Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Milk Prices and Production

The latest national statistics produced by DAERA on Northern Ireland milk price and production were released on 12th November 2026, according to the arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

This monthly notice will be updated in December 2026.

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Key Points

This release shows the latest monthly information on the average Northern Ireland farm-gate milk prices and the volume of raw milk produced.

- In August 2026 the Northern Ireland average farm-gate price of milk (including retrospective bonuses) was 35.30 pence per litre, 6.60 pence per litre lower than August 2025.
- The weighted average farm-gate price of milk during January to August 2026 was 33.97 pence per litre, 10.35 pence per litre lower than the same period in 2025.
- In August 2026 the volume of raw milk produced from Northern Ireland farms was 218.09 million litres, 0.41 per cent lower than August 2025.
- In the Period from January to August 2026, the volume of raw milk produced was 2009.95 million litres, 2.32 per cent higher than the same period in 2025.

This notice and additional information is available at:

https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/milk-price-and-production-statistics-2000-onwards

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An Accredited Official Statistics publication:

The UK Statistics Authority has confirmed these statistics as accredited official statistics. Accredited official statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007. Accreditation signifies production is in accordance with this act and that

these statistics comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics. Further details can be found on the Office for Statistics Regulation website, Office for Statistics Regulation website.

Section 1: Northern Ireland farm-gate milk price (pence per litre)

Table 1 shows average Northern Ireland farm-gate prices calculated from monthly surveys of milk purchasers in Northern Ireland.

Average producer prices for raw milk include all retrospective bonuses paid to date and are subject to further minor adjustments to take account of any future retrospective payments. Transport charges have been deducted, but there has been no deduction in respect of any super-levy liabilities.

Table 1: Northern Ireland farm-gate price of milk (pence per litre)

		Net producer price
2005		17.89
2006		16.75
2007		21.78
2008		22.92
2009		19.48
2010		25.06
2011		27.27
2012		25.82
2013		31.34
2014		29.31
2015		20.81
2016		20.24
2017		28.73
2018		28.74
2019		27.21
2020		27.08
2021		31.62
2022		44.62
2023		35.05
2024		41.17
2025	Aug	41.91
	Sep	41.00
	Oct	39.56
	Nov	37.80
	Dec	36.30
2026	Jan	35.41
	Feb	33.64
	Mar	32.96
	Apr	33.70
	May	33.89
	Jun	33.37
	Jul	33.77
	Aug	35.30

Section 2: Northern Ireland Milk Production (million litres)

Table 2 shows the amount of raw milk produced from Northern Ireland farms calculated from monthly surveys of milk purchasers operating in Northern Ireland.

Table 2: Northern Ireland Raw Milk Production (million litres)

2005		**1,866.07**
2006		**1,905.24**
2007		**1,917.65**
2008		**1,902.84**
2009		**1,772.23**
2010		**1,849.82**
2011		**1,980.27**
2012		**1,999.15**
2013		**2,013.42**
2014		**2,204.41**
2015		**2,266.39**
2016		**2,198.32**
2017		**2,284.89**
2018		**2,345.46**
2019		**2,389.96**
2020		**2,446.57**
2021		**2,540.04**
2022		**2,525.25**
2023		**2,527.48**
2024		**2,620.20**
2025	**Aug**	**218.99**
	Sep	**197.97**
	Oct	**209.42**
	Nov	**215.08**
	Dec	**237.95**
2026	**Jan**	**247.40**
	Feb	**232.07**
	Mar	**267.64**
	Apr	**265.85**
	May	**278.44**
	Jun	**256.08**
	Jul	**244.38**
	Aug	**218.09**

Section 3: Methodology, Notes and Revisions Policy

User Statement

The information in this publication is used by the Northern Ireland government as evidence for assessing market conditions and evaluating agricultural policy. The milk producer price series is used to estimate the milk component of the Aggregate Agricultural Account for Northern Ireland. The data is used by Defra in the UK Agricultural Account and to provide a UK milk price. The Rural Payment Agency ceased the collection of information on volume, butterfat or protein content of milk delivered to dairies on the 31st March 2015 when milk quota regulations were ended. Other users include the food and farming industry, academia and the general public. Contact details are available in the publication, for you to send feedback or ask questions about the information provided.

Survey Methodology

DAERA runs a compulsory monthly survey of registered milk purchasers in Northern Ireland to collect information on the volume and value of milk purchased, transport costs and the value of bonuses paid. Similar surveys are run by Defra to collect data from dairies in England and Wales, while the Rural & Environment Science and Analytical Service (RESAS) cover dairies in Scotland.

Milk Price Statistics

The average prices are based on monthly returns made to DAERA by milk purchasers operating in NI who purchase raw milk from farms. The prices include retrospective bonuses paid to date. Transport charges are deducted but no deduction is made in respect of superlevy liabilities. They are calculated using the weighted average of returns received.

An Accredited Official Statistics Publication

This accreditation means that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been accredited it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall be observed regarding them. Our statistical practice is regulated by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR). OSR sets the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to. These accredited official statistics were independently reviewed by OSR in 2011. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics and should be labelled 'National Statistics'. National Statistics are accredited official statistics.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards. Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the OSR website at Accredited official statistics – Office for Statistics Regulation (statisticsauthority.gov.uk)

Further information on accredited official statistics can be accessed at: www.statistics.gov.uk; and from the UK Statistics Authority at The UK Statistical System - The UK Statistical System (statisticsauthority.gov.uk)

Revisions policy

Figures in the publication are provisional and subject to revision. We will provide information about any revisions we make to previously published information in the publication. Revisions could occur for various reasons, including:

a. if we have not received survey data from respondents in time we make an estimate based on their previous returns. These estimates are then replaced with actual figures.
b. survey respondents occasionally supply amended figures for previous periods.
c. payment of retrospective bonuses which affect the net producer price.
d. additional or new firms are identified and included in the survey.

Please note that Northern Ireland farm-gate price of milk for June 2026 has been revised upon receipt of updated firm data.