Oceania Dairy Market Overview

Agricultural Marketing Service
Dairy Market News

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Australia

Dairy Australia recently released export data for Australia showing milk export volumes for September 2026 totaled 36,208 metric tons, a decrease of 7.0 percent compared to export volume totals from a year earlier.

October rainfall was above average across most of Australia, except Tasmania, which recorded its driest October since 2019 at 34 percent below average. Queensland experienced its second-wettest October on record, with rainfall 194 percent above average and several districts setting records. August-October rainfall was notably dry across Tasmania, eastern New South Wales, and parts of Victoria, while much of Queensland, the Northern Territory, South Australia, and Western Australia recorded above-average totals.

An Australian dairy and food manufacturer completed a A$50 million (US$34.6 million) expansion at one of its cheese processing and packaging facilities in Australia. The upgrade adds 100 full-time jobs and integrates high-speed robotics, automated packaging systems, expanded processed cheese capacity, and more than 2,400 rooftop solar panels. The project consolidates cheese cutting, processing, and packaging into a single, modernized site, reducing costs and improving operational efficiency. The investment also supports sustainability objectives and is part of a broader manufacturing strategy focused on strengthening competitiveness, expanding its product portfolio, and supporting long-term growth.

New Zealand

Following Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Event 415, a group in New Zealand (NZ) that forecasts milk prices increased their 2026/2027 season milk price forecast to $10.55 per kilogram milk solids (kgMS), with the forecasted range from $10.37/kgMS to $10.93/kgMS. The 2026/2027 season milk price reflects a United States cents per NZ dollar exchange rate assumption of 0.5791. The spot value of milk increased to $10.74/kgMS from $10.50/kgMS. GDT prices moved higher overall on the continued gains of whole milk powder and skim milk powder, while milk fats moved lower than anticipated. The September 2027 Milk Price Futures contract last settled at $10.41/kgMS.

Five years of New Zealand business price indexes were revised after Stats NZ identified an error that understated output prices for meat and dairy manufacturing. The correction affects producer and farm expense price index data from March 2021 through June 2026. Updated figures show producer output prices increased 0.8 percent in the September 2026 quarter, while input prices were up 0.7 percent. Sheep, beef cattle, and grain farming recorded the largest output price gain, up 8.6 percent, with dairy manufacturing prices rising 2.8 percent. Farm expenses increased 1.7 percent, while lower survey response rates required greater use of imputed data to complete the results.

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