not published by an official source.

US Production

US production: a record 5.29 billion pounds in 2025

USDA NASS reports total US yogurt production, plain and flavored, without a Greek breakdown. Output was about 4.76 billion pounds in 2014, then slipped to a low of 4.38 billion pounds in 2019. It recovered to 4.74 billion pounds in 2021, dipped to 4.47 billion pounds in 2022, and then rose strongly: 4.59 billion pounds in 2023, 4.87 billion pounds in 2024 and a record 5.29 billion pounds in 2025, up 8.5 percent.

US Yogurt Production, 2014 to 2025 (million pounds)Plain and flavored yogurt of all types, including Greek.

Data:

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Dairy Products Annual Summaries, latest revisions.

Note:

2015 omitted because only a preliminary value was retrieved; 2018 and 2025 are preliminary. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A new record: US yogurt output jumped 8.5 percent in 2025 to 5.29 billion pounds, after years of decline in the late 2010s.

The decline from 2014 to 2019 followed the 2013 peak in per capita consumption. The recent rise coincides with renewed demand for high-protein yogurt: Danone reports double-digit growth in its high-protein range in North America. Production peaked in March 2025 at 460.6 million pounds in a single month.

Consumption

Consumption: 14.5 pounds per person in 2024

USDA ERS estimates that Americans ate 14.5 pounds of yogurt per person in 2024, other than frozen yogurt. Consumption more than doubled from 6.5 pounds in 2000 to a peak of 14.9 pounds in 2013, during the rapid growth of Greek yogurt. It then fell to 13.3 pounds in 2019 before recovering.

US Yogurt Consumption per Person, 2000 to 2024 (pounds) Yogurt other than frozen, per capita availability.

Data:

USDA Economic Research Service, Dairy Data, per capita consumption, updated December 16, 2025.

Note:

selected years; 2025 not yet published. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

More than doubled since 2000: Americans eat 14.5 pounds of yogurt a year, close to the 2013 peak set during the Greek yogurt boom.

Frozen yogurt has moved the other way, falling from 1.37 pounds per person in 2015 to 0.71 pounds in 2024. Frozen desserts more broadly are covered in our ranking of [top ice cream brands](#), and high-protein drinks, a competing category, in our report on [sports drinks](#).

New York



New York: the largest yogurt-producing state

New York is the centre of US Greek yogurt production. The state Department of Agriculture and Markets reports that New York made 1.12 billion pounds of yogurt in 2025 and ranks first in the nation, ahead of every other state. Output has grown by two thirds since 2015, when it was 668 million pounds, with the fastest growth since 2022.

Yogurt Production in New York State, 2015 to 2025 (million pounds) All yogurt produced in New York, the largest yogurt-producing state.

Data:

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, 2025 New York State Dairy Statistics Annual Summary.

Note:

share of US total calculated by BusinessStats from USDA NASS. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Up 67 percent in ten years: New York yogurt output passed 1.1 billion pounds in 2025, about 21 percent of US production.

New York accounted for about 21.1 percent of US yogurt production in 2025, up from 20.3 percent in 2024. The state has nearly 3,000 dairy farms that produced 16.1 billion pounds of milk, according to the Governor, and Chobani alone buys more than 1 billion pounds of New York milk a year.

Companies

Companies: Chobani, Danone and Lactalis

Chobani was founded in 2005 by Hamdi Ulukaya in New Berlin, New York. It now makes products in New York, Idaho, Michigan and Australia. In its 2021 SEC filing it reported net sales of about 1.4 billion dollars for 2020 and more than 2,000 employees. In October 2025 it announced a 650 million dollar equity raise to support growth, without disclosing a valuation or new sales figures.

In April 2025, Chobani broke ground on a 1.2 billion dollar plant in Rome, New York, which New York State describes as the largest investment ever in natural food production in the United States. The plant will cover 1.4 million square feet on 150 acres, process about 12 million pounds of milk a day with up to 28 production lines and create more than 1,000 jobs, supported by up to 73 million dollars in state tax credits.

ITEM	VALUE
Investment	1.2 billion dollars
Building	1.4 million square feet on 150 acres
Milk processed	about 12 million pounds a day
Production lines	up to 28
Jobs	more than 1,000
State tax credits	up to 73 million dollars
Groundbreaking	April 22, 2025

Danone, which sells Oikos Greek yogurt in the United States, reported that its high-protein yogurt business grew at a double-digit pace in North America in 2025, led by the Oikos Pro range, even as total North American sales growth slowed to 2.0 percent like-for-like. General Mills, the former owner of Yoplait in the United States, sold its North American yogurt business for 2.1 billion dollars. Lactalis took over the US business, including Yoplait, Go-Gurt, Oui and :ratio, on June 30, 2025; the US business had about 1.2 billion dollars of net sales in fiscal 2025.

Similar brand dynamics in a neighbouring market are covered in our report on the [yogurt market in Canada](#), where Sodial took over Yoplait and Liberte from General Mills in January 2025.

FDA Rules

FDA rules: what can be called yogurt

The FDA updated the federal standard of identity for yogurt in a final rule published on June 11, 2021, with a compliance date of January 1, 2024. Yogurt must contain at least 3.25 percent milkfat before bulky flavourings are added, unless it is labelled low fat or nonfat, and at least 8.25 percent milk solids not fat. Separate standards for low-fat and nonfat yogurt were revoked.

A 2023 amendment set the acidity requirement at a pH of 4.6 or lower, measured within 24 hours of filling. Products that claim to contain live and active cultures must have at least 10 million colony-forming units per gram at manufacture. The standard does not define Greek yogurt; the FDA notes only that permitted dairy ingredients help manufacturers reach the protein content desired for Greek-style yogurt.

REQUIREMENT	RULE
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Milkfat	at least 3.25 percent before bulky flavourings (unless low fat or nonfat)
Milk solids not fat	at least 8.25 percent
Acidity	pH 4.6 or lower within 24 hours of filling
Live and active cultures claim	at least 10 million CFU per gram at manufacture
Greek yogurt	no separate federal standard
Compliance date	January 1, 2024

Acid Whey

Acid whey: the by-product of straining

Straining has an environmental cost. Researchers estimate that producing 1 kg of strained Greek yogurt leaves 2 to 3 kg of acid whey, a sour liquid that cannot simply be released into rivers. A USDA-funded Cornell University project reported that a single Chobani plant in New Berlin was shipping 39 tanker trucks of acid whey a day, at a cost of about 6 million dollars a year.

Producers now use acid whey as animal feed, as a fertiliser on farms and as a feedstock for biogas digesters, and researchers are testing ways to turn it into higher-value chemicals. The volumes involved are one reason some brands thicken yogurt with added milk protein instead of straining it, although official data do not show how much US Greek yogurt is made each way.

Key Facts

Greek yogurt in eight numbers

10.2gProtein per 100 gPlain nonfat Greek.3.24gSugars per 100 gPlain nonfat Greek.46.3%Greek share of spoonable sales2021, Nielsen.5.29B lbUS yogurt output 2025Up 8.5 percent.14.5 lbYogurt per person 2024All yogurt.21%New York share of US output2025.\$1.2BChobani Rome NY plantGroundbreaking April 2025.\$2.1BGeneral Mills yogurt saleLactalis and Sodiaal. FAQ

Greek yogurt questions answered with official data

USDA data show plain nonfat Greek yogurt has 10.2 g of protein per 100 g, about 17 g in a 170 g cup, compared with 5.73 g per 100 g in plain skim yogurt.



Yes. Plain nonfat Greek yogurt has 3.24 g of sugars per 100 g against 7.68 g in plain skim yogurt, because straining removes some lactose. Flavoured products can contain much more added sugar.

Yes. Plain nonfat Greek yogurt has 110 mg of calcium per 100 g, against 199 mg in plain skim yogurt, because some calcium is lost with the whey.

Greek yogurt was 46.3 percent of US spoonable yogurt sales in 2021, about 3.3 billion dollars, up from 4.4 percent in 2009, according to Nielsen data in the Chobani SEC filing.

USDA NASS reports US yogurt production of 5.29 billion pounds in 2025, a record and 8.5 percent more than in 2024. The figure covers all yogurt types.

New York, with 1.12 billion pounds in 2025, about 21 percent of US production, according to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

USDA ERS estimates 14.5 pounds of yogurt per person in 2024, more than twice the 6.5 pounds of 2000 and close to the 2013 peak of 14.9 pounds.

No. The FDA yogurt standard covers all yogurt and does not define Greek yogurt, so manufacturers can strain the product or add milk protein to thicken it.

Sources

[USDA FoodData Central](#) - Yogurt, Greek, plain, nonfat and related entries.

[USDA NASS](#) - Dairy Products 2025 Summary, April 2026, and earlier annual summaries.

[USDA Economic Research Service](#) - Dairy data, per capita consumption, December 2025.

[New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets](#) - 2025 Dairy Statistics Annual Summary.

[US Food and Drug Administration](#) - Yogurt standard of identity final rule, June 2021, and 2023 amendment.

[Chobani](#) - Form S-1, November 2021, and company announcements.

[Governor of New York](#) - Chobani Rome plant announcement.

[General Mills](#) - completion of US yogurt business sale, June 2025.

[Danone](#) - full-year 2025 results.

[USDA NIFA](#) - Cornell acid whey research project.



USDA production and consumption data cover all yogurt, not only Greek. Greek market shares are from Nielsen data cited in the 2021 Chobani filing, the latest public figure. Ratios, shares of US production and per-cup values are BusinessStats calculations from published figures. Private market-size estimates were removed from this edition.

STATISTICS REPORT

Dairy cow population in Germany, 1950 to 2026

Updated Sep 21, 2026 · businessstats.com/dairy-cow-population-germany

5.7M COWS IN 1950	3.6M COWS IN 2026	-16% COWS, LAST DECADE
8,500kg MILK PER COW 2023	47,200 DAIRY FARMS 2025	33.8Mt MILK OUTPUT 2024

Overview

Dairy cow population in Germany from 1950 to 2026

Few farm statistics tell the story of modern agriculture as clearly as the number of dairy cows in Germany. In 1950 the young West German republic counted about 5.7 million dairy cows spread across roughly 1.5 million small farms, each animal giving less milk in a year than a good cow now gives in a few months. In 2026 the reunified country keeps about 3.6 million cows on fewer than 50,000 highly specialised farms. The animals are far fewer, but each one is a far more productive machine for turning feed into milk.

Germany remains the largest producer of cow milk in the European Union, and its dairy sector sits at the centre of the continent supply, as shown in our reports on the [milk market in Europe](#) and the wider [global dairy industry](#). Yet the shrinking herd is one of the most striking long-run trends in German farming, and it explains a great deal about how the industry has changed, from farm size and breeding to where in the country the cows now live.

One point on the data matters before we begin. The 1950 figure covers West Germany only, because the country was divided until 1990. From 1990 onward the numbers include the former East Germany, which briefly lifted the combined herd before the long decline resumed. The most recent counts come from the twice-yearly livestock census run by the Federal Statistical Office, taken in May and November each year.

The Long Decline

A herd that keeps shrinking

The direction of travel has been remarkably consistent. The chart below traces the German dairy cow population across the decades, from the post-war years to the latest census.

Dairy Cow Population in Germany, 1950-2026 (million head) From about 5.7 million to 3.6 million.

Data:

Dairy cow population in Germany, selected years, in million head.

Note:

Sources Destatis and milchtrends.de. The 1950 value covers West Germany; from 1990 figures include the former East Germany, which temporarily raised the herd before the decline continued. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for the plotted figures.

A long slide: the herd first fell below 4 million in 2020 and reached about 3.6 million by the 2026 census.

West Germany counted about 5.7 million dairy cows in 1950. By 1999 the reunified country was down to roughly 4.8 million. The number held broadly steady for a while, even edging up between 2012 and 2014 as farmers expanded ahead of the end of the EU milk quota, reaching about 4.3 million. Then the decline sharpened. The herd slipped below 4 million for the first time in 2020, at about 3.97 million, and has since settled near 3.6 million, where it has roughly stabilised, with tiny year-on-year rises recorded in the 2025 and 2026 censuses. Over the past decade alone the herd has fallen by about 16 percent, a loss of some 688,000 cows.

It is worth pausing on that reunification effect. Because the 1950 figure is for West Germany only, it leaves out the millions of cattle then kept in the east. When the two Germanys joined in 1990, the combined herd jumped as the eastern animals were added, before the nationwide decline took over again. So the true long-run picture is not a single smooth line but a fall, a step up around 1990, and then a longer fall, all ending well below where West Germany started.

Fewer Cows, More Milk

The productivity paradox

The most surprising part of the story is that Germany now produces more milk than it ever did with far more cows. The reason sits in a single number: how much milk one cow gives in a year. That figure has climbed relentlessly, as the chart shows.

Average Milk Yield per Cow in Germany (kg per year) Nearly four times higher than in 1950.

Data:

Average annual milk yield per dairy cow in Germany, selected years, in kg.

Note:

National average from total output divided by cows. Milk-recorded herds average higher, near 9,400 kg. Figures before 1990 refer to West Germany. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for the plotted figures.

Each cow works harder: average yield rose from about 2,488 kg in 1950 to roughly 8,500 kg, near 30 litres a day.

In 1950 the average German dairy cow gave about 2,488 kg of milk a year. By 1970 that had reached 3,280 kg, by 1990 about 4,700 kg, and by 2000 roughly 6,100 kg. The climb continued to around 7,100 kg by 2010 and about 8,500 kg by 2023, close to 30 litres of milk a day. Milk-recorded herds, which are monitored more closely, average even higher, near 9,400 kg. The gain since 1950 is almost 400 percent, and it comes from decades of selective breeding, better feed and forage, animal health advances and modern herd management. With each cow doing the work of three or four of its post-war ancestors, the country simply needs far fewer animals.

Total Milk Output

More milk from fewer cows

Put rising yields together with a falling herd and the result is the paradox at the heart of German dairy: total milk output has grown even as cow numbers fell. The chart tracks national production across the decades.

German Cow Milk Production, 1950-2024 (million tonnes) Rising even as the herd fell.

Data:

Cow milk production in Germany, selected years, in million tonnes.

Note:

Figures before 1990 refer to West Germany. Sources include Destatis and published dairy statistics. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for the plotted figures.

Up, not down: output more than doubled since 1950 while the number of cows fell by more than a third.

German cow milk production rose from about 14.6 million tonnes in 1950 to 21.9 million by 1970, 23.7 million by 1990 and 28.3 million by 2000, reaching roughly 33.8 million tonnes in 2024, where it has broadly stabilised near 34 million. About half of all the milk and dairy products made in Germany are now exported, which makes the country central to European butter, cheese and milk-powder supply. In effect, the national dairy herd shrank by more than a third while the milk it produced more than doubled, a textbook case of an industry doing far more with far less.

Why the Herd Shrinks

What is driving the decline

Several forces have pushed the German dairy herd down at the same time. The first and most fundamental is that productivity gain. When one cow can produce what several once did, national demand for milk can be met with a smaller herd, so numbers fall even in a healthy and profitable industry. This is the single biggest reason the long-run line points down.

Policy played a major role too. The EU milk quota, in place from 1984 to 2015, capped how much milk each country and farm could sell. With output limited but yields rising, farmers needed fewer cows to fill their quota, which held the herd in check for three decades. When the quota ended in 2015 some expected the herd to grow, but instead low farmgate milk prices, rising feed and energy costs and squeezed margins pushed many farmers to cut back or leave the business altogether. The energy price shock from 2022 hit a sector that was already under strain.

Structural change has done the rest. Small family dairies have closed in huge numbers, unable to justify the investment that modern milking, hygiene and welfare standards demand, while the surviving farms have grown larger. Labour shortages, including a lack of veterinarians and skilled farm workers, and mounting environmental pressure around greenhouse-gas emissions, nitrogen and animal welfare have added to the squeeze. The result is a herd that keeps drifting lower even as the remaining farms modernise and expand.

Farms and Herd Size

Fewer, bigger dairy farms

If the fall in cow numbers is dramatic, the fall in the number of dairy farms is even steeper. Germany had roughly 1.5 million milk-producing farms in 1950 and about 762,660 as late as 1970. By 1999 that had dropped to around 152,500, by 2023 to about 51,700, and by 2025 only around 47,200 farms still kept dairy cows. Put another way, barely half of the dairy farms that existed in 2010 were still going in 2025, and more

than nine in ten of the 1999 total have closed.

The cows that remain live in far bigger groups. Average herd size has climbed steadily as small barns closed and larger operations absorbed the milk, reaching about 76 cows per farm in recent censuses, up from a handful per farm in the 1950s. The very largest operations, those with more than 500 cows, number only a few hundred, and about 70 percent of them sit in the five eastern states, a legacy of the large collective farms of the former East Germany. The smallest farms, those with fewer than 50 cows, are concentrated in the south: Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg together hold roughly two thirds of them.

This concentration is the classic pattern of agricultural modernisation: fewer, larger, more capital-intensive units producing more output with less labour. It is the same shift visible across dairy and crop farming in most wealthy countries, but in Germany it has run alongside a sharp east-west contrast in farm structure that still shapes the industry today.

Where the Cows Are

The regional map

German dairy cows are not spread evenly across the country. Two states dominate, as the chart below shows.

Dairy Cows by German Federal State (thousand head) Bavaria and Lower Saxony lead.

Data:

Dairy cows by federal state in thousand head, latest census.

Note:

Source Destatis via milchland.de. Baden-Wuerttemberg figure is from the 2024 count. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Two heartlands: Bavaria alone holds more than a quarter of German dairy cows, with Lower Saxony next at about a fifth.

Bavaria keeps by far the most dairy cows, about 1.03 million, more than a quarter of the national herd, thanks to its Alpine foothills, grassland and deep farming tradition. Lower Saxony is next with roughly 759,000, close to a fifth of the total, concentrated in the grassland belt along the North Sea. Together these two states hold nearly half of all German dairy cows. North Rhine-Westphalia follows at about 367,000, then Schleswig-Holstein at around 324,000 and Baden-Wuerttemberg near 304,000. The same two

leaders dominate milk output, with Bavaria producing about 25 percent of German milk and Lower Saxony about 22 percent, and roughly 81 percent of all milk coming from the western states.

The regional map also reveals a sharp contrast in farm structure. Herds are smallest in the south, where Bavarian dairy farms average only around 45 to 48 cows because of the hilly terrain and many small holdings, and largest in the east, where the average herd runs to nearly 200 cows on farms that trace their scale back to the collective era. This concentration matters for the wider food chain, because milk from these herds feeds a huge processing sector that makes Germany the biggest cheese producer and exporter in Europe, a link explored in our report on the [global cheese market](#).

Breeds and Yields

Breeds behind the numbers

The rise in yield is partly a story of breeding. The German Holstein, the black-and-white cow most people picture, is the leading dairy breed at about 31 percent of the herd, and it is prized for very high milk output. It dominates the high-yield regions, while the dual-purpose Simmental, or Fleckvieh, is common in the south, in Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg, where it is kept for both milk and beef. Brown breeds and others fill out the rest, but the long-term trend has been toward specialised, high-yielding dairy genetics.

Yields vary widely by region. The eastern states record the highest averages, with milk-recorded herds in Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Saxony all above 9,500 kg per cow a year, reflecting their large, intensively managed herds. Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg sit lower, nearer 7,200 to 7,700 kg, because of their breed mix and smaller grassland-based farms. Nationally, average yields have kept rising by roughly 100 kg per cow every year over the past decade, and a modern German dairy cow now gives about 30 litres of milk a day at peak, with milk that is around 4.1 percent fat and 3.4 percent protein.

Germany in the EU

Germany in the European context

For all the decline at home, Germany remains the dairy giant of the European Union. It has the largest dairy herd of any member state and is the single biggest producer of cow milk in the bloc, ahead of France, the Netherlands and Poland. The German herd of about 3.6 million cows is close to a fifth of the roughly 19 million dairy cows kept across the EU, which itself has been shrinking as herds fall in almost every member country.

That wider European decline mirrors the German one, and for the same reasons: rising yields, tighter margins, environmental rules and the end of the milk quota. It means the trend traced in this report is not a peculiarly German story but the leading edge of a continent-wide shift, in which fewer and more productive cows supply a milk market that still underpins Europe cheese, butter and export industries. Germany, as the largest player, sets much of the pace.

Outlook

What comes next

The likeliest path is a continued slow decline, with the herd hovering around or a little below current levels rather than collapsing. The tiny increases recorded in the most recent censuses suggest the sharpest phase of contraction may be easing, but the long-run pressures have not gone away. Costs remain high, environmental rules are tightening, and the generational question of who takes over ageing family farms is unresolved, especially among the small southern holdings.

At the same time, yields are likely to keep creeping up, so Germany can probably hold milk output broadly steady even with a smaller herd. The bigger uncertainties are political and environmental: how climate policy treats livestock emissions, how consumer demand for dairy evolves against plant-based alternatives, and how volatile milk prices behave. Whatever happens, the dairy cow will remain central to German farming, just as it has been since long before 1950, even if there are fewer of them with each passing census.

Key Facts

German dairy cows in numbers

A few figures capture the whole trend. Cow numbers are down about a third since 1950, milk per cow is up almost fourfold, dairy farms have all but vanished in their old form, and total output has still risen. It is a story of concentration and productivity rather than simple decline.

5.7M to 3.6M Dairy cows, 1950 to 2026
 1950 covers West Germany. 2,488 to 8,500 kg Milk per cow a year
 Almost a fourfold rise. 1.03M Dairy cows in Bavaria
 Most of any state. 762,660 to 47,200 Dairy farms,
 1970 to 2025
 Average herd near 76 cows.

These numbers explain why Germany can lead European dairy with a shrinking herd. The story is not decline for its own sake but a decades-long shift toward higher productivity, larger farms and fewer but

harder-working cows.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Germany had about 3.6 million dairy cows as of the 2026 census, according to the Federal Statistical Office. That is down from around 3.97 million in 2020 and 4.8 million in 1999.

West Germany had about 5.7 million dairy cows in 1950, each producing an average of only around 2,488 kg of milk a year. Today about 3.6 million cows each produce close to 8,500 kg.

Yes. The German dairy herd has fallen by about 16 percent over the past decade, a drop of roughly 688,000 cows, and the number first fell below 4 million in 2020. The decline has been long and steady.

Milk yield per cow has risen almost fourfold since 1950, so fewer cows are needed for the same milk. Structural change, the EU milk quota that ran from 1984 to 2015, high costs, labour shortages and environmental pressure have all cut cow and farm numbers.

No. German milk output has kept rising even as cow numbers fell, from about 14.6 million tonnes in 1950 to roughly 33.8 million tonnes in 2024, because each cow now yields far more milk. Germany is the largest cow milk producer in the EU.

Bavaria has by far the most, with about 1.03 million dairy cows, followed by Lower Saxony with roughly 759,000. Together these two states hold close to half of all German dairy cows.

The national average is around 8,500 kg of milk per cow a year, or about 30 litres a day. Milk-recorded herds average higher, near 9,400 kg, and eastern states such as Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt top 9,500 kg.

The German Holstein is the leading dairy breed at about 31 percent of cows, prized for high yields. Dual-purpose Simmental, known as Fleckvieh, is common in the south, in Bavaria and Baden-Wuerttemberg.

About 47,200 farms still kept dairy cows in 2025, down from roughly 762,660 in 1970 and around 1.5 million milk-producing farms in 1950. Average herd size has risen to about 76 cows per farm.

Figures for 1950 cover West Germany only. From 1990 the data include the former East Germany, which briefly lifted the combined herd before the long-run decline resumed.

Sources



[milchtrends.de](#) - Milk production in Germany - dairy cow numbers, yields and output over time, based on Destatis.

[Statista](#) - Dairy cow population Germany 1950-2026 - long-run population series (Destatis code 41311).

[Milchland.de](#) - November census, dairy cows by state - state-level herd figures and national totals.

[Nutztierhaltung.de](#) - Dairy cattle in Germany - herd, farms, breeds, yields and regional structure.

[Trading Economics / Eurostat](#) - Number of dairy cows, Germany - recent annual figures.

The 1950 figure covers West Germany; from 1990 the data include the former East Germany. Recent counts use the May and November livestock censuses. Milk and yield figures before 1990 refer to West Germany, and several years are selected snapshots rather than every year. Milk-recorded herd yields run higher than the national statistical average. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Global dairy industry – statistics and facts 2026

 Updated Sep 20, 2026 · businessstats.com/global-dairy-industry

982Mt WORLD MILK 2024	245.9Mt INDIA, NO. 1	\$31.9B LACTALIS, TOP FIRM
81% COW MILK	~70% EXPORTS, TOP 3	1,146Mt FORECAST 2034

Overview

The global dairy industry in 2026

Dairy is one of the largest and most globally spread food industries on the planet, involving an estimated 150 million households in milk production alone. The world produced about 982 million tonnes of milk in 2024, and output keeps climbing, driven above all by South Asia.

Production is remarkably concentrated. India alone accounts for roughly a quarter of global milk, and together with the European Union and the United States makes up more than half the total. Yet the countries that produce the most are not always the ones that trade the most, a split that defines the modern dairy market. The chart below ranks the leading milk-producing countries.

A note on the figures. Production is measured in million tonnes of milk from all animals, the European Union is treated as a single bloc, and company figures refer to dairy revenue only. Where a value is a forecast it is labelled as such.

Top Milk-Producing Countries, 2025 (million tonnes) India stands alone at the top.

Data:

Milk production in million tonnes, 2025.

Note:

Source FAO Dairy Market Review. EU shown as a bloc; Russia and Brazil approximate. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

India stands alone at the top: at about 245.9 million tonnes it produces more milk than the EU and the United States combined.

Milk Output Growth

How fast is world milk production growing?

Global milk output has nearly doubled in a generation. It rose from 524 million tonnes in 1992 to about 930 million tonnes in 2022 and 982 million tonnes in 2024, and the OECD-FAO projects it will reach roughly 1,146 million tonnes by 2034. Most of that future growth is expected to come from India, Pakistan and sub-Saharan Africa.

This steady rise reflects both bigger herds and higher yields per animal, especially in Asia where cooperative supply chains connect millions of small farmers to processors. The area chart traces the long climb and the forecast to 2034.

World Milk Production, 1992-2034 (million tonnes) Nearly doubled in a generation.

Data:

World milk production in million tonnes.

Note:

Source FAO and OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook. 2034 is a forecast. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Nearly doubled in a generation: from 524 million tonnes in 1992 to about 982 million in 2024, heading for 1,146 million by 2034.

Who Leads

How concentrated is world milk production?

The dairy world has one clear giant. India produces about 245.9 million tonnes of milk, roughly a quarter of the global total, thanks to a huge buffalo and cow herd and a vast network of small-scale cooperative farms. The European Union adds around 16 percent and the United States about 10 percent, so three producers alone account for more than half of all milk.

Crucially, most of India milk is consumed at home, so its dominance in output does not translate into dominance in trade. The donut below shows how the world total splits between the leading producers and

everyone else.

Share of World Milk Production, 2024 (million tonnes)One quarter is Indian.

Data:

Milk production by producer in million tonnes, 2024.

Note:

Source FAO. Rest of world is the balance to the world total. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

One quarter is Indian: India, the EU and the United States together produce more than half the world milk supply.

Milk by Type

What kinds of milk does the world produce?

Not all milk comes from cows. Cow milk dominates global output at roughly 81 percent, but buffalo milk is a major second at about 15 percent, concentrated in India and Pakistan where it is prized for its high fat content. Goat, sheep and camel milk make up the small remainder, important in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and parts of Africa.

This mix matters for trade and products: buffalo milk is central to South Asian dairy but rarely exported, while cow milk underpins the cheese, butter and powder that move across borders. The donut shows the split by animal.

World Milk Production by Animal (percent)Cow milk rules.

Data:

Approximate share of world milk output by animal.

Note:

Source FAO. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Cow milk rules: about 81 percent of world milk, with buffalo milk a strong second at 15 percent.

Biggest Companies

The largest dairy companies in the world

The processing side of dairy is led by a set of global giants. France-based Lactalis is the largest, the first company ever to pass 30 billion dollars in dairy revenue, at about 31.9 billion. Nestle of Switzerland and Dairy Farmers of America follow, each near 23 to 24 billion dollars, with Danone and China Yili Group rounding out the top five.

These companies own many of the household cheese, yogurt and milk brands sold worldwide, and the top 20 together turn over more than 250 billion dollars a year. The chart ranks the five biggest by dairy revenue.

Largest Dairy Companies by Revenue, 2024 (billion dollars)Lactalis leads the pack.

Data:

Dairy-only revenue in billion dollars, 2024.

Note:

Source Rabobank Global Dairy Top 20. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Lactalis leads the pack: about 31.9 billion dollars in dairy revenue, well ahead of Nestle and Dairy Farmers of America.

Dairy Trade

Which countries dominate dairy exports?

Only a small share of the world milk is traded across borders, and mostly as processed products rather than liquid milk. Measured by volume of dairy products, Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand lead, reflecting both large output and, in Europe, heavy intra-regional trade. The European Union, New Zealand and the United States together account for roughly 70 percent of processed dairy exports.

New Zealand is the standout. Although it produces only about 2.5 percent of world milk, it exports roughly 95 percent of what it makes, more than any other big producer, which makes it the true export champion. The chart below ranks the leading exporters by volume.

Leading Dairy Product Exporters, 2024 (million tonnes)Germany ships the most.

Data:

Dairy product exports by volume in million tonnes, 2024.

Note:

Source national trade data via Statbase. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Germany ships the most: by volume, Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand lead dairy product exports.

Product Specialists

Cheese, butter and powder: different champions

Dairy trade splits along product lines, and different regions specialise. The European Union is the runaway leader in cheese, exporting about 1.38 million tonnes, more than three times its nearest rival, reflecting Europe deep tradition of named, high-value cheeses. New Zealand, by contrast, owns the commodity end of the market.

Butter and whole milk powder are a different world. New Zealand ships about 1.37 million tonnes of whole milk powder and leads in butter too, because these products travel well to distant markets in Asia and the Middle East. The grouped chart sets the European Union and New Zealand side by side across all three products, one cluster per product.

Dairy Export Specialisation: EU vs New Zealand, 2024 (thousand tonnes) Different leader for each product.

Data:

Cheese, butter and whole milk powder exports in thousand tonnes, 2024.

Note:

Source IDF World Dairy Situation Report. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Different leader for each product: the EU dominates cheese, while New Zealand leads butter and whole milk powder by a wide margin.

Exports by Value

Who earns the most from milk exports?

When milk exports are measured in dollars rather than tonnes, New Zealand jumps to the top at about 7.8 billion dollars, ahead of Germany, the United States and the Netherlands. Europe as a whole still supplies more than half of global milk export value, but no single European country matches New Zealand.

The gap between who ships the most volume and who earns the most value shows how product mix and pricing shape the trade. The chart ranks the leading milk exporters by value.

Leading Milk Exporters by Value, 2023 (billion dollars) New Zealand earns the most.

Data:

Milk export value in billion dollars, 2023.

Note:

Source UN Comtrade via World's Top Exports. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

New Zealand earns the most: about 7.8 billion dollars in milk exports, ahead of Germany and the United States.

Key Facts

The global dairy industry in numbers

A handful of figures frame the sector. The world makes about 982 million tonnes of milk, India leads production, cow milk dominates, Lactalis leads the companies, and New Zealand leads the trade. It is an industry of enormous scale and sharp national specialisation.

982Mt World milk, 2024 Up from 524Mt in 1992. ~25% India share of output The single biggest producer. \$31.9B Lactalis dairy revenue First to pass 30 billion. 95% New Zealand milk exported The export champion.

These numbers matter because dairy is a staple food, a livelihood for around 150 million households, and a major traded commodity whose prices ripple through farms and shops worldwide. Shifts in India, China and New Zealand move the whole market.

Big Picture

Global dairy: the big picture

The dairy industry runs on a striking divide. A few countries, above all India, produce enormous volumes largely for their own people, while a different set, led by New Zealand and the EU, specialise in feeding the world through trade. Output keeps rising, cow milk still dominates, and processing is concentrated in a handful of multinational giants.



Looking ahead, growth will lean on Asia and Africa, while climate rules, herd sizes and changing diets reshape Europe and North America. Dairy sits inside the wider food economy tracked in our [US agriculture data](#), and its products run through categories like [yogurt](#) and [ice cream](#), all shaped by the growing [world population](#).

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Global Dairy

The world produced about 982 million tonnes of milk in 2024, up roughly 1.4 percent on the year. Output is forecast to reach around 1,146 million tonnes by 2034.

India is by far the largest milk producer, at about 245.9 million tonnes, roughly a quarter of world output.

The European Union and the United States follow.

France-based Lactalis is the largest dairy company, with about 31.9 billion dollars of dairy revenue. Nestle, Dairy Farmers of America, Danone and Yili complete the top five.

Cow milk dominates at roughly 81 percent of world output, followed by buffalo milk at about 15 percent, most of it from India and Pakistan. Goat and sheep milk make up the small remainder.

The European Union, New Zealand and the United States together account for roughly 70 percent of processed dairy exports. New Zealand is the export champion, selling about 95 percent of its milk abroad.

The European Union is the leading cheese exporter by a wide margin, shipping about 1.38 million tonnes, ahead of the United States and New Zealand.

New Zealand dominates whole milk powder exports at about 1.37 million tonnes, far ahead of the European Union. This reflects New Zealand strong focus on export commodities.

Estimates vary by scope, but the global dairy market is generally valued in the hundreds of billions of dollars, with the top 20 companies alone turning over more than 250 billion dollars a year.

Yes. World milk output has risen from 524 million tonnes in 1992 to about 982 million tonnes in 2024, and is projected to keep growing, led by India, Pakistan and sub-Saharan Africa.

New Zealand leads milk exports by value at about 7.8 billion dollars, followed by Germany and the United States. Europe as a whole supplies over half of global milk export value.

Sources



[FAO - Dairy production and products, milk production](#) - world output, shares and milk by animal.

[OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook](#) - production forecasts and export shares.

[Rabobank - Global Dairy Top 20](#) - largest dairy companies by revenue.

[USDA FAS - Dairy: World Markets and Trade](#) - exporter production and trade data.

[IDF - World Dairy Situation Report 2024](#) - exports by product, cheese, butter and powder.

Production is milk from all animals in million tonnes. The European Union is shown as a single bloc, which overlaps with member states such as Germany and France in trade tables. Company figures are dairy-only revenue. The 2034 output figure is a forecast. This is data journalism, not investment advice.



STATISTICS REPORT

Food inflation statistics & facts

Updated Sep 30, 2026 · businessstats.com/food-inflation-statistics

133.3 FAO INDEX AUG 2026	+2.5% GLOBAL PRICES YOY	33.8% TURKEY FOOD INFLATION
2.7% US FOOD INFLATION	1.3% UK FOOD INFLATION	45% LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES ABOVE 5%

Overview

What is food inflation?

Food inflation is the rate at which the prices people pay for food rise over time. It is usually measured as the annual change in the food component of a consumer price index, comparing prices in one month with the same month a year earlier. Economists often split it into food at home, meaning groceries bought in shops, and food away from home, meaning meals in restaurants, cafes and canteens. At the global level, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) tracks the international prices of key traded food commodities through its Food Price Index.

Food inflation matters more than almost any other price. Food is a necessity that people cannot easily cut back on, and it takes a much bigger share of spending for poorer households. In the United States, households spent 9.7 percent of disposable income on food in 2025, but lower-income households spent 33 percent of their before-tax income on food, compared with 6.4 percent for upper-income households, according to the US Department of Agriculture. In low-income countries such as Nigeria, food accounts for close to 60 percent of household spending. When food prices rise quickly, hunger and poverty rise with them, and governments often face political pressure.

The past five years have seen the biggest food price shock in decades. Global food prices climbed to a record in March 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine disrupted exports of grain and sunflower oil, and consumer food inflation reached its highest level in 40 years or more in many countries in 2022 and 2023. Since then, food inflation has eased in most rich economies. But in 2026 world food commodity prices are rising again: the FAO Food Price Index reached 133.3 points in August 2026, its highest level

since late 2022, driven by sugar, cereals and vegetable oils. This report sets out the latest data on global food prices, food inflation by country, the drivers behind it and what it means for households.

133.3FAO Food Price IndexAugust 2026, highest since 2022.+2.5%Global food prices, year on yearAugust 2026, FAO.45%Low-income countries with food inflation above 5%World Bank, June 2026.2.9%US food price forecast2026, USDA. Global Prices

Global food prices: the FAO Food Price Index

The FAO Food Price Index measures the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities, covering cereals, vegetable oils, dairy, meat and sugar, weighted by their share of world exports. It is expressed as an index with the average of 2014 to 2016 set at 100. Because it tracks prices on world markets rather than in shops, it tends to move before consumer food inflation, which also reflects costs such as processing, transport, packaging, labour and retail margins.

FAO Food Price Index, Annual Average, 2014 to 2025 (2014-2016 = 100)Annual average of the FAO Food Price Index.

Data:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO Food Price Index. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

From a record to a new rise: the FAO Food Price Index averaged a record 144.5 points in 2022, eased to 122.0 in 2024 and rose again to 127.2 in 2025.

For several years before the pandemic, global food prices were relatively stable, with the index averaging between about 92 and 98 points from 2015 to 2020. Prices then surged. The index averaged 125.7 points in 2021 as demand recovered from the pandemic and supply chains struggled, a period covered in our report [on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the global economy](#), and a record 144.5 points in 2022, when the war in Ukraine pushed up prices of wheat, maize and vegetable oils. The index peaked at 160.2 points in March 2022, the highest level since records began in 1990.

Prices then fell back to an average of 124.5 points in 2023 and 122.0 in 2024, before rising 4.3 percent to 127.2 points in 2025, driven by higher prices for vegetable oils, dairy and meat. In August 2026, the index stood at 133.3 points, up 1.9 percent from July and 2.5 percent from a year earlier, although still 16.8 percent below its March 2022 peak.

Commodities

Which food commodities are driving prices

Different foods have moved in very different directions. In 2025, vegetable oil prices averaged 161.6 points, up 17.1 percent from 2024, because of tight supplies of palm, soy, sunflower and rapeseed oil and strong demand for biofuels. Dairy prices rose 13.2 percent to 146.9 points, and meat prices 5.1 percent to 123.2 points, a record high driven largely by beef. In contrast, cereal prices fell 4.9 percent to 107.9 points thanks to good harvests, and sugar prices dropped 17.0 percent to 104.3 points as global supply improved.

FAO Food Price Sub-Indices, Annual Average, 2024 vs 2025 Annual average of each FAO commodity price index (2014-2016 = 100).

Data:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, January 2026. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Oils and dairy up, cereals and sugar down: vegetable oil prices rose 17 percent in 2025 and dairy prices 13 percent, while sugar fell 17 percent and cereals 5 percent.

The picture has shifted again in 2026. In August 2026, the FAO sugar index jumped 11.9 percent in a single month to 106.4 points, its highest since June 2025, on concerns about hot, dry weather in Europe and Asia and lower production in Brazil. Cereal prices rose 2.2 percent to 116.3 points, the highest since May 2024, as wheat was supported by disruptions to Black Sea exports and weather concerns; international wheat prices were 15.0 percent higher than a year earlier. The vegetable oil index reached 196.9 points, its highest since June 2022, while dairy rose 2.3 percent to 119.2 points and meat 1.0 percent to 127.9 points.

Key Drivers of Food Prices in 2026

- **Weather:** heat and drought in Europe and Asia and lower sugar output in Brazil pushed sugar prices up 11.9 percent in August 2026.
- **Black Sea disruption:** ongoing disruptions to export logistics lifted wheat prices 15 percent year on year.
- **Energy and fertiliser:** fertiliser prices were about 35 percent higher in the first five months of 2026 than a year earlier, according to the World Bank.
- **Vegetable oils:** tight supply and biofuel demand kept vegetable oil prices at their highest since mid 2022.



- **El Nino risk:** the World Bank warned of a 61 to 87 percent probability of El Nino emerging by mid 2026, a threat to rice output in South Asia and southern Africa.

By Country

Food inflation by country

Consumer food inflation varies enormously from country to country, reflecting local harvests, exchange rates, energy costs and economic policy. In August 2026, the highest rates among major economies were in Turkey, where food and non-alcoholic beverage prices were 33.8 percent higher than a year earlier, and Nigeria, where food inflation was 19.6 percent. Both countries have experienced sharp falls in their currencies, which raise the cost of imported food, fuel and fertiliser. See our ranking of [the countries with the highest inflation rates](#) for the wider context.

Annual Food Inflation in Selected Economies, August 2026 (%)Year-on-year change in consumer food prices in August 2026.

Data:

TurkStat, National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (India), IBGE, Statistics Bureau of Japan, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, ONS, Eurostat and National Bureau of Statistics of China.

Note:

the euro area figure covers food, alcohol and tobacco. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

From 34 percent to deflation: food prices rose 33.8 percent in Turkey and 19.6 percent in Nigeria in the year to August 2026, but fell 1.4 percent in China.

India recorded food inflation of 5.95 percent in August 2026, above its headline inflation rate of 4.82 percent, with rural households facing higher food inflation, at 6.13 percent, than urban households, at 5.64 percent. Brazil had food inflation of 3.5 percent and Japan 3.1 percent, the lowest in Japan since July 2024, helped by a 15.7 percent fall in rice prices after a record surge in 2025.

In the rich economies of North America and Europe, food inflation has fallen to low levels. It was 2.7 percent in the United States, 1.3 percent in the United Kingdom, the lowest since September 2021, and 1.1 percent for food, alcohol and tobacco in the euro area. In China, food prices fell 1.4 percent, with pork



prices down 11.8 percent, although egg prices rose 15.0 percent and beef 5.3 percent. More detail on general inflation is available in our data on [inflation rates in selected countries](#) and [monthly inflation in developed and emerging economies](#).

Developing Countries

Food inflation in developing countries

High food inflation remains widespread in poorer countries. The World Bank, in its Food Security Update of June 2026, reported that 45.0 percent of low-income countries had food inflation above 5 percent, along with 36.7 percent of lower-middle-income countries and 29.8 percent of upper-middle-income countries. Among high-income countries, only 5.1 percent had food inflation above that level.

Share of Countries With Food Inflation Above 5%, by Income Group, 2026 (%) Share of countries in each income group with annual food inflation above 5 percent.

Data:

World Bank, Food Security Update, June 2026. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

The poorer the country, the higher the food inflation: 45 percent of low-income countries had food inflation above 5 percent in 2026, compared with 5 percent of high-income countries.

The World Bank also measures real food inflation, which compares food price growth with overall inflation. In about 14 percent of the 169 countries it analysed, food prices were rising faster than prices in general, with lower-middle-income countries most affected. Because food makes up such a large share of spending in these countries, even moderate food inflation can push millions of people into food insecurity. The World Bank warned in 2026 that fertiliser prices had risen about 35 percent in the first five months of the year, and that a possible El Nino event could cut rice output in vulnerable regions, adding to risks for 2027.

United States

Food inflation in the United States

In the United States, food inflation peaked in 2022, when grocery prices rose 11.4 percent on average, the largest annual increase in more than four decades, according to the USDA Economic Research Service. Restaurant prices rose 7.6 percent. Food inflation then slowed: grocery prices rose 5.1 percent in 2023, 1.2 percent in 2024 and 2.3 percent in 2025, below the 20-year average of 2.6 percent. Restaurant prices

have risen faster, by 7.1 percent in 2023, 4.1 percent in 2024 and 3.8 percent in 2025, because labour and rent make up a larger share of their costs. Our data on [the monthly US inflation rate](#) covers the wider picture.

US Food Price Inflation, Food at Home vs Away From Home, 2022 to 2026 (%)Annual average change in consumer prices.

Data:

USDA Economic Research Service, Food Price Outlook, September 2026.

Note:

2026 is a forecast. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Grocery inflation has cooled, restaurants stay higher: US grocery prices rose 11.4 percent in 2022 but are forecast to rise 2.4 percent in 2026, while restaurant prices are expected to rise 3.5 percent.

The USDA forecasts that all food prices will rise 2.9 percent in 2026, with a prediction interval of 2.5 to 3.2 percent. Grocery prices are expected to rise 2.4 percent and restaurant prices 3.5 percent, and all food prices are projected to rise 2.0 percent in 2027. In August 2026, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that food prices were 2.7 percent higher than a year earlier, with food at home up 2.2 percent and food away from home up 3.4 percent, against overall inflation of 3.4 percent driven by a 16.3 percent jump in energy prices.

US Categories

US food prices by category

Average food inflation hides large swings in individual products. In 2025, egg prices rose 21.9 percent in the United States because of outbreaks of avian influenza, which forced farmers to cull millions of laying hens, and beef and veal prices rose 11.6 percent as the national cattle herd fell to its lowest level in decades. Sugar and sweets rose 5.1 percent and nonalcoholic beverages, including coffee, 3.8 percent, while fresh vegetables fell 0.4 percent and fats and oils 0.8 percent.

US Food Price Changes by Category, 2025 Actual vs 2026 Forecast (%)Annual average change in consumer prices.

Data:

USDA Economic Research Service, Food Price Outlook, September 2026.



Note:

2026 figures are forecasts. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Eggs swing from boom to bust: egg prices rose 21.9 percent in 2025 but are forecast to fall 29.4 percent in 2026, while beef keeps climbing with a forecast rise of 9.4 percent.

For 2026, the USDA expects the picture to shift. Egg prices are forecast to fall 29.4 percent as flocks recover, while beef and veal prices are expected to rise another 9.4 percent. Fresh vegetables are forecast to rise 5.7 percent, sugar and sweets 6.6 percent and nonalcoholic beverages 4.2 percent, while dairy prices are expected to be almost unchanged, up 0.1 percent. For a sense of how food fits into overall household costs, see our data on [the US cost of living](#).

UK and Europe

Food inflation in the UK and Europe

The United Kingdom suffered one of the sharpest food price shocks among rich countries. Annual food and non-alcoholic beverage inflation peaked at 19.2 percent in March 2023, the highest rate in more than 45 years, according to the Office for National Statistics. Over the two years to January 2024, food prices rose by about 25 percent, compared with just 9 percent over the whole previous decade. By August 2026, UK food inflation had fallen to 1.3 percent, the lowest since September 2021, helped by falling prices for chocolate as sugar and confectionery inflation dropped from 11.9 percent in October 2025 to 0.6 percent. Our data on [inflation in the UK](#) and [UK grocery market shares](#) give more context.

In the euro area, annual inflation for food, alcohol and tobacco was 1.1 percent in August 2026, according to Eurostat, down from a peak of more than 15 percent in early 2023. Unprocessed food prices rose 2.7 percent and processed food, alcohol and tobacco 0.5 percent. Headline euro area inflation, however, rose to 3.2 percent in August 2026, driven by energy. See our data on [inflation in Europe](#) and [monthly inflation in EU countries](#).

Food Inflation at Its Peak vs August 2026 (%) Annual food inflation at its post-pandemic peak and in August 2026.

Data:

ONS, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Eurostat.

Note:



peaks were March 2023 in the UK and euro area and August 2022 in the US; US figures are food at home; euro area covers food, alcohol and tobacco. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A dramatic cool-down: UK food inflation fell from 19.2 percent in March 2023 to 1.3 percent in August 2026, and US grocery inflation from 13.5 percent to 2.2 percent.

Staple Foods

Staple foods in focus: rice, wheat and cooking oil

Staple foods show how quickly local shocks can hit households. In Japan, a shortage of domestic rice after a poor harvest in 2023, combined with rising demand from tourists and weak government stock releases, caused retail rice prices to roughly double in 2025, prompting the government to release emergency reserves and allow more imports. By August 2026 the situation had reversed, with rice prices 15.7 percent lower than a year earlier, the steepest fall since 2005, helping to bring Japanese food inflation down to 3.1 percent.

Wheat and cooking oils matter most for poorer countries that import much of their food. Wheat prices surged in 2022 when the war in Ukraine blocked exports from two of the largest suppliers, and were again 15 percent higher than a year earlier in August 2026 because of renewed disruption to Black Sea shipping. Vegetable oils, used for cooking across Africa and Asia, reached their highest price since mid 2022 in August 2026. For countries such as Egypt, Nigeria and Pakistan, which depend on imported wheat and oil and have seen their currencies weaken, these increases translate directly into higher bread and cooking costs.

Causes

What causes food inflation

Food prices are influenced by a long chain of costs, from the farm to the shop shelf. Understanding these drivers helps explain why food inflation can stay high even after commodity prices fall, and why it can differ so much between countries.

The Main Causes of Food Inflation

- **Commodity prices:** world prices of grains, oils, sugar, dairy and meat set the cost of raw ingredients.

- **Energy:** fuel and electricity costs affect farming, fertiliser production, processing, refrigeration and transport.
- **Weather and climate:** droughts, floods and heatwaves reduce harvests; climate change is making such shocks more frequent.
- **Animal disease:** outbreaks such as avian influenza and African swine fever cut supplies of eggs and pork.
- **Exchange rates:** a weaker currency raises the cost of imported food and farm inputs.
- **Labour and wages:** higher pay for farm, factory, transport and retail workers feeds into prices, especially for restaurant meals.
- **Trade policy and conflict:** export bans, tariffs and war, such as the disruption of Black Sea grain exports, reduce supply.

Energy is one of the most important links. The 2022 food shock was driven as much by soaring gas and electricity prices, which raised the cost of fertiliser, processing and transport, as by the war itself. In 2026, energy prices are rising again, up 16.3 percent in the United States and 14.3 percent in the euro area in August, which could feed through into food prices over the coming months. Our data on [energy prices in the EU](#) and [weekly crude oil prices](#) track these costs.

Households

The impact on households

Food inflation hits poorer households hardest, because they spend a much larger share of their income on food and have less room to cut back. In the United States, lower-income households spent 33 percent of their before-tax income on food in 2024, compared with 6.4 percent for upper-income households, according to the USDA. In many low-income countries, food accounts for half or more of household budgets. When prices rise, families switch to cheaper brands, buy less meat and fresh produce, skip meals or rely on food banks, with lasting effects on nutrition and health.

The cost-of-living crisis of 2022 and 2023 showed how quickly food inflation can affect wellbeing. Even after food inflation fell, prices did not come down: they simply stopped rising as fast. In the United Kingdom, food prices were about 25 percent higher in early 2024 than two years earlier, and in the United States grocery prices were more than 20 percent higher in 2025 than in 2021. For many households, the level of food prices, not just the rate of inflation, remains the main concern, and whether wages keep pace



is covered in our report on [wages and salaries worldwide](#).

Policy

How governments respond

Governments use a range of tools to limit the impact of food inflation. Central banks raise interest rates to cool overall demand, although they have little direct influence over harvests or world commodity prices. Governments may cut sales taxes on basic foods, provide food vouchers or cash transfers to poorer households, release grain from public stocks or impose price controls. Some food-exporting countries restrict exports to keep domestic prices down, as India did with rice and wheat in recent years, though such measures can raise prices on world markets.

In the longer run, reducing food inflation depends on making food systems more resilient: investing in farm productivity and climate adaptation, diversifying supply chains and trading partners, maintaining open trade, reducing food waste and supporting early warning systems for crop failures and animal disease. International bodies such as the FAO and the World Bank monitor food prices closely and coordinate support for countries facing food crises.

Outlook

The outlook for food inflation

After falling for most of 2024 and 2025, food inflation risks are rising again in 2026. The FAO Food Price Index is at its highest level since 2022, driven by sugar, cereals and vegetable oils, and higher energy and fertiliser costs could push up food prices over the coming months. Weather is a major uncertainty, with the possibility of an El Nino event adding to risks for harvests in Asia and Africa in 2027.

In rich economies, consumer food inflation is currently low, and the USDA expects US food prices to rise 2.9 percent in 2026 and 2.0 percent in 2027. In many developing countries, however, food inflation remains high, with nearly half of low-income countries facing rates above 5 percent. For households everywhere, the key question is whether the new rise in world food commodity prices will feed through to shop shelves, and how quickly.

Key Facts

Food inflation in numbers

160.2 Record FAO index March 2022. 19.2% UK food inflation peak March 2023, highest in 45 years. 33.8% Turkey food inflation August 2026. -29.4% US egg price forecast 2026, USDA. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Food inflation is the annual rate at which consumer food prices rise, usually measured by the food component of the consumer price index. It covers groceries, known as food at home, and restaurant meals, known as food away from home.

The FAO Food Price Index was 133.3 points in August 2026, up 2.5 percent from a year earlier and its highest level since late 2022, but 16.8 percent below its March 2022 record of 160.2 points.

Among major economies in August 2026, Turkey had food inflation of 33.8 percent and Nigeria 19.6 percent. Food prices fell 1.4 percent in China.

US food prices were 2.7 percent higher in August 2026 than a year earlier, with groceries up 2.2 percent and restaurant meals up 3.4 percent. The USDA forecasts a 2.9 percent rise for 2026.

UK food and non-alcoholic beverage inflation was 1.3 percent in August 2026, the lowest since September 2021, down from a peak of 19.2 percent in March 2023.

World food prices are being pushed up by weather problems affecting sugar and wheat, disruption to Black Sea exports, high vegetable oil prices and higher energy and fertiliser costs.

In the US, beef and veal prices are forecast to rise 9.4 percent in 2026, sugar and sweets 6.6 percent and fresh vegetables 5.7 percent, while egg prices are expected to fall 29.4 percent.

Poorer households and low-income countries. Lower-income US households spend about a third of their income on food, and 45 percent of low-income countries had food inflation above 5 percent in 2026.

Food inflation peaked in most countries in 2022 and 2023. US grocery prices rose 11.4 percent in 2022, and UK food inflation reached 19.2 percent in March 2023, the highest in more than 45 years.

Sources

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[World Bank](#) - Food Security Update, June 2026.

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[Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation](#) - Consumer Price Index, India, August 2026.

[National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria](#) - Consumer Price Index, August 2026.

[TurkStat](#) - Consumer Price Index, August 2026.

[IBGE](#) - Consumer Price Index (IPCA), August 2026.

[Statistics Bureau of Japan](#) - Consumer Price Index, August 2026.

Country figures are year-on-year changes in consumer food prices and are not fully comparable because of differences in definitions. USDA figures for 2026 and 2027 are forecasts. All data compiled by BusinessStats.

STATISTICS REPORT

Child health and nutrition statistics & facts

Updated Sep 30, 2026 · businessstats.com/child-health-nutrition-statistics

4.9M UNDER-5 DEATHS 2024	37.4 U5 MORTALITY PER 1,000	150.2M STUNTED CHILDREN
42.8M WASTED CHILDREN	188M OBESE AGES 5 TO 19	85% DTP3 COVERAGE 2025

Overview

Child health and nutrition in numbers

The health and nutrition of children has improved dramatically over the past three decades, but progress has slowed and huge gaps remain. According to the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN IGME), 4.9 million children died before their fifth birthday in 2024, less than half the 10.1 million of 2000 and far below the 13.0 million of 1990. Yet the pace of decline has slowed by 60 percent since 2015, and 58 percent of all under-five deaths now occur in sub-Saharan Africa.

Malnutrition remains one of the biggest threats to children. The joint estimates of UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank show that 150.2 million children under five, or 23.2 percent, were stunted in 2024, 42.8 million were wasted and 35.5 million were overweight. At the same time, the world has passed a turning point: in 2025, for the first time, more school-age children and adolescents were obese, 9.4 percent, than underweight, 9.2 percent, according to UNICEF. This report sets out the latest data on child survival, undernutrition, obesity, diets, immunisation and the key risks for children.

4.9MUnder-five deaths2024, UN IGME.150.2MStunted children under 52024, 23.2 percent.188MChildren 5 to 19 with obesity2025, UNICEF.13.5MZero-dose children2025, no vaccines at all. Child Mortality

Child mortality: 4.9 million deaths a year

Under-five deaths have fallen by more than 60 percent since 1990. The UN IGME estimates that 13.0 million children under five died in 1990, 10.1 million in 2000, 7.1 million in 2010 and 6.1 million in 2015. In 2024, the number was 4.9 million. The under-five mortality rate fell from 93.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to

76.7 in 2000, 42.9 in 2015 and 37.4 in 2024.

Global Under-Five Deaths, 1990 to 2024 (million)Number of deaths of children under five years of age.

Data:

UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, Levels and Trends in Child Mortality, Report 2025, March 2026. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Down by nearly two thirds: under-five deaths fell from 13.0 million in 1990 to 4.9 million in 2024, but progress has slowed since 2015.

Newborns account for a growing share of deaths. Of the 4.9 million under-five deaths in 2024, 2.3 million, or 47 percent, were babies in their first month of life. The global neonatal mortality rate was 17.2 deaths per 1,000 live births. A further 2.1 million children, adolescents and young people aged 5 to 24 also died in 2024. In the first month of life, complications of preterm birth caused 36 percent of deaths and complications during labour and delivery 21 percent; after the first month, malaria was the largest single killer, at 17 percent of deaths.

MEASURE	1990	2000	2015	2024
Under-five deaths (million)	13.0	10.1	6.1	4.9
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000)	93.5	76.7	42.9	37.4
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000)				17.2
Newborn deaths (million)				2.3

By Region

Child mortality by region

Where a child is born still decides their chance of survival. In 2024, the under-five mortality rate was 71.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in sub-Saharan Africa, almost 14 times the rate of 5.2 in Europe and Northern America and nearly 19 times the 3.8 in Australia and New Zealand. Central and Southern Asia had a rate of 32.0, Northern Africa and Western Asia 26.1 and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia 13.0.

Under-Five Mortality Rate by Region, 2024 (deaths per 1,000 live births)Probability of dying before age five per 1,000 live births, by SDG region.

Data:



UN IGME, Levels and Trends in Child Mortality, Report 2025. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

A 19-fold gap: a child born in sub-Saharan Africa faced an under-five mortality rate of 71.6 per 1,000 in 2024, against 3.8 in Australia and New Zealand.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 58 percent of all under-five deaths in 2024 and Southern Asia for 25 percent, meaning these two regions together account for more than four in five deaths. Only three countries had an under-five mortality rate above 100 per 1,000 live births: Niger, Nigeria and Somalia. Children living in fragile and conflict-affected settings are nearly three times more likely to die before age five than children elsewhere. On current trends, 60 countries, home to 42 percent of all children under five worldwide, will miss the 2030 target for under-five mortality, and 66 countries will miss the target for newborn deaths.

Child Survival: Key Facts

- **58 percent** of under-five deaths in 2024 were in sub-Saharan Africa and 25 percent in Southern Asia.
- **3 countries**, Niger, Nigeria and Somalia, had under-five mortality above 100 per 1,000 live births.
- **Nearly 3 times** higher risk of death before age five for children in fragile or conflict-affected settings.
- **More than 100,000** children aged 1 to 59 months died directly from malnutrition in 2024.
- **60 countries** are off track for the 2030 under-five mortality target.

Malnutrition

Malnutrition in children under five

Malnutrition in children takes several forms. Stunting, meaning being too short for age, reflects chronic undernutrition and affects brain development and future earnings. Wasting, meaning being too thin for height, is a sign of acute undernutrition and is the most immediate threat to life. Overweight is the opposite problem, and is rising in many countries. The UNICEF, WHO and World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME) for 2025 found that in 2024, 150.2 million children under five were stunted, 42.8 million were wasted, including 12.2 million severely wasted, and 35.5 million were overweight.

Children Under Five Affected by Malnutrition, 2024 (million) Number of children under five by form of malnutrition.

Data:

UNICEF, WHO and World Bank, Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition.

Note:

severe wasting is a subset of wasting. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Stunting dominates: 150.2 million children under five were stunted in 2024, more than three times the 42.8 million who were wasted.

Progress has been slow. Stunting prevalence fell from 26.4 percent in 2012 to 23.2 percent in 2024, and the number of stunted children has been stuck at about 150 million since 2021. Wasting fell from 7.4 percent, or 50.9 million children, in 2012 to 6.6 percent in 2024. Overweight has not improved at all, edging up from 5.3 percent to 5.5 percent. Boys are more affected than girls: 24.4 percent of boys were stunted in 2024 against 21.9 percent of girls, and 5.8 percent of boys were overweight against 5.1 percent of girls.

Malnutrition Prevalence Among Children Under Five, 2012 vs 2024 (%)Share of children under five affected, global.

Data:

UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025, Goal 2, based on the Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Slow progress on undernutrition, none on overweight: stunting fell from 26.4 to 23.2 percent between 2012 and 2024, while overweight rose from 5.3 to 5.5 percent.

Undernutrition is concentrated in two regions. Asia is home to 51 percent of stunted children and Africa to 43 percent. Three quarters of severely wasted children live in Asia and 22 percent in Africa. Wasting prevalence was highest in Central and Southern Asia, at 13.0 percent in 2024, and in Oceania excluding Australia and New Zealand, at 8.4 percent. Only about a quarter of countries are on track to meet the 2030 target on stunting, and just 1 in 6 on overweight.

INDICATOR	2012	2024	CHANGE
Stunting (prevalence)	26.4 percent	23.2 percent	minus 3.2 points
Stunting (number)		150.2 million	flat since 2021
Wasting (prevalence)	7.4 percent	6.6 percent	minus 0.8 points
Wasting (number)	50.9 million	42.8 million	minus 8.1 million

Overweight (prevalence)	5.3 percent	5.5 percent	plus 0.2 points
Overweight (number)	36.3 million	35.5 million	minus 0.8 million

Anaemia

Anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies

Hidden hunger, a lack of essential vitamins and minerals, affects even more children than stunting. The WHO estimates that 40 percent of children aged 6 to 59 months worldwide, or 269 million children, are anaemic, most often because of iron deficiency. The WHO African Region has about 103 million anaemic young children and the South-East Asia Region about 83 million. Anaemia in early childhood impairs brain development, learning and resistance to infection.

Mothers are affected too. The WHO estimates that 30 percent of non-pregnant women and 37 percent of pregnant women aged 15 to 49 are anaemic, and the UN reports that anaemia among women of reproductive age rose from 27.6 percent in 2012 to 30.7 percent in 2023. Maternal anaemia increases the risk of low birthweight and preterm birth, the leading causes of newborn deaths.

40%Children 6 to 59 months with anaemia269 million, WHO.37%Pregnant women with anaemiaWHO.30.7%Women 15 to 49 with anaemia2023, up from 27.6 percent in 2012.1 in 3Women projected anaemic by 2030UN. Diets

Diets and child food poverty

What young children eat matters as much as how much. UNICEF, in its 2024 report on child food poverty covering nearly 100 countries, found that 181 million children under five, 1 in 4, live in severe child food poverty, meaning they eat from no more than two of eight food groups. These children are up to 50 percent more likely to suffer from wasting. Four in five of them eat only breastmilk or other milk and starchy staples such as rice, maize or wheat; fewer than 10 percent eat fruits and vegetables, and fewer than 5 percent eat nutrient-rich foods such as eggs, fish, poultry or meat. Rising food prices make this worse, as covered in our report on [food inflation](#).

Children Under Five in Severe Child Food Poverty by Region (million)Children consuming two or fewer of eight food groups.

Data:



UNICEF, Child Food Poverty: Nutrition Deprivation in Early Childhood, June 2024.

Note:

other regions derived as the remainder of the 181 million total. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

South Asia and Africa bear the brunt: 64 million children in South Asia and 59 million in sub-Saharan Africa live in severe child food poverty, two thirds of the global total.

Severe child food poverty is not only a problem of poor households: 46 percent of affected children live in poor households, but 54 percent, or 97 million, live in relatively wealthier households, a sign that food environments and knowledge matter as well as income. About 65 percent of these children live in just 20 countries. In Somalia, 63 percent of young children are in severe child food poverty, and in the Gaza Strip data collected between December 2023 and April 2024 showed 9 in 10 children affected.

Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding is one of the most effective ways to protect child health, providing complete nutrition in the first six months and protection against infections. According to the Global Breastfeeding Scorecard 2025, nearly 50 percent of infants under six months worldwide are now exclusively breastfed, up 8 percentage points since 2020, and rates of continued breastfeeding at one and two years have risen by about 10 points over five years. The World Health Assembly target is 60 percent exclusive breastfeeding by 2030.

Policy gaps hold progress back. Only 17 percent of countries have legislation substantially aligned with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes, only 10 percent meet International Labour Organization standards for maternity leave, and just 4 percent receive adequate donor funding for breastfeeding support per birth.

Obesity

Childhood obesity: a new majority problem

While undernutrition persists, obesity is rising fast. In its Child Nutrition Report 2025, UNICEF found that among children and adolescents aged 5 to 19, obesity prevalence rose from 3 percent in 2000 to 9.4 percent in 2025, while underweight fell from 13 percent to 9.2 percent. For the first time, more young people are obese than underweight: about 188 million school-age children and adolescents live with

obesity. Obesity now exceeds underweight in every region except sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Obesity vs Underweight Among Children Aged 5 to 19, 2000 vs 2025 (%)Global prevalence among school-age children and adolescents.

Data:

UNICEF, Child Nutrition Report 2025, September 2025. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

A historic crossover: obesity among 5 to 19 year olds tripled from 3 percent in 2000 to 9.4 percent in 2025, overtaking underweight at 9.2 percent.

The highest rates are found in the Pacific islands, where obesity has doubled since 2000: 38 percent of children and adolescents in Niue, 37 percent in the Cook Islands and 33 percent in Nauru are obese. Among larger countries, rates are 27 percent in Chile and 21 percent in both the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

Obesity Among Children and Adolescents Aged 5 to 19, Selected Countries, 2025 (%)Share of children and adolescents with obesity.

Data:

UNICEF, Child Nutrition Report 2025. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Pacific islands lead the world: 38 percent of children and adolescents in Niue are obese, and more than 1 in 5 in Chile, the United States and the UAE.

Marketing of unhealthy food is a major driver. In a UNICEF poll of 64,000 young people in more than 170 countries, 75 percent recalled seeing advertisements for sugary drinks, snacks or fast food in the previous week, and 60 percent said the ads made them want to eat those products. Even in conflict-affected countries, 68 percent had seen such marketing. UNICEF warns that the global economic cost of overweight and obesity could exceed 4 trillion dollars a year by 2035.

United States

Child obesity in the United States

In the United States, about 1 in 5 children and adolescents aged 2 to 19, or 14.7 million young people, have obesity, a prevalence of 19.7 percent in 2017 to March 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Rates rise with age, from 12.7 percent among 2 to 5 year olds to 20.7 percent at



ages 6 to 11 and 22.2 percent at 12 to 19. Hispanic children, at 26.2 percent, and non-Hispanic Black children, at 24.8 percent, have higher rates than non-Hispanic white children, at 16.6 percent, and non-Hispanic Asian children, at 9.0 percent. Adult risk factors are covered in our report on [health risk factors in the US](#).

US Childhood Obesity by Family Income, 2017 to March 2020 (%) Obesity prevalence among children and adolescents aged 2 to 19, by family income relative to the federal poverty level (FPL).

Data:

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Poverty and obesity go together: 25.8 percent of US children in families at or below 130 percent of the poverty level have obesity, more than double the 11.5 percent in the highest-income group.

Childhood obesity in the US is closely linked to income: prevalence is 25.8 percent among children in families with incomes at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level, 21.2 percent between 130 and 350 percent, and 11.5 percent above 350 percent. Among girls, non-Hispanic Black girls have the highest prevalence, at 30.8 percent, and among boys, Hispanic boys, at 29.3 percent. Annual medical costs of childhood obesity were estimated at 1.3 billion dollars in 2019 dollars, with children who have obesity incurring 116 dollars more in medical costs per year than children at a healthy weight. See our data on [births in the US](#) and [the US population by age](#) for demographic context.

Immunisation

Childhood immunisation

Vaccines are among the most effective tools for child survival. According to WHO and UNICEF estimates published in July 2026, 90 percent of infants worldwide, about 116 million, received a first dose of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (DTP1) in 2025, and 85 percent, about 110 million, completed the three-dose series (DTP3). Coverage of the first dose of measles vaccine was 84 percent and of the second dose 77 percent, both well below the 95 percent needed to prevent outbreaks.

Global Childhood Immunisation Coverage by Vaccine, 2025 (%) Share of the target population vaccinated.

Data:

WHO and UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC), July 2026.

Note:

HPV is first dose among girls; yellow fever in at-risk countries was 53 percent. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

Big gaps for newer vaccines: coverage reached 90 percent for the first DTP dose in 2025 but only 61 percent for rotavirus and 33 percent for HPV.

In 2025, 13.5 million children received no vaccines at all, so-called zero-dose children, down about 750,000 from 14.3 million in 2024. About 53 percent of them live in ten countries: Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Yemen, and more than half live in fragile or conflict-affected countries. A further 7.3 million infants started their vaccinations but did not complete them. Coverage of newer vaccines remains low: 71 percent for pneumococcal vaccine, 61 percent for rotavirus and 33 percent for the first dose of HPV vaccine among girls. The disruption caused by the pandemic, when coverage fell sharply, is covered in our report on [the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

Progress varies sharply between regions and countries. Since 2019, coverage has improved in the Americas and in South-East Asia, which is now the best-performing WHO region, while Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean and Europe remain below their pre-pandemic levels and the Western Pacific has declined. Individual countries show how quickly coverage can change with conflict, policy and trust in vaccines.

COUNTRY	CHANGE	VACCINE AND PERIOD
Sudan	plus 35 percentage points	DTP1, 2024 to 2025
Syria	minus 6 points	DTP1, 2024 to 2025
Syria	minus 12 points	Measles first dose, 2024 to 2025
South Africa	minus 20 points	DTP1, 2019 to 2025
Bosnia and Herzegovina	minus 23 points	Measles first dose, after gains the year before

Other Risks

Other risks to child health

Beyond disease and diet, many children face other threats to their health and development. Child marriage, still common in parts of Africa and South Asia, is linked to early pregnancy and higher risks for both



mothers and babies, as shown in our data on [the countries with the highest child marriage rates](#). Mental health problems often begin in childhood and adolescence, a topic covered in our report on [mental health worldwide](#). Conflict, displacement and climate change also threaten child health by destroying health systems, disrupting food supplies and spreading disease.

Child Health Targets for 2030 and Where the World Stands

- **Under-five mortality:** target of 25 per 1,000 or lower in every country; global rate 37.4 in 2024, with 60 countries off track.
- **Newborn mortality:** target of 12 per 1,000 or lower; global rate 17.2 in 2024, with 66 countries off track.
- **Stunting:** global prevalence 23.2 percent in 2024; only about a quarter of countries on track.
- **Exclusive breastfeeding:** target of 60 percent; nearly 50 percent in the latest data.
- **Zero-dose children:** target to halve from the 2019 level; 13.5 million in 2025.

Outlook

The outlook for child health

The world has made extraordinary progress on child health since 1990, with under-five deaths falling from 13.0 million to 4.9 million a year. But progress has slowed sharply since 2015, and cuts to international aid in 2025 and 2026 threaten programmes for vaccines, nutrition and malaria. Undernutrition still affects 150 million young children, while obesity is rising in almost every region, creating a double burden for many countries.

The most effective solutions are well known: vaccination, breastfeeding, better diets, clean water, skilled care at birth and treatment for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. Scaling them up in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where most child deaths occur, will decide whether the world meets its 2030 goals. Our data on [world population](#) shows where the next generation of children will be born.

Key Facts

Child health and nutrition in numbers

37.4Under-five mortality ratePer 1,000 live births, 2024.42.8MWasted children under 52024.9.4%Obesity among 5 to 19 year olds2025, above underweight.85%DTP3 vaccine coverage2025. FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

4.9 million children died before their fifth birthday in 2024, including 2.3 million newborns, according to the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 58 percent of under-five deaths in 2024 and Southern Asia for 25 percent. Niger, Nigeria and Somalia had the highest under-five mortality rates.

150.2 million children under five, or 23.2 percent, were stunted in 2024, according to the UNICEF, WHO and World Bank Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates.

42.8 million children under five, or 6.6 percent, were wasted in 2024, including 12.2 million who were severely wasted.

Yes. In 2025, 9.4 percent of children and adolescents aged 5 to 19 were obese and 9.2 percent underweight, the first time obesity has been more common, according to UNICEF.

It describes young children who eat from two or fewer of eight food groups. UNICEF estimates 181 million children under five, 1 in 4, live in severe child food poverty.

In 2025, 85 percent of infants worldwide completed three doses of DTP vaccine, but 13.5 million children received no vaccines at all.

Nearly 50 percent of infants under six months are exclusively breastfed, up 8 points since 2020. The 2030 target is 60 percent.

About 19.7 percent of US children and adolescents aged 2 to 19, or 14.7 million, have obesity, rising to 25.8 percent in the lowest-income families.

Sources

[UN IGME \(UNICEF, WHO, World Bank, UN DESA\)](#) - Levels and Trends in Child Mortality, Report 2025.

[UNICEF](#) - child mortality press release, March 2026.

[UNICEF, WHO and World Bank](#) - Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates, 2025 edition.

[United Nations](#) - Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025, Goal 2.

[World Health Organization](#) - anaemia fact sheet.

[UNICEF](#) - Child Food Poverty report, June 2024.

[UNICEF and WHO](#) - Global Breastfeeding Scorecard 2025.



[UNICEF](#) - Child Nutrition Report 2025.

[US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) - childhood obesity facts.

[WHO and UNICEF](#) - immunisation coverage estimates, July 2026.

[World Health Organization](#) - immunization coverage fact sheet.

Malnutrition and mortality figures are modelled estimates and are revised with each edition. Obesity figures for school-age children are UNICEF estimates. All data compiled by BusinessStats.

STATISTICS REPORT

Global cheese market – statistics and facts 2024

Updated Sep 20, 2026 · businessstats.com/global-cheese-market

26M t CHEESE MADE 2024	10.78Mt EU OUTPUT, NO. 1	6.46Mt US, TOP COUNTRY
28kg DENMARK PER HEAD	\$45B WORLD TRADE	

Overview

The global cheese market in 2024

Cheese is one of the oldest and most valuable products in the food industry. It turns a perishable raw material, milk, into something concentrated, storable and tradable, and it carries centuries of regional identity in a way few foods can match. Today the global cheese market spans everything from industrial mozzarella destined for pizza chains to protected-origin wheels aged for years in European caves, and it is worth well over 150 billion US dollars a year.

At the heart of the market sits a simple fact: cheese is the single most important way the world uses its milk. It is the highest-value bulk destination for raw milk, which is why the biggest dairy nations are also the biggest cheese nations. Cheese production is closely tied to the wider [global dairy industry](#), and Europe in particular turns most of its output into cheese, as our report on the [milk market in Europe](#) shows.

This report covers the whole picture: how much cheese the world makes and where, how concentrated production is, what the market is worth, who eats the most, who trades the most, and which types and trends are shaping demand. A quick note on data before we start. Production is measured in metric tonnes, trade in US dollars, and consumption per person per year. Market-value estimates differ substantially between research firms, so they are given as ranges rather than single figures.

World Production

How much cheese does the world produce?

Global cheese production has grown slowly and steadily for years. The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service tracks about 22 million tonnes a year among the major producing markets, while broader industry estimates that include smaller producers put total world output nearer 26 million tonnes in 2024. Either way, cheese is a genuinely massive industry, second only to fresh milk itself in the volume of dairy it consumes.

The question of which country makes the most cheese has a surprising answer. It is not France or Italy, the countries most associated with cheese, but the United States. The chart below ranks the leading single-country producers.

Top Cheese-Producing Countries, 2024 (million tonnes) The US leads by a wide margin.

Data:

Cheese production by single country in million tonnes, 2024.

Note:

Sources USDA FAS and Eurostat. The EU as a bloc produced about 10.78 million tonnes, more than any single country. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

The US leads by a wide margin: about 6.46 million tonnes, roughly triple Germany, the largest European producer.

The United States made about 6.46 million tonnes of cheese in 2024, close to 29 percent of tracked world output, with Wisconsin and California the leading states. Germany is next at about 2.35 million tonnes, then France at 1.92 million and Italy at 1.39 million. Russia, the Netherlands and Poland follow. One caveat matters here: the European Union counted as a single bloc produced about 10.78 million tonnes, far more than any individual country, which is why the EU and the US together dominate the global picture.

The scale of American cheesemaking is easiest to grasp at the state level. Wisconsin alone produced more than 3.5 billion pounds of cheese in 2024 and makes over 600 different varieties; if it were counted as a separate country it would rank around fourth in the world, behind only the rest of the United States, Germany and France. California is the second-largest producing state. This concentration of output in a handful of regions, backed by large herds and efficient processing, is what lets a country with no ancient cheese tradition out-produce the classic cheesemaking nations of Europe.

American output has not just been large, it has been relentlessly rising. US cheese production has increased every single year since 1992, and 2024 set yet another record. The line below tracks the climb.

US Cheese Production by Year (billion pounds)A record set almost every year.

Data:

Total US cheese production, excluding cottage cheese, in billion pounds, 2020 to 2024.

Note:

Source USDA NASS Dairy Products Summary. 2024 was a record; US output has risen every year since 1992. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

A record every year: US output reached about 14.25 billion pounds in 2024, though annual growth has slowed to a crawl.

US cheese production reached a record 14.25 billion pounds in 2024, up 0.7 percent on the year, and has now risen for more than three decades straight. But the pace has cooled: after jumping by more than 500 million pounds in 2021 and over 300 million in 2022, output added less than 100 million pounds in each of the last two years, a sign that even the great American cheese engine is maturing. Italian varieties, led by mozzarella, now make up about 42 percent of US output, with American types such as cheddar close behind at roughly 39 percent.

Concentration

A market dominated by two powers

Cheese production is remarkably concentrated in two places: Europe and North America. Between them, the European Union and the United States account for more than three quarters of the cheese tracked by the USDA, leaving the rest of the world to split the remainder. The donut below shows how lopsided the map really is.

Cheese Production by Market, 2024 (million tonnes)EU and US take most.

Data:

Cheese production by market in million tonnes, 2024.

Note:

Source USDA FAS. Other tracked combines Canada, Argentina, the UK, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. Compiled by BusinessStats.Switch to the table for exact figures.

EU and US take most: together they make up about 77 percent of the cheese tracked by the USDA worldwide.

The EU accounts for roughly 48 percent of tracked global output and the US around 29 percent. After them the gap is enormous: Russia is a distant third at about 5 percent, Brazil around 3 percent, and a long tail of countries including Canada, Argentina, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand each contribute about 2 percent. This concentration means that supply, prices and trade flows are heavily shaped by conditions in just two regions, and that emerging producers, however fast they grow, still start from a very small base.

Market Value

How big is the cheese market in dollars?

Putting a single price tag on the global cheese market is harder than it sounds, because research firms use different definitions, channels and geographies. Estimates for 2024 range from about 150 billion US dollars at the lower end to nearly 195 billion at the higher end. What the firms agree on is the direction: the market is growing steadily, with most forecasts clustering around 4 to 6 percent compound annual growth through 2030, which would push the value comfortably past 200 billion dollars.

\$150-195B Market value, 2024 Range across research firms. 4-6% Annual growth Forecast CAGR to 2030. \$200B+ Projected by 2030 On most forecasts.

The growth drivers are consistent across the research. The relentless global spread of pizza and fast food keeps mozzarella demand rising, protein-focused diets have made cheese a fashionable snack rather than just an ingredient, premium and specialty cheeses are commanding higher prices in mature markets, and demand is expanding quickly in Asia and the Middle East where cheese was historically a minor part of the diet. Even the rise of plant-based cheese, often framed as a threat, has added a new fast-growing segment to the overall category.

Geography is the other axis of growth. Mature markets in Europe and North America are expanding slowly, so the sharpest gains in percentage terms are expected in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, where cheese is moving from novelty to everyday item in fast-growing cities. Producers and investors increasingly judge the cheese market less by its huge but slow-moving Western base and more by how quickly these newer regions adopt it, which is why so many forecasts pair a modest global growth rate with much faster numbers for emerging markets.

Consumption

Who eats the most cheese?

If the United States makes the most cheese, Europe eats the most of it per person. The European Union has the highest per-capita cheese consumption of any region, and the individual leaders are almost all European. The chart below ranks the biggest cheese eaters.

Cheese Consumption Per Person, Top Countries (kg per year) Denmark tops the list.

Data:

Cheese consumption in kg per person per year, recent years.

Note:

Based on International Dairy Federation estimates; figures are approximate and vary by year and source.

Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Denmark tops the list: around 28 kg per person a year, with France, Germany and the Nordics close behind.

Denmark leads at about 28 kg per person a year, followed closely by Iceland, Finland and France near 27 kg, then Cyprus and Germany. These are cheese cultures where the product is a daily staple rather than an occasional treat. By contrast, the United States eats around 18 kg per person, below the EU average of roughly 20 kg, which the industry sees as room to grow rather than a ceiling. At the other extreme, emerging markets start from almost nothing: China consumes well under 1 kg per person, but from that tiny base demand has been growing at double-digit rates, which is why global producers watch Asia so closely.

Measuring consumption is not always straightforward, because figures are reported in both kilograms and pounds and can differ by year and method. In pound terms, Americans eat around 40 pounds of cheese a head each year, a figure that has climbed slowly but steadily for two decades. Other large Western markets sit well below the cheese-loving core: the United Kingdom consumes only about 11 kg per person, and the Netherlands around 20 kg despite being a major producer. The long upward drift in the United States and the very low base across most of Asia are the two consumption numbers the industry watches most closely.

Trade and Exports

The global cheese trade

Cheese is one of the most heavily traded dairy products in the world. Global cheese exports were worth roughly 45 billion US dollars in 2024, up about 4.2 percent on the year, and the trade is dominated by a small group of European exporters plus the United States. The chart ranks the leading exporters by value.

Leading Cheese Exporters by Value (USD billion) Germany sells the most.

Data:

Cheese exports by value in US dollars, recent year.

Note:

Based on international trade data. Values vary by year and source. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Germany sells the most: about 15 percent of world cheese trade by value, with Italy, the Netherlands and France close behind.

Germany is the largest cheese exporter, shipping goods worth around 6.7 billion dollars in 2024, roughly 15 percent of world trade, with Gouda and Edam among its biggest lines. Italy, the Netherlands and France follow closely, and the United States is the largest non-European exporter. Together, just five countries account for more than half of all global cheese export value. On the import side, the biggest buyers are also mostly wealthy Western nations, with Germany, Italy, France, the United States and Spain leading demand, though the fastest growth in imports is coming from Asia. The wider trade dynamics sit within the broader [global dairy industry](#), where the EU, the US and New Zealand form the core of world dairy exports.

The trade map is also shifting at the edges. While the established European exporters still dominate by value, the fastest growth is coming from outside the traditional core. Recent trade data show Ireland, New Zealand and the United States among the quickest-rising exporters, each posting double-digit gains year on year as they chase demand in Asia and the Middle East. Italy has also grown strongly, helped by the global appetite for Italian styles. On the buying side, the United Kingdom is one of the largest single importers of mozzarella, underlining how pizza demand pulls product across borders even between neighbouring markets.

Trade is only half exports; someone has to buy all that cheese, and here the same names appear, because the biggest sellers are often the biggest buyers too. The chart ranks the leading cheese importers by value.

Leading Cheese Importers by Value, 2024 (USD billion) Germany buys the most.

Data:

Cheese imports by value in US dollars, 2024.

Note:

Based on international trade data. Global cheese imports totalled about 45 billion dollars. Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Germany buys most too: close to 6 billion dollars of cheese imports, the same country that leads exports.

Worldwide cheese imports were also worth about 45 billion US dollars in 2024, and Germany led the buyers as well as the sellers, taking in close to 6 billion dollars. France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and the United States follow. That Germany tops both tables is no accident: it is the great dairy crossroads of Europe, importing specialty cheeses and re-exporting in bulk. Europe as a whole buys close to 70 percent of the world imported cheese, though the fastest import growth is now in Asia and Latin America, with Mexico among the quickest-rising buyers.

Cheese Types

Which types of cheese lead the market?

The global cheese market is not one product but hundreds, yet a few types carry most of the volume. Mozzarella is the biggest cheese in the world by volume, propelled by the global pizza and food-service boom, followed by cheddar, which anchors the English-speaking markets. After them come the great continental families: Dutch Gouda and Edam, Italian hard cheeses such as Parmigiano and Grana, French soft and blue cheeses, and the fresh cheeses like feta, ricotta and cream cheese that are among the fastest-growing segments of all.

Interestingly, the leaders in a specific type are not always the overall leaders. Mozzarella trade is a good example, where Italy, the product spiritual home, tops the export table even though Germany leads total cheese exports. The chart below shows the leading mozzarella exporters.

Leading Mozzarella Exporters, 2024 (USD billion) Italy leads its own cheese.

Data:

Mozzarella exports by value in US dollars, 2024.

Note:

Based on international trade data (HS code 040610). Compiled by BusinessStats. Switch to the table for exact figures.

Italy leads its own cheese: about 2.05 billion dollars of mozzarella exports, ahead of Germany and Denmark.

Italy exported around 2.05 billion dollars of mozzarella in 2024, ahead of Germany at 1.72 billion and Denmark at 1.07 billion, with the Netherlands and the United States close behind. The pattern shows how the modern cheese market blends heritage and industry: Italy trades on the authenticity of mozzarella while northern producers like Germany and Denmark compete on scale and efficiency for the vast pizza and food-service market. Fresh and specialty cheeses more broadly are where much of the value growth is now concentrated, echoing the demand for premium dairy seen across categories such as [yogurt](#).

Beyond the two giants, the map of cheese types mirrors national traditions. Cheddar dominates the United Kingdom, Ireland and much of the English-speaking world, Gouda and Edam define Dutch output, and hard grating cheeses anchor the premium exports of Italy. Fresh cheeses are the standout growth story: feta, cream cheese, ricotta and similar styles suit modern, lighter eating and travel well into new markets. Specialty cheese as a whole is a fast-expanding slice of the industry, worth close to 40 billion US dollars and growing at nearly 6 percent a year, with aged varieties among the quickest-rising segments of all.

Regional Picture

Europe, America and the rising rest

Regionally, the global cheese market breaks into three stories. Europe is the mature heartland: it makes the most, eats the most per head, exports the most, and sets the benchmark for quality and tradition. Growth here is slow but the value is high, and European producers increasingly compete on premium, protected-origin and organic lines rather than sheer volume. The continent remains the single most important region for the industry, as detailed in our report on the [milk market in Europe](#).

North America, led by the United States, is the volume powerhouse. American output has grown steadily on the back of pizza, fast food and processed cheese, and although per-capita consumption trails Europe, the sheer size of the market makes it central to global supply. The US dairy and cheese sector is part of the broader farm economy covered in our [US agriculture statistics](#).

The third story is the rising rest of the world. Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and parts of Africa consume little cheese per head today, but Western food culture, urbanisation and the spread of pizza and

burger chains are changing that fast. China alone, despite tiny per-capita consumption, has been growing demand at double-digit rates. This is where producers see the next decade of growth, and where export competition between Europe, the US, New Zealand and Australia is fiercest.

Trends and Drivers

What is driving cheese demand?

Several forces are reshaping the cheese market at once. The most powerful is food service. Pizza in particular has made mozzarella the world workhorse cheese, and the continued global expansion of quick-service restaurants keeps that demand climbing. Convenience is a related driver: shredded, sliced and portioned cheeses fit modern cooking and snacking habits, and packaged meals that rely on cheese sell well in busy urban markets.

On the consumer side, the protein trend has been a gift to cheese. Marketed as a natural, high-protein, low-carb snack, cheese has shaken off some of its old associations with fat and indulgence. At the premium end, artisanal, aged and protected-origin cheeses are commanding higher prices as shoppers trade up, while at the value end private-label and processed cheeses keep the category affordable and accessible. Plant-based cheese, made from soy, cashew, almond and coconut, has carved out a small but fast-growing niche as veganism and flexitarian eating spread, pushing traditional makers to innovate.

Where cheese is sold matters as much as what type it is. The market runs through three broad channels: retail shelves, food service, and the food manufacturers who use cheese as an ingredient in ready meals and snacks. Food service, and pizza above all, drives much of the volume growth, while retail is where premiumisation plays out as shoppers trade up to branded and specialty lines. Private-label and processed cheeses, meanwhile, keep the category affordable and defend volume when household budgets tighten. Balancing these channels is central to how the big dairy companies plan production and pricing.

Pressures and Outlook

What is next for the global cheese market?

For all its momentum, the cheese industry faces real headwinds. The biggest is the cost and availability of milk. Cheese is milk-intensive, so tight milk supplies, volatile farmgate prices and shrinking dairy herds in Europe and elsewhere feed straight through to cheese costs. Trade tensions and tariffs add another layer of risk for an industry where a small group of exporters depends heavily on access to foreign markets, and shifting policy on subsidies and geographic-origin protection can reshape competitiveness overnight.



Sustainability is the other defining challenge. Dairy carries a significant environmental footprint, chiefly methane from cattle, and cheese sits at the milk-hungry end of that footprint. Producers face growing pressure from regulators, retailers and consumers to cut emissions, improve animal welfare and prove their sustainability credentials, all while keeping prices competitive. How the industry balances these demands will shape which regions and companies thrive.

One structural fact sits underneath everything: cheese is the most milk-hungry major dairy product, taking many litres of milk to make a single kilogram. That makes cheesemakers unusually exposed to the milk market, so anything that tightens milk supply, from shrinking herds to feed costs to climate pressure, tends to land hardest on cheese. It also encourages consolidation, as scale and secure milk supply become decisive advantages. The result is an industry that looks stable and mature from the outside but is quietly reshaping itself around milk availability, sustainability rules and the race to win new consumers abroad.

The outlook, nonetheless, is one of steady growth. Most forecasts see the global cheese market expanding at around 4 to 6 percent a year in value through 2030, carried by food service, premiumisation, the protein trend and above all the opening of huge new markets in Asia and the Middle East. Cheese will remain the single most valuable way the world turns milk into food, and one of the most globally traded foods of all.

Key Facts

The global cheese market in numbers

A handful of figures capture the shape of the market. The world makes around 26 million tonnes of cheese a year, the US and the EU dominate production, Germany leads a 45 billion dollar export trade, Denmark eats the most per head, and mozzarella is the biggest type by volume. It is a mature, concentrated, but still growing global industry.

26M tWorld output, 2024About 22Mt tracked by USDA.6.46MtUS productionTop single country.\$45BExport tradeGermany the No. 1 exporter.28kgDenmark per headHighest in the world.

These numbers matter because cheese is a staple food, a major agricultural export and a growing global business. Shifts in American and European production, in milk costs, in trade policy or in Asian demand ripple through farms, factories, restaurants and shopping baskets around the world.

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions: Global Cheese Market

The USDA tracks about 22 million tonnes of cheese a year among the major producing markets, while broader estimates put total world output nearer 26 million tonnes in 2024. Output has grown slowly and steadily for years.

The United States is the largest single country, making about 6.46 million tonnes in 2024, roughly 29 percent of tracked global output. The European Union as a bloc produces more, about 10.78 million tonnes, led by Germany.

Estimates of the global cheese market value range from about 150 billion to 195 billion US dollars in 2024, depending on the research firm, and most forecasts see it growing at roughly 4 to 6 percent a year through 2030.

Germany is the top cheese exporter by value, shipping around 6.7 billion US dollars worth in 2024, about 15 percent of world trade. Italy, the Netherlands, France and the United States round out the top five, together more than half of global exports.

World cheese exports were worth roughly 45 billion US dollars in 2024, up about 4.2 percent on the year. Just five countries, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, France and the United States, account for more than half of that value.

Denmark tops most rankings at about 28 kg per person a year, followed by Iceland, Finland and France near 27 kg. The European Union has the highest per-capita consumption overall, well above the United States.

Mozzarella is the biggest cheese type by volume worldwide, driven by pizza and food service, followed by cheddar. Fresh and specialty cheeses are among the fastest-growing segments.

Yes. Both production volume and market value keep rising, supported by pizza and fast food, protein-focused diets, premium and specialty cheeses, and fast-growing demand in Asia and the Middle East.

Germany leads European cheese production at about 2.35 million tonnes in 2024, followed by France at 1.92 million and Italy at 1.39 million tonnes, with the Netherlands and Poland near one million each.

Italy leads mozzarella exports by value at about 2.05 billion US dollars in 2024, ahead of Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United States, reflecting its association with the product.

Sources



[USDA Foreign Agricultural Service - Cheese production](#) - world and country production by market.

[Statista - Cheese consumption per capita worldwide](#) - consumption, production and export overview.

[Import Globals - Cheese global trade 2024](#) - export value, leading exporters and world trade total.

[World's Top Exports - Cheese exports by country](#) - exporter rankings and growth by value.

[MarkNtel Advisors - Global cheese market size](#) - market value, forecasts and growth drivers.

Production is in metric tonnes; the EU is counted as one market where noted. Trade is in US dollars and varies by year and source. Market-value estimates differ by research firm and are shown as ranges.

Consumption figures are International Dairy Federation estimates, approximate and year-dependent. This is data journalism, not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Top Ice Cream Brands Ranked – Market Share, Revenue & World Rankings 2026

 Updated Sep 4, 2026 · businessstats.com/top-ice-cream-brands

\$126B GLOBAL MARKET 2026	~8% MAGNUM BRAND SHARE - #1	\$910M BEN & JERRY'S REVENUE
19.4% UNILEVER CORPORATE SHARE	4.3% MARKET CAGR 2026–2033	\$169B PROJECTED MARKET 2033

Market Overview

The \$126 Billion Global Ice Cream Market – Who Controls It?

The global ice cream market is one of the world's most consistently growing consumer food categories, valued at approximately **\$125.8 billion in 2026** and projected to reach \$169.4 billion by 2033 at a compound annual growth rate of **4.3%**. Ice cream bars currently hold the largest global product format share at approximately **32.97%** of total market revenue. The competitive landscape is dominated by two corporate giants: **Unilever** holds approximately **19.4% of the global market** across Magnum, Ben & Jerry's, Wall's, Cornetto, Breyers, Talenti, Carte d'Or, and Grom; while **Nestlé/Froneri** (Häagen-Dazs globally, Dreyer's, Mövenpick) is the second-largest player. Together, the two largest players – Unilever's ice cream business (now The Magnum Ice Cream Company) and Froneri – control roughly a third of the global market, with the top 10 brands collectively holding approximately **35% of total market revenue**. North America and Europe collectively represent approximately **55% of global ice cream consumption**, while Asia-Pacific is the fastest-growing region, led by China – the world's largest market by volume – and India's rapidly expanding middle class.

The defining structural trends of the 2020–2026 period are: **(1) Premiumisation** – artisanal and premium brands now command 30–50% price premiums over standard ice cream and are winning significant shelf space in mainstream retail; **(2) Plant-based acceleration** – oat milk, almond milk, and coconut milk ice creams have surged to approximately **15% of the frozen dessert market** and are the fastest-growing segment; **(3) Digital retail** – [online grocery and delivery platforms](#) have expanded ice cream's purchase



occasions; and **(4) Flavour innovation** - regional and seasonal flavours (matcha, ube, durian in Asia; tiramisu, churro in Western markets) are driving impulse purchasing among younger consumers. The US market alone is valued at approximately **\$11.3 billion in 2026**, with Americans consuming approximately 23 pounds of ice cream per person annually - one of the world's highest per-capita rates.

Brand Rankings 2026

Top 12 Ice Cream Brands – Ranked by Global Market Share & Revenue 2026

The global ice cream brand rankings for 2026 reflect a market defined by the dominance of Unilever's portfolio at the top, the extraordinary continued success of super-premium pint brands in the United States, and the enduring strength of regional champions in their home markets. At the brand level, **Magnum** leads all ice cream brands globally with approximately **8% market share** - a position built on consistent premium positioning, iconic Belgian chocolate coating, and distribution across 100+ countries. **Ben & Jerry's** leads in revenue at approximately **\$910 million annually**, dominating the US super-premium pint segment with 29.1% category share. **Häagen-Dazs** at approximately \$785 million in revenue maintains the highest brand loyalty index among Gen Z consumers (86%) of any ice cream brand globally, reflecting six decades of premium ingredient quality. The ranking below reflects BusinessStats' proprietary scoring combining global reach, revenue, market share, and brand equity metrics.

Global Ice Cream Market Size Growth, 2025-2033

Market GrowthGlobal Ice Cream Market Size, 2025-2033Grand View Research · US\$ billion · 4.3% CAGR
\$169.4B2033 projection Market size (US\$ billion) Global market: \$126B (2026E) → \$169B (2033) at 4.3% CAGR Source: Grand View Research, Ice Cream Market Report 2026-2033. 2028-2030 (*) interpolated at 4.3% CAGR.

All 12 Brands – Revenue & Share Ranked

Full Rankings Top 12 Ice Cream Brands - Editorial Ranking 2026 Composite editorial ranking · defining stat shown per brand

#1 Ranked Brand

Magnum – World’s #1 Ice Cream Brand · ~8% Global Share

Magnum is the world’s **best-selling ice cream brand by global market share**, estimated at approximately **8% of global brand sales in 2026** per BusinessStats Market Research 2026 competitive analysis - making it the undisputed #1 ranked ice cream brand worldwide. Owned by Unilever and created in **1989 in Belgium**, Magnum is built on a deceptively simple formula: premium vanilla ice cream (or other indulgent flavours) dipped in thick, cracking **real Belgian chocolate**. Its flagship products - the Magnum Classic, Almond, White, and Double ranges - are sold in over **100 countries** and are the best-selling premium ice cream bar product in most European, Asian, and Latin American markets. In 2025, Unilever spun off its entire ice cream division as a standalone entity, increasing operational agility for the Magnum-led portfolio.

Magnum’s marketing consistently positions it as an **adult pleasure and indulgence experience** - aspirational and premium rather than a children’s treat. Regular collaborations with luxury fashion houses, celebrity-led campaigns, and the Magnum Pleasure Store boutique concept reinforce this premium brand identity globally. In August 2026, Magnum launched the premium **Cornetto Max** range targeting Gen Z consumers with layered textures and dual flavours (Hazelnut & Chocolate and Mango & Vanilla), exceeding sales expectations in Europe and Turkey. Unilever’s overall ice cream portfolio generates approximately **19.4% of the global ice cream market**, and Magnum is its most valuable single brand asset.

#2 Ranked Brand

Ben & Jerry’s – \$910M Revenue · America’s #1 Super-Premium Pint

Ben & Jerry’s is the **highest-revenue standalone ice cream brand in the United States**, generating approximately **\$910.68 million in annual sales** and holding approximately **29.1% of the US super-premium pint segment**. Founded in **1978 in Burlington, Vermont** by Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, the brand is famous for its iconic **chunky mix-in style** - generous cookie dough pieces, brownie chunks, caramel rivers, and chocolate fudge swirls in dense, high-fat premium ice cream. **Cookie Dough** remains the best-selling flavour globally. Unilever acquired the brand in 2000 for \$326 million. Ben & Jerry’s maintains an **independent Board of Directors** with oversight over its social mission as part of the original acquisition agreement.

What makes Ben & Jerry’s uniquely powerful is its authentic, decades-long commitment to **political and social activism** - consistently taking public positions on climate change, racial justice, and LGBTQ+ rights. This strategy generates massive media coverage and fierce brand loyalty among its target demographic. In 2026, Ben & Jerry’s partnered with musician Noah Kahan for a limited-edition flavour launch. A public



dispute between the co-founders and Unilever over the brand's social mission has generated significant media attention throughout 2026.

#3 Ranked Brand

Häagen-Dazs – \$785M Revenue · 86% Gen Z Loyalty Index

Häagen-Dazs is the world's definitive **super-premium ice cream brand**, with approximately **\$785 million in annual revenue** and approximately **7.2% of the global luxury ice cream segment**. Founded in **1960 in the Bronx, New York** by Reuben Mattus, the brand's deliberately Scandinavian-sounding name (entirely invented) was designed to convey European sophistication in the American market. Häagen-Dazs is built on deliberate simplicity: **fewer ingredients, higher cream content, no artificial flavours or colours**. Its **Gen Z Brand Loyalty Index of 86%** is the highest of any ice cream brand globally per BusinessStats Consumer Research 2026. The brand operates a boutique shop segment growing at 8.5% CAGR per year in Asia-Pacific.

Häagen-Dazs has an unusual **split ownership**: in North America it is owned by **General Mills** (acquired from Pillsbury in 2001), while everywhere else globally it is operated by **Froneri** – a joint venture between Nestlé and PAI Partners. In 2024, the brand co-branded with the hit series Emily in Paris for a European collection that sold out within weeks. The brand has expanded into vegan products including Chocolate Salted Fudge Truffle plant-based range.

#4 Ranked Brand

Baskin-Robbins – 8,800+ Locations · World's Largest Scoop Chain

Baskin-Robbins is the **world's largest ice cream speciality retailer**, operating approximately **8,800+ locations in over 50 countries** on a franchise scoop shop model. Founded in **1945 in Glendale, California** by brothers-in-law Burt Baskin and Irv Robbins, the brand built its entire identity around the iconic **"31 flavours" concept** – one flavour for every day of the month – which eventually grew to over 100 rotating flavours and more than 1,000 flavours created throughout its history. Now owned by **Inspire Brands**, the brand is particularly strong in Japan, the Middle East, South Korea, and Southeast Asia, where the scoop shop format resonates as a premium dessert destination. Inspire Brands has invested significantly in digital ordering and delivery partnerships. As a franchise scoop-shop chain it ranks among the world's most valuable quick-service restaurant brands.

#5 Ranked Brand

Wall's / Heartbrand – Unilever's Mass-Market Global Engine

Wall's is Unilever's mass-market ice cream brand and the **volume engine behind the corporation's global dominance** across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Founded in **1922 in the UK**, Wall's operates under **different names in different countries** unified by Unilever's iconic Heart logo: **Ola** (Netherlands/Belgium), **Langnese** (Germany), **Algida** (Italy), **Kibon** (Brazil), **Kwality Wall's** (India). This "Heartbrand" approach maintains local familiarity at global operational scale. Wall's product portfolio covers the complete range of impulse ice cream: Cornetto cones, Calippo lollies, Twister, Feast, Solero, and Viennetta. In April 2026, Kwality Wall's launched **The Dairy Factory** - a new slow-churned ice cream range in India.

#6 Ranked Brand

Cornetto – World's #1 Ice Cream Cone · Founded Italy 1959

Cornetto is the **world's most recognised ice cream cone brand**, created in **1959 in Naples, Italy** and now sold in virtually every market where Unilever operates its Wall's/Heartbrand portfolio. The classic Cornetto format - golden waffle cone filled with soft ice cream, topped with chocolate coating and crunchy nuts, with a **chocolate tip at the base** - is one of the most distinctive product formats in ice cream history. The chocolate tip was both a practical engineering innovation (preventing dripping) and a signature brand moment. Cornetto is available in Classic, Classico (chocolate), Mint, and dozens of regional variants. In Asia-Pacific, Cornetto has incorporated **local flavours such as durian** to capture regional tastes. In August 2026, Unilever launched the premium **Cornetto Max** range - targeting Gen Z with layered textures and dual flavours - exceeding initial sales expectations across Europe and Turkey.

#7 Ranked Brand

Breyers – Founded 1866 · America's Oldest Ice Cream Brand

Breyers is one of America's oldest and most recognised ice cream brands, founded in **1866 in Philadelphia** by William Breyer - making it over **150 years old**. The brand built its identity around **simple, all-natural ingredients**: real cream, sugar, milk, and natural flavours with no unnecessary additives. Many of Breyers' core US products are currently labelled as **"Frozen Dairy Dessert"** rather than "ice cream" because they do not meet the FDA's minimum milk-fat content requirements - a distinction that has generated consumer debate but has not significantly impacted market position. Despite this, Breyers remains the **dominant**

value segment brand in US retail with wide distribution across all major supermarket chains. Sold in large family tubs in familiar flavours - Vanilla, Natural Strawberry, Chocolate, Cookies & Cream - Breyers competes on value and familiarity. Unilever acquired Breyers from Kraft Foods in **1993**.

#8 Ranked Brand

Blue Bell Creameries – 7.9% US Share · Independent Regional Legend

Blue Bell Creameries is one of the most remarkable stories in American food - an **independently owned regional brand** with near-mythological status, holding approximately **7.9% of the overall US ice cream market** - making it the **third-largest ice cream brand in the US** despite being distributed in only approximately 17 Southern and South-Central states. Founded in **1907 in Brenham, Texas**, Blue Bell remains completely privately owned and regularly outsells national brands in its distribution territory. Its competitive advantage is an unwavering commitment to **real dairy, high-quality ingredients, and regional flavour authenticity**.

In Texas, Blue Bell has an almost mythological cultural status - the ice cream of choice for generations of Southern families. The brand's resilience was tested in 2015 when a *Listeria monocytogenes* outbreak forced a complete product recall, threatening the company's existence. Blue Bell's return to shelves was met with queuing customers and national media coverage. The brand has since invested heavily in food safety while maintaining beloved product quality. Its seasonal and limited-edition flavours generate genuine consumer excitement driving loyal repeat purchasing.

#9 Ranked Brand

Dreyer's / Edy's – \$372M Revenue · Slow-Churn Pioneer

Dreyer's operates under **two names in different US regions**: **Dreyer's** in the Western US and Texas, and **Edy's** in the Midwest and Eastern US. Founded in **1928 in Oakland, California** by William Dreyer and Joseph Edy, the brand is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Froneri** - the Nestlé/PAI Partners joint venture operating as the world's second-largest ice cream manufacturer across 60 markets. Dreyer's generated approximately **\$372 million in annual revenue** from BusinessStats Revenue Intelligence 2026 and operates seven production facilities producing three million gallons annually. Dreyer's signature innovation is the proprietary **Slow Churn process** - a patented technique producing cream-textured ice cream with significantly reduced fat and calories, pioneering the better-for-you mainstream segment before low-calorie specialists existed.

#10 Ranked Brand

Talenti – America's #1 Artisanal Gelato Brand

Talenti is the **largest producer of gelato and sorbet in the United States** - authentic Italian-style frozen dessert with lower fat, denser texture, and more intense flavour than standard ice cream. Founded in **2003 in Dallas, Texas** by Josh Hochscheidt - inspired by Argentine and Italian artisanal gelato traditions - Talenti was acquired by Unilever in 2014. The brand has expanded to national distribution across Walmart, Target, Whole Foods, and Costco while maintaining its **artisanal, craft brand identity** centred on origin ingredients: Belgian chocolate, Madagascan vanilla, Sicilian pistachios. Talenti's distinctive **clear plastic pint containers** are one of the most recognisable packaging innovations in the US premium frozen dessert aisle. The brand offers approximately **30 flavours** and has launched the successful Gelato Layers sub-range. Talenti uses **100% recyclable packaging** and produces over 300,000 pints across Unilever facilities.

#11 Ranked Brand

Halo Top – ~360 Calories Per Pint · Low-Calorie Category Disruptor

Halo Top is one of the most dramatic brand success stories in modern US food history - a **low-calorie ice cream brand** that disrupted the premium pint category. Founded in **2011 in Los Angeles** by Justin Woolverton, Halo Top delivers approximately **360 calories per entire pint** compared to 1,000–1,200 calories in a Ben & Jerry's or Häagen-Dazs pint. This is achieved through stevia and erythritol instead of sugar, higher protein content, and lower fat - while maintaining a genuinely enjoyable eating experience. In **2017**, just six years after launch, Halo Top became the **best-selling pint of ice cream in the United States**. Its rise perfectly coincided with keto, macro-counting, and fitness-oriented eating cultures dominating social media. The brand has since expanded into **plant-based coconut milk varieties** and keto-friendly lines. Acquired by Wells Enterprises (2019) and then the Ferrero Group, Halo Top remains the **category-defining brand** in better-for-you frozen desserts.

#12 Ranked Brand

Amul – 32% India Share · Cooperative Giant Founded 1946

Amul is India's most beloved ice cream brand and one of the most extraordinary cooperative enterprises in the world. The **Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)**, founded in **1946** through the leadership of Dr Verghese Kurien, operates as a dairy cooperative owned by approximately **3.6 million milk**

producer members across Gujarat state. Amul holds approximately **32% of the Indian ice cream market** - the largest single brand share in the country. Its products are made from **real dairy milk** sourced directly from the cooperative's vertically integrated supply chain, and prices are kept deliberately accessible across all Indian income levels. BusinessStats Market Research awards Amul a **9.5/10 supply chain resilience score** - the highest of any ice cream brand globally.

Amul's ice cream range spans the complete spectrum of Indian consumer preferences from affordable kulfi and ice lollies to premium tubs and seasonal novelty formats. The brand's iconic **Amul Girl** advertising character - a blue-haired cartoon schoolgirl commenting on topical Indian news events - has run continuously since **1966**, one of the longest-running advertising campaigns in history. Amul competes against Kwality Wall's (Unilever), Mother Dairy, Havmor, and Baskin-Robbins India. Despite strong multinational competition, Amul's cooperative ownership, real-milk positioning, and extraordinary rural distribution - reaching villages that international brands cannot cost-effectively serve - give it structural advantages nearly impossible to replicate.

Key Statistics

Global Ice Cream Market – Key Statistics 2026

\$126B Global Ice Cream Market 2026 Growing at 4.3% CAGR. Projected \$169B by 2033. Retail channels = 78.76% of global market revenue. Source: BusinessStats Global Market Intelligence 2026. ~8% Magnum Global Brand Share - #1 World's best-selling ice cream brand per BusinessStats Market Research 2026. Unilever-owned. Founded 1989 Belgium. 100+ countries. \$910M Ben & Jerry's Annual Revenue Highest-revenue standalone brand in US. 29.1% of super-premium pint segment. Cookie Dough is #1 flavour globally. Founded 1978 Vermont. 19.4% Unilever Corporate Share Largest single corporate player globally. Portfolio: Magnum, Ben & Jerry's, Wall's, Cornetto, Breyers, Talenti, Grom, Carte d'Or. 32.97% Ice Cream Bars - #1 Format Bars hold largest global product format share. Driven by on-the-go and impulse purchase behaviour. Key brands: Magnum, Cornetto, Feast. ~15% Plant-Based Ice Cream Share Fastest-growing segment in 2026. Oat, almond, coconut milk alternatives surging with vegan and lactose-free demand. 86% Häagen-Dazs Gen Z Loyalty Index Highest brand loyalty score of any ice cream brand among Gen Z consumers. \$785M revenue. 7.2% global luxury segment share. \$11.3B US Ice Cream Market 2026 Americans consume ~23 lbs per person annually. One of world's highest per-capita rates. Ben & Jerry's leads in revenue at \$910M. 8,800+ Baskin-Robbins Locations World's largest ice cream retail chain. 50+ countries. Franchise scoop shop model. Part of Inspire Brands. 100+ rotating flavours. 32% Amul India Market Share India's #1 ice cream brand. Cooperative owned by 3.6M milk farmers. 9.5/10 supply chain

resilience score (BusinessStats Research 2026). 7.9%Blue Bell US Market Share#3 US brand despite ~17 states only. Outselling national brands in Southern states. Founded 1907 Brenham Texas. Fully independent. ~360Halo Top Calories Per Pintvs 1,000-1,200 cal in Ben & Jerry's or Häagen-Dazs. Best-selling US pint in 2017. Low-cal category #1. Founded 2011 LA.

Ice Cream Brand Revenue Comparison 2026

Revenue ComparisonTop Ice Cream Brands - Annual Revenue Comparison 2026Zippia · US brand annual revenue \$910MHighest Revenue \$169BMarket 2033E

Ben & Jerry's \$910M leads in standalone revenue Source: Zippia, Largest Ice Cream Companies (US), 2025/2026.

Corporate Market Share – Global Ice Cream 2026

Corporate Control 2026 Global Ice Cream Market - Corporate Share Breakdown 2026 Reuters / Euromonitor · company share of global market

US Segment Share vs Global Revenue – Key Brands Compared

US vs GlobalKey Brands - US Segment Share vs Annual Revenue 2026BusinessStats Analytics 2026 · US & Global Ice Cream Market Intelligence 2026 29.1%Ben & Jerry's US Pint

Blue Bell: 7.9% US share despite selling in only ~17 states Source: BusinessStats Analytics 2026 · Ice Cream Brand Intelligence · April 2026

Top 12 Ice Cream Brands – Full Rankings Table 2026

Ice Cream Brands Ranked - Global Market Share & Revenue 2026Click column to sort

RANK	BRAND	PARENT COMPANY	REVENUE / SHARE	KEY MARKET	SEGMENT	FOUNDED
#1	Magnum	Unilever	~8% global	Global 100+ countries	Premium Bar	1989
#2	Ben & Jerry's	Unilever	\$910M revenue	USA / Global	Super-Premium Pint	1978
#3	Häagen-Dazs	Gen. Mills / Froneri	\$785M revenue	USA / Global	Super-Premium Pint	1960

#4	Baskin-Robbins	Inspire Brands	8,800+ locations	Global 50+ countries	Scoop Shop	1945
#5	Wall's / Heartbrand	Unilever	Multi-region #1	Europe / Asia / MENA	Mass Market	1922
#6	Cornetto	Unilever	Global Cone #1	Global 40+ countries	Impulse Cone	1959
#7	Breyers	Unilever	US Value #1	United States	Value Tub	1866
#8	Blue Bell	Independent	7.9% US share	Southern USA (~17 states)	Premium Regional	1907
#9	Dreyer's / Edy's	Froneri / Nestlé	\$372M revenue	United States	Mainstream Tub	1928
#10	Talenti	Unilever	US Gelato #1	United States	Premium Gelato	2003
#11	Halo Top	Ferrero / Wells	Low-Cal #1	United States	Better-For-You	2011
#12	Amul	GCMMF Cooperative	32% India share	India	Value Mass Market	1946

Forecast 2033

Global Ice Cream Market – Forecast & Growth Outlook to 2033

The global ice cream market's outlook to 2033 is defined by four structural growth drivers. **First, premiumisation:** consumers across all income levels are increasingly willing to pay premium prices for artisanal, locally-sourced, and speciality ice cream experiences. Small-batch producers like Van Leeuwen, Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams, and Salt & Straw have expanded into national grocery chains commanding 30–50% price premiums, and even mainstream retailers are allocating more freezer space to premium products. **Second, plant-based growth:** the ~15% plant-based frozen dessert segment will continue to grow as oat milk, almond milk, and coconut milk formulations improve in taste, texture, and price competitiveness. **Third, Asia-Pacific expansion:** China, India, and Southeast Asia represent the largest volume growth opportunities for all major ice cream brands. Baskin-Robbins, Häagen-Dazs boutiques, and localised versions of Unilever's portfolio continue to expand rapidly. **Fourth, digital retail integration:** ice cream's impulse-driven nature is increasingly compatible with delivery platforms, driving trial among new consumer segments.

Market Outlook 2033 Global Ice Cream Market - 2033 Key Projections (BusinessStats Research)

\$169B Global Market Size 2033E 4.3% CAGR 2026–2033 ~20% Plant-Based Share 2033E ~60% Asia-Pac + Americas Share 2033E \$14B+ US Market 2033E Magnum Projected Global #1 Brand 2033

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions – Ice Cream Brands Ranked 2026

Magnum is the world’s best-selling ice cream brand with approximately **8% global brand market share in 2026** per BusinessStats Market Research 2026. Owned by Unilever, created in 1989 in Belgium, Magnum is sold in 100+ countries and is the #1 premium ice cream bar globally. At the corporate level, **Unilever** is the world’s largest ice cream company with approximately **19.4% global market share** across its portfolio of Magnum, Ben & Jerry’s, Wall’s, Cornetto, Breyers, and Talenti.

In the United States, **Ben & Jerry’s** is the leading brand by revenue at approximately **\$910.68 million**, holding approximately 29.1% of the super-premium pint segment. **Häagen-Dazs** follows with approximately \$785M revenue and the highest Gen Z brand loyalty index (86%). **Blue Bell Creameries** holds approximately 7.9% overall US market share despite selling in only approximately 17 states. The US market is approximately **\$11.3 billion** in 2026. Americans consume approximately 23 pounds of ice cream per person annually.

Unilever owns the largest ice cream brand portfolio globally - Magnum, Ben & Jerry’s, Wall’s (Ola, Langnese, Algida etc. by region), Cornetto, Breyers, Talenti, Carte d’Or, Calippo, Solero, and Grom. Unilever holds approximately **19.4% of the global ice cream market**. In 2025, Unilever completed the spin-off of its ice cream division as a standalone entity. **Nestlé/Froneri** is second with Häagen-Dazs (globally), Dreyer’s/Edy’s, and Mövenpick.

The global ice cream market is valued at approximately **\$125.8 billion in 2026**, growing at 4.3% CAGR projected to reach **\$169.4 billion by 2033**. North America and Europe represent approximately 55% of global consumption. Asia-Pacific is the fastest-growing region. Ice cream bars hold the largest format share at 32.97%. The US market is approximately \$11.3 billion in 2026. Retail channels account for 78.76% of global market revenue.

Vanilla is the best-selling ice cream flavour globally and in the United States, consistently the largest volume flavour. In the US, vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry are the top three by sales. At the brand level, Ben & Jerry’s **Cookie Dough** is the best-selling individual product globally. Magnum Classic (vanilla with Belgian chocolate) is the world’s best-selling ice cream bar. In 2026, trending flavours include matcha, ube,

pandan, and tiramisu particularly in Asia-Pacific markets.

Häagen-Dazs has a split ownership structure. In **North America**, it is owned by **General Mills** (acquired from Pillsbury in 2001). **Everywhere else in the world**, Häagen-Dazs is operated by **Froneri** - a joint venture between Nestlé and PAI Partners. So Häagen-Dazs = General Mills in US/Canada, and Froneri/Nestlé internationally. This split arose from regulatory conditions when Nestlé acquired the global brand rights.

The **plant-based ice cream segment** is the fastest-growing in 2026, accounting for approximately **15% of the frozen dessert market**. Products made from oat milk, almond milk, and coconut milk have surged driven by veganism, lactose intolerance, and health consciousness. The premium artisanal segment is also growing strongly - artisan brands like Van Leeuwen and Jeni's Splendid have expanded nationally commanding 30–50% price premiums. By 2026, frozen novelties represent approximately 53% of the North American market, up from 45% in 2018.

Amul is India's most popular ice cream brand with approximately **32% of the Indian market**. Operated by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) - owned by 3.6 million milk farmers - Amul dominates through its direct supply chain, affordable pricing, and rural distribution. BusinessStats Market Research awards Amul a 9.5/10 supply chain resilience score - the highest of any ice cream brand globally. Other major brands in India include Kwality Wall's (Unilever), Mother Dairy, Havmor, and Baskin-Robbins India.

Blue Bell Creameries achieves approximately **7.9% US market share** - the third-largest US ice cream brand - despite selling in only approximately 17 Southern and South-Central states. The key is extraordinary **regional loyalty depth**: in its distribution territory, Blue Bell regularly outsells Ben & Jerry's and Häagen-Dazs in volume. Advantages include real dairy commitment, regional flavour authenticity, seasonal limited editions, 100+ years of heritage, and remaining completely independently owned - never acquired by a multinational.

Magnum leads global ice cream brand rankings through its **combination of premium positioning, genuinely high-quality product, consistent global distribution across 100+ countries, and sustained aspirational marketing**. Its thick Belgian chocolate coating and satisfying snap when bitten provide a sensory experience competitors have struggled to replicate. Magnum's adult pleasure positioning resonates across age groups globally. Regular limited-edition luxury collaborations maintain cultural relevance. Magnum's approximately 8% global brand share (BusinessStats Market Research 2026) reflects consistent #1 performance across Europe, Asia, and Latin America.



Unilever acquired Ben & Jerry's in 2000 for approximately \$326 million and continues to own the brand as of 2026. Unusually, Ben & Jerry's maintains an **independent Board of Directors** with oversight over the company's social mission as part of the original acquisition agreement. In 2025, Unilever spun off its entire ice cream division as a standalone entity, which includes Ben & Jerry's. A public dispute between the brand's co-founders (Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield) and Unilever over the brand's social mission and potential sale generated significant media attention in 2026.

Halo Top is a **low-calorie ice cream brand** that delivers approximately **360 calories per entire pint** compared to 1,000–1,200 calories in standard premium pints. Founded in 2011 in Los Angeles, Halo Top uses stevia, erythritol, and protein to reduce calories while maintaining a creamy texture. In 2017 it became the **best-selling pint of ice cream in the United States**, pioneering the better-for-you frozen dessert category. Now owned by the Ferrero Group (through Wells Enterprises acquisition), Halo Top offers plant-based coconut milk varieties and keto-friendly lines. It remains the category-defining brand in low-calorie ice cream.

Data Sources & References

Primary: [Grand View Research - Ice Cream Market Size, Share & Growth Report 2026–2033 · \\$125.8B Global Market Size · 4.3% CAGR · Format Share & Segment Data](#)

Primary: [Verified Market Research - Top Ice Cream Manufacturers 2025/2026 · Unilever 19.4% Corporate Share · Häagen-Dazs 86% Gen Z Loyalty · Amul 9.5/10 Supply Chain Score](#)

Primary: [Zippia - Largest Ice Cream Companies United States 2025/2026 · Ben & Jerry's \\$910M · Häagen-Dazs \\$785M · Dreyer's \\$372M · Blue Bell 7.9% US Market Share](#)

All market share and revenue data in this report is BusinessStats Research Desk analysis compiled from the primary sources listed above. Revenue figures reflect 2022 company data. Global market size (\$125.8B), CAGR (4.3%), and segment shares from Grand View Research 2025/2026. Corporate market shares and brand equity metrics from Verified Market Research 2025/2026. Brand revenue figures from Zippia 2025/2026. All figures are rounded estimates. Brand names and trademarks belong to their respective owners. Not investment advice.

STATISTICS REPORT

Food Industry in Mexico — Statistics & Facts 2026

 Updated Mar 14, 2026 · businessstats.com/food-industry-in-mexico

\$180B+ ANNUAL INDUSTRY REVENUE	1.1M DIRECT MANUFACTURING JOBS	\$45B+ AGRI-FOOD EXPORTS 2025
#1 WORLD AVOCADO & BEER EXPORTER	25% SHARE OF MANUFACTURING GDP	\$230B PROJECTED REVENUE 2030

Executive Summary

Mexico's Food Industry: A \$180B+ Powerhouse Feeding the World

Mexico's food and beverage manufacturing sector is the **single largest industry in Mexican manufacturing**, generating an estimated \$180–190 billion USD in annual revenue in 2025–2026. This represents approximately **25% of total manufacturing GDP**, making food and beverages more economically significant than automotive, electronics, or chemical manufacturing — though those sectors frequently receive more media attention due to their export profile. The **food and beverage industry in Mexico** employs more workers, feeds more families, and touches more households than any other manufacturing category. The industry's role in the broader Mexican economy is foundational — it sits at the intersection of agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, retail, and export commerce.

What makes Mexico's food industry exceptional is the combination of **world-class domestic companies** (Grupo Bimbo, Gruma, Sigma, Lala), **extraordinary natural agricultural advantages** (Mexico is one of the world's 17 megadiverse countries with 12 climate zones enabling year-round crop production), **strategic geographic position** (sharing a 3,145 km border with the world's largest consumer market), and **preferential trade access** via USMCA that gives Mexican food producers duty-free access to the \$3.2 trillion US and Canadian consumer food markets. The scale of cross-border food trade is directly tied to the broader dynamics of [North American GDP growth](#) and consumer spending power.

The **Mexico food market** is the largest in Latin America by manufacturing output, and the **food and beverage industry in Mexico** sits at the core of the national industrial strategy. The **food sector in Mexico**

combines world-class domestic champions with deep multinational investment to create a uniquely competitive export platform. **Food manufacturing in Mexico** generates approximately 20% of all manufacturing employment, making it the anchor of **Mexico's manufacturing** base. **Mexico beer exports** — at \$5.8B — are the single largest food export line, while **nearshoring in Mexico** continues driving new food processing investment into the Bajío and northern border regions. The industry's competitive advantages compound across several dimensions. Mexico is the **world's #1 exporter of avocados** (\$3.6 billion, 50%+ global market share), the **world's #1 exporter of beer** (\$5.8 billion, driven by Corona, Modelo, and Dos Equis), the **world's #1 producer and exporter of tequila and mezcal** (\$4.2 billion, with 30%+ annual growth in premium tequila exports to the US), and a **top-5 global exporter of tomatoes, peppers, mangoes, berries, and sugar**. Total agri-food exports exceeded **\$45 billion in 2025**, making food Mexico's second-largest export category after manufactured goods like vehicles and electronics.

Mexico's food and beverage industry generates \$180B+ annually — the country is the world's #1 exporter of avocados, beer, and tequila, and home to Grupo Bimbo (world's largest bread company) and Gruma (world's largest tortilla maker). The sector employs 1.1M+ manufacturing workers and feeds hundreds of millions of consumers across North America and beyond.

Market Size & GDP

Mexico Food Industry Market Size — Revenue, GDP Contribution & Scale

The total market size of Mexico's food and beverage industry can be measured across several dimensions. **Manufacturing revenue** (food and beverage processing) stands at approximately \$180–190 billion USD in 2026, up from \$148 billion in 2020 and \$165 billion in 2023, reflecting compound annual growth of approximately 4–5%. **Retail food sales** (everything sold to end consumers through supermarkets, convenience stores, foodservice, and informal channels) total approximately \$220–240 billion when informal economy food sales are included. The **Mexico food market** is the largest in Latin America by processed food revenue, and the **food sector in Mexico** as a whole — from farm to fork, including agriculture, processing, packaging, logistics, and retail — contributes approximately \$280–300 billion, or roughly 18–20% of Mexico's total GDP.

Mexico's **agro-food sector** combines world-class domestic companies with deep multinational investment. The following **Mexico food statistics** illustrate the scale: **food manufacturing in Mexico** produced approximately **795,000 tons** of processed food products monthly in 2025, according to INEGI data. The sector includes approximately **28,000 registered food and beverage companies**, ranging from

multinational giants (Nestlé, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Danone, AB InBev) to medium-sized domestic processors and the enormous network of small artisanal food producers. Micro and small enterprises account for approximately 95% of registered companies but only 25% of sector revenue — the food industry is simultaneously highly concentrated at the premium/branded end and highly fragmented in traditional and artisanal segments.

\$180B+Food Mfg Revenue 2026 25%Share of Manufacturing GDP 7–8%Share of Total GDP
 28,000Registered Companies 4.8%CAGR 2020–2026 \$230BProjected 2030

Revenue Growth Chart

Mexico Food Industry Revenue — 2015 to 2030 Growth Trajectory

The bar chart tracks Mexico's food and beverage manufacturing revenue from 2015 through 2026 with projections to 2030. The steady growth reflects the combined effect of domestic consumption expansion, export growth, peso depreciation boosting USD-denominated exports, nearshoring investment, and the structural rise of organized retail (Walmart Mexico, OXXO, La Comer) displacing informal food channels.

Food & Beverage Manufacturing · Revenue 2015–2030 Mexico Food Industry Revenue Growth USD Billions
 · INEGI, CANACINTRA, Euromonitor · *Projected \$183B2026 Revenue Actual RevenueProjected

CAGR 4.8% · \$120B → \$230B (2015–2030) Sources: INEGI · CANACINTRA · Euromonitor International ·
 *2027–2030 Projected

Subsector Breakdown

Mexico Food Industry Subsectors — Processed Foods, Beverages, Dairy & More

Mexico's food and beverage industry is divided into distinct subsectors, each with its own market structure, competitive dynamics, and growth profile. The **processed food segment** is the largest, encompassing baked goods, snacks, confectionery, canned foods, sauces, and convenience foods. The **beverages segment** — including soft drinks, beer, spirits, and bottled water — is extraordinarily strong globally, given Mexico's role as the world's leading beer exporter and its near-monopoly on tequila production. Understanding how these segments fit into the global consumer goods economy helps explain why multinational companies view Mexico as a critical production and innovation hub.

FOOD INDUSTRY REVENUE BY SUBSECTOR 2026 Mexico Food & Beverage — Revenue Breakdown by Segment Share of ~\$180B total industry revenue · INEGI, Euromonitor 2026

Processed foods include baked goods, snacks, confectionery, canned/package foods, sauces. Beverages include beer, soft drinks, spirits, water. Fresh produce includes fruits, vegetables, seafood distribution. Sources: INEGI · Euromonitor International · Consejo Nacional Agropecuario — 2026. Mexico Food Industry Subsectors — Revenue & Key Facts 2026

Click to sort

SUBSECTOR	REVENUE (USD)	% OF TOTAL	GROWTH/YR	GLOBAL RANK	KEY COMPANIES
Processed Foods	\$54B	30%	+4.2%	Top 15	Bimbo, Barcel, Marinela
Beverages (Beer/Spirits)	\$38B	21%	+6.8%	#1 Beer Export	Modelo, FEMSA, Bacardi
Soft Drinks & Water	\$22B	12%	+3.5%	Top 10	FEMSA/Coca-Cola, Pepsi
Meat & Seafood	\$25B	14%	+5.1%	Top 10	Sigma, SuKarne, Bachoco
Dairy Products	\$16B	9%	+3.8%	Top 15	Lala, Alpura, Nestlé
Fresh Produce	\$14B	8%	+7.2%	#1 Avocado	Mission Produce, Driscoll's
Condiments & Sauces	\$7B	4%	+5.5%	Top 20	McCormick MX, Herdez
Animal Feed	\$4B	2%	+3.2%	Top 20	Cargill, Gruma feed div.

Food Exports

Mexico Food Exports — \$45B+ Annually, #1 in Avocados, Beer & Tequila

Mexico's agri-food exports are one of the most impressive dimensions of the food industry — exceeding **\$45 billion in 2025**, up from \$28 billion in 2017 and \$38 billion in 2022. The United States absorbs approximately **75–80% of all Mexican food exports**, reflecting the profound integration of North American food supply chains under NAFTA/USMCA. The \$29 trillion US economy and its 335 million consumers represent a captive market that Mexican food producers have uniquely privileged access to — no other country can match Mexico's combination of geographic proximity, USMCA preferential tariffs, agricultural complementarity (US grows grains, Mexico grows fruits and vegetables), and decades of established supply chain relationships.

Top Mexican Food Exports by Value — 2025

The avocado story is perhaps the most dramatic in modern food trade. Mexico produces approximately **2.4 million metric tons of avocados annually** — accounting for roughly **32% of global production** and over **50% of global exports by value**. The Michoacán state produces 80%+ of Mexico's avocados, employing approximately 350,000 agricultural workers. US avocado consumption has grown from 1 billion units (2000) to over 8 billion units (2025), driven by health trends, restaurant adoption, and the mainstream acceptance of guacamole. Per capita US avocado consumption has increased 10-fold in 25 years — one of the most extraordinary shifts in American food culture ever recorded. Mexico's avocado export revenue has grown from \$800M (2010) to \$3.6B (2025), making it Mexico's single most valuable agricultural export — and it continues growing at 8-10% annually.

Global Dominance · Beer Exports Mexico Is the World's #1 Beer Exporter — \$5.8 Billion, Corona Alone in 180+ Countries

Mexico overtook the Netherlands as the world's largest **beer export from Mexico** destination by value in 2010 and has widened its lead every year since. **Grupo Modelo** (owned by AB InBev since 2013) exports Corona, Modelo Especial, Pacifico, and Victoria to 180+ countries. **FEMSA/Heineken** exports Dos Equis, Tecate, Sol, and Bohemia. **Mexico beer exports** totaled \$5.8 billion in 2025 — almost 90% destined for the US market where Corona Extra has been the #1 imported beer for 25+ consecutive years. Mexico's beer production capacity is approximately 120 million hectoliters annually, with 40%+ exported. The premium and craft beer segment is growing 15%+ annually globally, and Mexican heritage brands (Corona, Modelo) have successfully positioned themselves in this tier globally.

Top Companies

Biggest Food Companies in Mexico — Domestic Giants & Multinational Players

Mexico's food industry is anchored by a handful of Mexican-owned global champions that rank among the largest **food companies in Mexico** and indeed the world — a remarkable achievement for an emerging market economy. These companies, headquartered primarily in Mexico City, Monterrey, and Guadalajara, compete on a global stage against US, European, and Asian food giants. Their success reflects Mexico's strengths: low-cost skilled manufacturing, proximity to the US market, a large domestic consumer base of 130 million, and world-class agricultural raw material supply chains. The market capitalization of Mexico's publicly listed food companies reflects their importance to the Mexican economy and investor community.

TOP FOOD COMPANIES IN MEXICO 2026 Largest Food & Beverage Companies — Annual Revenue USD Billions · Company Annual Reports, BMV Filings, Expansión Top 500 · 2025–2026 Revenue figures in USD billions (approximate, using MXN/USD exchange rate). Includes global revenue for Mexican multinationals. Sources: Company annual reports, BMV filings, Expansión revista Top 500 Empresas 2025. Grupo Bimbo · Mexico City \$17.5B Revenue · World's Largest Bread Company Founded 1945, Grupo Bimbo is the world's largest bread and baked goods company — operating in 33 countries with 210,000+ employees and 200+ brands including Bimbo, Marinela, Thomas', Entenmann's, Stroehmann, Sara Lee, and Oroweat. Produces 13,000+ products. Listed on BMV. 2025 revenue ~\$17.5B. The quintessential Mexican food multinational success story. Gruma · Monterrey \$5.2B Revenue · World's Largest Tortilla Maker Gruma (Grupo Maseca) is the world's largest producer of corn flour and tortillas — selling under Mission, Maseca, and Guerrero brands in 112 countries. Controls approximately 70% of the global corn tortilla market. Plants in US, UK, Russia, Australia, China, and 17 other countries. Revenues ~\$5.2B. The global ambassador of Mexican food culture. Sigma Alimentos · Monterrey \$7.0B Revenue · Meats, Dairy, Refrigerated Foods Part of Alfa Group, Sigma is Latin America's largest processed meats and refrigerated foods company — brands include FUD, Fud, Bar-S, Braedt, and PepperJack. Operates across 18 countries with 50,000+ employees. Revenue ~\$7B. Leading producer of deli meats, sausages, cheese, and ready meals across Mexico and Latin America. FEMSA / Coca-Cola FEMSA · Monterrey \$32B Group Revenue · Coca-Cola Bottler + OXXO Fomento Económico Mexicano (FEMSA) is the world's largest Coca-Cola bottler and operates OXXO — Latin America's largest chain of convenience stores (22,000+ locations). Coca-Cola FEMSA alone serves 11 countries with 4.5B+ cases annually. Heineken partnership for beer distribution. Total group revenue ~\$32B. OXXO processes 14M food/beverage transactions daily. Grupo Lala · Torreón \$3.2B Revenue · Mexico's Dairy Leader Mexico's largest dairy company — producing milk, yogurt, cheese, butter, cream, and ice cream under Lala, Nutrileche, and Toni brands. 40%+ market share in Mexican fluid milk. Operations in Central America and US. Revenue ~\$3.2B. Processes approximately 7 billion liters of milk annually from 40,000+ farms. Grupo Modelo · Mexico City \$8.5B Mexico Revenue · World's #1 Beer Export Brand AB InBev subsidiary operating Modelo, Corona, Pacifico, Victoria, Negra Modelo, and León brands. Corona Extra is the world's most exported beer brand. Seven major breweries in Mexico with combined capacity of 60M+ hectoliters. Dominates the Mexican market (~60% share) and exports to 180+ countries. Largest single employer in Mexican beverage manufacturing.

Employment

Food Industry Employment in Mexico — 1.1 Million Manufacturing Workers

The food and beverage manufacturing sector is Mexico's **single largest manufacturing employer**, with approximately **1.1 million formal workers** — representing about 20% of total formal manufacturing employment of 5.5 million (IMSS data, 2025). Average formal wages in food manufacturing are approximately **\$650–850 USD per month**, above Mexico's general manufacturing average but below the automotive and electronics premium sectors.

Including informal food workers — street food vendors (estimated 600,000+ nationwide), small-scale artisanal producers, agricultural day laborers who process food, and unregistered small food businesses — the total food economy employment rises to an estimated **4–5 million people**. Agriculture itself employs approximately **7.5 million additional workers** whose livelihoods are directly tied to the food processing sector as their primary customer. The full food system — from seed to table — represents the largest employment ecosystem in Mexico.

The industry faces a significant **formal vs. informal employment challenge**. Mexico's labor reforms (2019 labor law, 2023 minimum wage increases that lifted the minimum wage to 207 pesos/day) have pushed more workers into formal employment, expanding IMSS registration in food manufacturing by approximately 12% since 2019. However, approximately 55% of food sector workers remain informal, limiting access to social security, healthcare, and pension benefits. This informality challenge is closely connected to Mexico's broader economic development story, which is explored in analysis of [GDP per capita across nations](#).

1.1M Formal Manufacturing Workers 20% Share of Mfg Employment 4–5M Total Food Economy Jobs
 \$750 Avg Monthly Wage (USD) 7.5M Agri Workers Feeding Sector +12% Formal Jobs Growth 2019–2025
 Beverage Industry

Mexico's Beverage Industry — Beer, Tequila, Soft Drinks & Water

Mexico's beverage industry deserves special treatment because of its extraordinary global competitive position. The country is simultaneously the **world's #1 beer exporter, #1 tequila producer, #1 mezcal producer**, and operates the **world's largest Coca-Cola bottling operation** (through FEMSA). Total beverage industry revenue approaches \$60 billion annually — larger than the entire food manufacturing industries of most Latin American countries.

Beer — \$5.8B Exports, World #1

Mexico produces 130M+ hectoliters annually. Grupo Modelo (Corona, Modelo) and FEMSA/Heineken (Dos Equis, Tecate, Sol) dominate. Corona is the world's most exported beer — sold in 180+ countries. US market alone imports \$5B+ in Mexican beer annually. Craft beer growing 20%+/year domestically.

Tequila & Mezcal — \$4.2B, 30% Annual Growth

Mexico holds a geographic denomination of origin for both tequila (Jalisco) and mezcal (Oaxaca + 8 states). The **tequila industry in Mexico** produced 600M+ liters in 2025. Premium/super-premium tequila exports to US growing 30%+ annually. Brands: Patron, Don Julio, Casamigos (now Diageo), 1800, Jose Cuervo. Mezcal growing even faster from a smaller base.

Soft Drinks — FEMSA World's Largest Coca-Cola Bottler

FEMSA/Coca-Cola FEMSA is the world's largest Coca-Cola bottler by volume — operating in Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and 8 other LatAm countries. Mexico has one of the world's highest per capita soft drink consumption rates (historically highest globally, now declining due to sugar taxes). PepsiCo also operates major Mexican production. Market ~\$12B domestically.

Bottled Water — Highest Per Capita in Latin America

Mexico has the highest per capita bottled water consumption in Latin America (~250 liters/person/year) driven by limited tap water safety. Bonafont (Danone), Ciel (Coca-Cola), E-Pura (PepsiCo), and San Pellegrino (Nestlé) compete in a \$4B+ market growing 5%+/year. Water purification technology deployment is gradually reducing bottled water dependency in urban areas.

Mexico Top Food Exports · 2015–2026 Mexico's Top 4 Food Export Categories — Revenue Growth
2015–2026 USD Billions · SIAVI, USDA FAS · *2027 Projected \$45B+ Total Agri-Food 2025

Beer: 3x growth in 10 years Sources: SIAVI · USDA FAS · SAGARPA/SADER · WTO Trade Statistics —
2015–2025 Mexico is the world's #1 avocado exporter with \$3.6 billion in annual export revenue and 50%+ global market share. Michoacán produces 80%+ of Mexico's avocados, employing 350,000+ agricultural workers. US per capita avocado consumption has increased 10-fold since 2000, making Mexican avocados one of the greatest agri-food export success stories of the 21st century.

Regional Hubs

Mexico Food Industry by Region — From Jalisco to Sinaloa

Mexico's food industry is geographically concentrated in distinct regional clusters, each specializing in different subsectors based on agricultural endowments, historical industrial development, infrastructure, and proximity to export routes.

JAL Jalisco — Tequila, Dairy & Beverages Mexico's #1 dairy-producing state and global headquarters of tequila. Guadalajara metro area hosts major Grupo Lala operations, Nestlé plant (largest in Latin America), and dozens of mid-size food processors. The Los Altos de Jalisco region produces approximately 35% of Mexico's total milk. Tequila town and the Tequila volcano UNESCO World Heritage zone produces 100% of authentic tequila (Denomination of Origin). Jose Cuervo, Patron, Don Julio, Herradura — all Jalisco-born.

NLN Nuevo León (Monterrey) — Industrial Food Capital Monterrey is Mexico's industrial powerhouse and home to the headquarters of Gruma, Sigma Alimentos, Alfa Group, and FEMSA. The city hosts major plants for Heineken, KFC, McDonald's suppliers, and dozens of multinational food ingredient companies. Proximity to the Texas border (Laredo crossing: world's busiest land port of entry for US-Mexico trade) makes Monterrey ideal for rapid food export logistics. The Bajío industrial corridor linking NL to Guanajuato is a growing nearshoring cluster.

CDMX Mexico City — HQ, R&D & Largest Consumer Market Capital of the food industry's intellectual and commercial operations — Grupo Bimbo, Grupo Modelo, Herdez, and numerous multinational regional HQs. Mexico City metro (22M population) is Latin America's largest consumer food market. La Central de Abasto (CEDA) — the world's largest food market complex — processes approximately 30,000 tons of food daily, supplying restaurants, street food vendors, and retail across central Mexico.

SIN Sinaloa & Sonora — Vegetables, Seafood & Grains Mexico's "breadbasket" — Sinaloa produces tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, and mangoes at industrial scale, predominantly for US export. Sonora is Mexico's largest beef and wheat producing state. Mazatlán and Guaymas are major seafood export centers (shrimp, tuna, sardines). The Culiacán valley agricultural district is one of the most productive winter vegetable growing areas in the Western Hemisphere, supplying US supermarkets from November through April.

GTO Guanajuato & Bajío — Berries, Broccoli & Nearshoring Guanajuato is Mexico's top strawberry exporter and a major broccoli and cauliflower producer for US markets. The Bajío industrial zone (Guanajuato, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí) is the fastest-growing nearshoring destination for food manufacturing investment, with companies relocating production from China and India. New food processing facilities, cold chain logistics hubs, and packaging plants are being established at an accelerating pace post-2022.

OAX Oaxaca — Mezcal, Traditional Foods & Agritourism Oaxaca is the heart of Mexico's mezcal industry (protected Denomination of Origin) and a global destination for culinary tourism. Traditional foods including mole negro, tlayudas, chapulines (grasshoppers), and regional cheeses have

achieved international recognition. Mezcal exports grew 40%+ annually 2020–2025. The Oaxacan culinary tradition has influenced high-end restaurants globally and drives significant agritourism revenue for the state.

Nearshoring & Investment

Nearshoring Investment Boom — Mexico's Food Industry Attracts Global Capital

The **nearshoring Mexico food** wave — companies relocating manufacturing from Asia (primarily China) to Mexico to reduce supply chain risk and gain USMCA market access — is transforming Mexican **food manufacturing in Mexico**. Since 2022, Mexico has attracted an estimated **\$15–20 billion in new food and beverage FDI**, with announcements including new Nestlé processing plants, expanded Heineken breweries, PepsiCo snack manufacturing expansions, and dozens of food packaging, cold chain logistics, and ingredient processing facilities. The drivers are compelling: Mexico offers **proximity to US consumers** (trucks cross the border within hours vs. weeks by ship from Asia), **USMCA duty-free access**, a **labor cost advantage** (~\$4–6/hour vs. \$8–12/hour in China's coastal manufacturing zones), and established agricultural supply chains that took decades to build.

The **nearshoring boom in Mexico** has also supercharged the sector — since 2022, Mexico has attracted \$15–20 billion in new food FDI. **Mexico beer exports** alone reached \$5.8 billion in 2025, and total **food exports from Mexico** now exceed \$45 billion annually. **USMCA food trade** provisions give Mexican producers duty-free access to the combined \$3.2 trillion US and Canadian markets — an unmatched structural advantage. FDI in Mexico's food sector reached approximately **\$4.2 billion in 2024**, up from \$2.8 billion in 2021, with the United States (50%), Germany (15%), Japan (12%), and Spain (8%) as the top investor countries. The new investment is concentrated in the Bajío region, northern border states (Nuevo León, Coahuila, Chihuahua), and Jalisco. Investment is targeting particularly **cold chain infrastructure** (refrigerated warehousing and logistics for fresh produce exports — a longstanding bottleneck), **food safety certification facilities** (FSMA, HACCP compliance infrastructure), and **value-added processing** (moving from raw commodity exports to processed/packaged goods with higher margins). This investment dynamic connects directly to broader trends in global manufacturing rebalancing away from BRICS supply chains.

Mexico's food industry is one of the greatest untold stories in global manufacturing. Bimbo, Gruma, Sigma — these are world-class companies by any measure.

— Rodrigo Medina de la Cruz, Former Nuevo León Governor & Business Council — reflecting on Mexican food industry global competitiveness

2027 Outlook

Mexico Food Industry Outlook — 2027 and Beyond

The outlook for Mexico's food industry is strongly positive. Revenue is projected to grow from \$180–190 billion (2026) to approximately **\$230 billion by 2030**, a CAGR of 4–5%. These **Mexico food industry statistics** and **food industry facts** confirm the sector's resilience — even during the 2020 COVID recession, **food companies in Mexico** contracted only 1.4% vs. 8.5% for overall manufacturing. The **Mexico food sector** is powered by five structural drivers: (1) continued nearshoring investment bringing new **food manufacturing in Mexico**; (2) rising US Hispanic demographic driving demand for authentic Mexican food products; (3) global premium and health food trends benefiting avocado, berries, organic produce, and artisanal tequila; (4) e-commerce penetration in Mexican retail food channels (growing 25%+/year); and (5) Mexican food companies continuing aggressive international expansion (Bimbo entering new Asian markets, Gruma expanding European tortilla presence). The **food and beverage industry in Mexico** is also benefiting from the **avocado export Mexico** boom continuing at 8–10% annual growth with new markets opening in Asia and the Middle East, **beer exports from Mexico** expanding into Southeast Asia, and **nearshoring food manufacturing** investment accelerating across the Bajío corridor.

Key risks include: currency volatility (a stronger peso hurts export competitiveness); water scarcity threatening agricultural output in key producing regions (Sonora, Baja California, Guanajuato face severe aquifer depletion); US agricultural trade policy changes under USMCA renegotiations; organized crime targeting avocado, lime, and tequila supply chains (a significant operational risk in Michoacán and Guerrero); and climate change affecting crop yields and seasonal production patterns. The sector's dependence on US demand (75–80% of exports) also creates concentration risk that could be mitigated by diversifying into European and Asian export markets — an opportunity the most sophisticated Mexican exporters are actively pursuing.

Mexico Food Industry Projections · 2027–2030 Key Forecasts — Mexico Food & Beverage Sector
\$230BRevenue Target 2030 \$60BFood Export Target 2030 1.3MFormal Jobs by 2030 4–5%Projected CAGR 2026–2030 \$20BNearshoring FDI Pipeline #3Latin America Food Producer (Target)

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions — Food Industry in Mexico

Mexico's **food and beverage industry in Mexico** generates approximately **\$180–190 billion USD annually** (2026), representing 25% of total manufacturing GDP and 7–8% of the entire economy. These **Mexico food facts** make it the single largest manufacturing sector by revenue and employment. **Food industry statistics** show the sector employs 1.1M+ formal workers. Including agriculture and the full supply chain, the agro-food system contributes approximately \$280–300 billion.

Mexico's top food exports: **Beer (\$5.8B — world #1 exporter)**, **Tequila/Mezcal (\$4.2B — world #1)**, **Avocados (\$3.6B — world #1, 50%+ global market share)**, Tomatoes (\$2.8B), Berries (\$2.1B), Peppers (\$1.9B), Processed foods (\$12B+). Total agri-food exports exceeded \$45B in 2025. The US absorbs 75–80% of all Mexican food exports.

Top **food companies in Mexico**: **Grupo Bimbo** (\$17.5B, world's largest bread company), **Sigma Alimentos** (\$7B, processed meats), **FEMSA** (\$32B group, Coca-Cola bottler + OXXO), **Grupo Modelo/AB InBev** (\$8.5B Mexico, **beer export from Mexico** leader), **Gruma** (\$5.2B, world's largest tortilla maker), **Grupo Lala** (\$3.2B, dairy leader). Multinationals include Nestlé, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Danone, Heineken.

Food manufacturing employs approximately **1.1 million formal workers** — 20% of all manufacturing employment. Including informal workers (street vendors, artisanal producers), total food economy employment is 4–5 million. Agriculture supporting the food industry employs an additional 7.5 million. The full food system is Mexico's largest employment sector.

Key drivers: **Nearshoring** (\$15–20B in new FDI 2022–2026), **USMCA duty-free access** to \$3.2T US/Canada market, **rising global demand** for avocados/berries/premium tequila, **growing Mexican middle class** driving domestic processed food demand, **US Hispanic demographic** growth (60M+ driving authentic Mexican food demand), and **e-commerce food retail** expanding 25%+/year.

Regional specializations: **Jalisco** (tequila, dairy, beverages), **Nuevo León/Monterrey** (industrial food HQs — Gruma, Sigma, FEMSA), **Mexico City** (Bimbo HQ, largest consumer market), **Sinaloa/Sonora** (vegetables, seafood, beef), **Guanajuato/Bajío** (berries, nearshoring hub), **Michoacán** (avocados — 80% of Mexico production), **Oaxaca** (mezcal, artisanal foods).

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Market Research: [Euromonitor International Mexico Food 2025](#) · [Statista Mexico Food & Beverages Market](#) · [BBVA Research](#) · [Fitch Ratings México Food Sector Outlook](#)

Data Note:

Revenue figures in USD (MXN converted at average 2025 exchange rate ~17.5 MXN/USD). Company revenues include global operations for multinationals with Mexican HQ. Market projections are consensus estimates subject to revision. Not investment advice. [Food Industry Mexico 2026](#) [Mexico Food Exports](#) [Mexico Food Statistics](#) [Facts Food Companies Mexico](#) [Food Industry Statistics Mexico](#) [Food and Beverage Industry Mexico](#) [Mexico Food Sector](#) [Beer Export Mexico](#) [Avocado Export Mexico](#) [Grupo Bimbo Tequila Industry Mexico](#) [Food Manufacturing Mexico](#) [Nearshoring Mexico Food](#) [Mexico Food Market](#) [USMCA Food Trade](#)

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