



# Dairy Products Prices

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## Dairy Products Prices Highlights

**Butter** prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grade AA standards averaged \$1.42 per pound for the week ending March 3, 2012. The United States (US) price per pound increased 0.5 cent from the previous week.

**Cheddar Cheese** prices received for US 40 pound blocks averaged \$1.49 per pound for the week ending March 3, 2012. The price per pound decreased 0.7 cent from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound barrels adjusted to 38 percent moisture averaged \$1.51 per pound, down 0.8 cent from the previous week.

**Dry Whey** prices received for bag, tote, and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 60.6 cents per pound for the week ending March 3, 2012. The US price per pound decreased 0.5 cent from the previous week.

**Nonfat Dry Milk** prices received for bag, tote, and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Grade A standards averaged \$1.36 per pound for the week ending March 3, 2012. The US price per pound decreased 0.3 cent from the previous week.

## Butter Prices and Sales – United States: February 4, 2012-March 3, 2012

Region	Week ending				
	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012
	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
<b>Price weighted by sales</b>					
United States .....	1.5485	1.4990	1.4411	1.4192	1.4242
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
<b>Sales</b>					
United States .....	3,675,542	4,311,396	3,893,451	5,515,839	6,050,987

**40 Pound Block Cheddar Cheese Prices and Sales – Region and United States:  
February 4, 2012-March 3, 2012**

Region	Week ending				
	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012
	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
<b>Price weighted by sales</b>					
Minnesota and Wisconsin .....	1.6454	1.6451	1.6108	1.5826	1.5698
Other States .....	1.5513	1.5202	1.4951	1.4877	1.4782
United States .....	1.5587	1.5311	1.5046	1.4940	1.4873
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
<b>Sales</b>					
Minnesota and Wisconsin .....	879,642	953,031	887,566	651,923	919,888
Other States .....	10,242,503	9,932,488	9,873,023	9,180,300	8,386,706
United States .....	11,122,145	10,885,519	10,760,589	9,832,223	9,306,594

**500 Pound Barrel Cheddar Cheese Prices, Sales, and Moisture Content – Region and United States:  
February 4, 2012-March 3, 2012**

Region	Week ending				
	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012
	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
<b>Price weighted by sales</b>					
Minnesota and Wisconsin .....	1.6116	1.6069	* 1.6022	1.5879	1.5850
Other States .....	1.6203	1.6033	1.5971	1.5964	1.5835
United States .....	1.6161	1.6047	* 1.5997	1.5922	1.5840
<b>Price adjusted to 38% moisture weighted by sales</b>					
Minnesota and Wisconsin .....	1.5429	1.5402	* 1.5350	1.5213	1.5169
Other States .....	1.5390	1.5222	1.5137	1.5076	1.5004
United States .....	1.5409	1.5294	* 1.5245	1.5143	1.5066
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
<b>Sales</b>					
Minnesota and Wisconsin .....	5,507,082	4,865,676	6,077,040	4,837,908	4,071,556
Other States .....	5,886,300	7,364,460	5,835,414	4,947,065	6,623,726
United States .....	11,393,382	12,230,136	11,912,454	9,784,973	10,695,282
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
<b>Moisture content weighted by sales</b>					
Minnesota and Wisconsin .....	35.24	35.32	35.29	35.29	35.22
Other States .....	34.73	34.70	34.58	34.35	34.57
United States .....	34.97	34.94	34.94	34.81	34.81

\* Revised.

## Dry Whey Prices and Sales – United States: February 4, 2012-March 3, 2012

Region	Week ending				
	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012
<b>Price weighted by sales</b>	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
United States .....	0.6648	0.6414	* 0.6404	* 0.6110	0.6059
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
<b>Sales</b>					
United States .....	9,723,049	9,655,720	* 9,348,570	* 9,028,734	9,116,397

\* Revised.

## Nonfat Dry Milk Prices and Sales – United States: February 4, 2012-March 3, 2012

Region	Week ending				
	February 4, 2012	February 11, 2012	February 18, 2012	February 25, 2012	March 3, 2012
<b>Price weighted by sales</b>	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
United States .....	1.3853	1.4039	1.3635	1.3681	1.3647
	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)	(pounds)
<b>Sales</b>					
United States .....	22,190,967	15,786,342	19,973,005	18,743,944	18,988,823

## Statistical Methodology: Dairy Products Prices

**Data collection period:** Dairy Products Prices statistics are based upon survey data collected after Saturday of each week.

**Sampling frames and sample size:** The Dairy Products Prices program consists of 80 manufacturing plants selling one million pounds or more of dairy products as defined by Public Law Number 106-532. There are 18 plants reporting 40 pound cheddar blocks, 14 plants reporting 500 pound cheddar barrels, 19 plants reporting butter, 29 plants reporting nonfat dry milk, and 20 plants reporting dry whey. There are 8 plants in the Minnesota and Wisconsin Region reporting 40 pound cheddar blocks and 8 plants in the Minnesota and Wisconsin Region reporting 500 pound cheddar barrels.

**Modes of data collection:** Data are collected by electronic data reporting, telephone, and facsimile.

**Term and definitions:** Firms complete the weekly questionnaires using definitions from Public Law Number 106-532 and through the aid of instructions provided during the Annual Validation interview as well as provided information on the questionnaire.

**Reliability:** Price data included in the Dairy Products Prices report are collected through a Census of all qualifying manufacturers of the following products:

- 1) **Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks**, colored between 6 and 8 on the National Cheese Institute color chart, meeting Wisconsin State Brand, USDA Grade A, or better standards.
- 2) **Cheddar cheese in 500 pound barrels**, white, meeting Wisconsin State Brand, USDA Grade A, or better standards.
- 3) **Salted butter (80% butterfat)**, fresh or storage, in 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards.
- 4) **Non-fortified, nonfat dry milk** in 25 kilogram bags, 50 pound bags, totes, and tankers meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards.
- 5) **Edible non-hygroscopic dry whey** in 25 kilogram bags, 50 pound bags, totes, and tankers meeting USDA Extra Grade standards.

**Estimating Procedures:** Price data reported by manufacturers are reviewed for reasonableness and consistency by comparing with data reported in prior weeks and by data reported by other firms in their region and national trends. During weekly review both field office and Agricultural Statistics Board re-contact manufacturers to verify any unusual

data relationships. The Agriculture Marketing Service conducts on-site verifications if manufacturers fail to sufficiently explain any unusual data relationships.

**Revision Policy:** Dairy Products Prices information is subject to revisions to the previous four weeks. The previous two calendar years of estimates for the weekly dairy products prices are subject to verification by AMS.

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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