The Market Administrator's

BULLETIN

CALIFORNIA MARKETING AREA

Peter Fredericks, Market Administrator

May 2026 Federal Order No. 51

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May Pool Price Calculation

The May 2026 Statistical Uniform Price (SUP) for the California Marketing Area increased by $0.48 per hundredweight (cwt) from last month to $18.76 per cwt for milk delivered to plants located in Los Angeles County, California, the pricing point for the California Federal Marketing Order. The SUP is announced at 3.5 percent butterfat, 3.18 percent protein, and 5.79 percent other solids. When reported at the average tests of pooled milk (4.23 percent butterfat, 3.40 percent protein, and 5.75 percent other solids), the May SUP was $20.58 per cwt, $0.40 higher than in April. The May Producer Price Differential (PPD) in Los Angeles County was $1.84 per cwt, $0.38 higher than the month prior.

Product Prices Effect

Prices in the National Dairy Product Sales Report experienced mixed trends in May. The butter price decreased by roughly 14 cents to $1.6311 per pound. The dry whey price declined less than a cent to $0.6396 per pound. The cheese price increased by 1 cent to $1.6577 per pound. The nonfat dry milk price had the largest increase for the month, rising 30 cents to $2.0809 per pound.

Component prices also experienced mixed trends in May. The butterfat price had the largest decrease of roughly 17 cents, falling to $1.7001 per pound. The other solids price declined less than a cent to $0.3840 per pound. The protein price increased by roughly 23 cents to $2.7477 per pound. The nonfat solids price had the largest increase of the month, rising 30 cents to $1.8232 per pound.

All Class prices increased into May. The Class I price increased by $1.49 to $22.95 per cwt. The Class II price increased by $1.46 to $20.28 per cwt. The Class III price had a slight increase of $0.10 to $16.92 per cwt. Lastly, the Class IV price had the largest increase of the month of $2.10, rising to $22.32 per cwt.

Selected Statistics

This month's Producer Price Differential was the highest for the month of May at $1.84 per cwt. The protein and other solids prices, $2.7477 and $ 0.3840 respectively, were the highest prices for the month of May since 2022. The nonfat solids price of $1.8232 was the highest for the month of May since the Order began.❖

Pool Summary

- A total of 852 producers were pooled with an average daily delivery per producer of 71,556 pounds, a decrease of 1.96 percent from April.
- Pooled milk receipts totaled 1.889 billion pounds, a decrease of 0.67 percent on an average daily basis.
- Class I usage (milk for bottling) accounted for 20.4 percent of total pooled milk receipts.
- The average butterfat test of producer receipts was 4.23 percent.
- The average true protein test of producer receipts was 3.40 percent.
- The average other solids test of producer receipts was 5.75 percent.❖

Class Utilization

Pooled Milk	Percent	Pounds
Class I	20.4	385,080,136
Class II	6.0	112,701,797
Class III	70.2	1,326,729,691
Class IV	3.5	65,415,766
Total Pooled Milk		1,889,927,390

Producer Component Prices

	2026	2025
	$/lb	
Protein Price	2.7477	2.4810
Butterfat Price	1.7001	2.6627
Other Solids Price	0.3840	0.3222

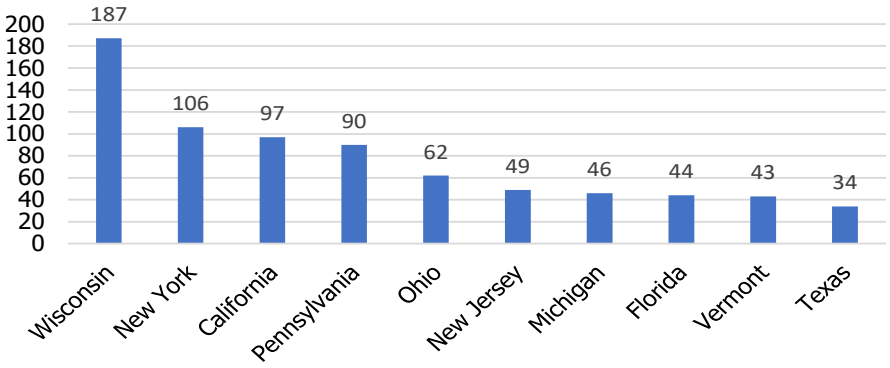
Class Price Factors

	2026	2025
	$/cwt	
Class I	22.95	20.47
Class I ESL Adj	-0.49	N/A
Class II	20.28	18.72
Class III	16.92	18.57
Class IV	22.32	18.13

Dairy Products Annual Summary 2025

The U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes the Dairy Products Summary Report, which highlights dairy product manufacturing data from regions and states across the U.S. The dairy product estimates are based on survey data collected after the close of each month. In states with large numbers of plants, procedures are designed to obtain monthly reports from all large plants and from a sample of small plants. Then, in states with a small of plants, reports are received from all plants each month.

Figure 1: Plants Manufacturing One or More Dairy Products, 2025



Number of Dairy Product Manufacturer's

There was a total of 1,184 manufacturing plants producing one or more dairy products. The count remained unchanged from 2024 and down 22 from 2023. Figure 1 illustrates the top ten states with the most manufacturing plants in the U.S. Wisconsin and New York have the largest amount of manufacturing plants with 187 and 106, while California reported 97.

Cheese Production

Total cheese production has continually increased production over the last three years. In 2025, roughly 14.8 billion pounds of cheese was produced in the U.S., up 4 percent from the previous year. From 2023 to 2024, cheese production increased by 0.6 percent. California, ranking second among cheese producing states, produced 2.5 billion pounds of cheese in 2025, representing 17.2 percent of total U.S. production and reflecting an increase of 2.4 percent from the previous year. Wisconsin, the top ranked cheese producing state, produced 3.6 billion pounds of cheese last year. Coming in third is Idaho with just over 1 billion pounds of cheese produced in 2025.

Table 1: Cheese Production by Selected Types, 2024 and 2025

Cheese Type	2025 Production	Change from 2024	2024 Production	Change from 2023
	Thousand Pounds	%	Thousand Pounds	%
Cheddar	4,003,690	5.8%	3,785,328	-5.2%
Total American Types*	**5,832,351**	**4.6%**	**5,576,556**	**-3.0%**
Mozzarella	5,006,361	4.5%	4,788,538	4.0%
Parmesan	527,359	17.9%	447,320	-8.4%
Provolone	389,524	0.6%	387,249	2.9%
Total Italian Types**	**6,329,172**	**5.1%**	**6,022,256**	**2.8%**
Cream and Neufchatel	1,138,906	-1.5%	1,156,546	0.9%
Gouda	87,626	10.3%	79,479	24.2%
Hispanic	478,537	4.3%	458,849	9.4%
Swiss	321,402	-2.4%	329,155	-1.7%
Total Cheese***	**14,800,064**	**4.0%**	**14,237,425**	**0.6%**

Source: USDA Dairy Products 2025 Summary Report, NASS Database
** Includes Cheddar, Colby, Washed Curd, Monterey, and Jack*
***Includes Ricotta, Romano, and Other Italian Types*
**** Excludes Cottage Cheese*

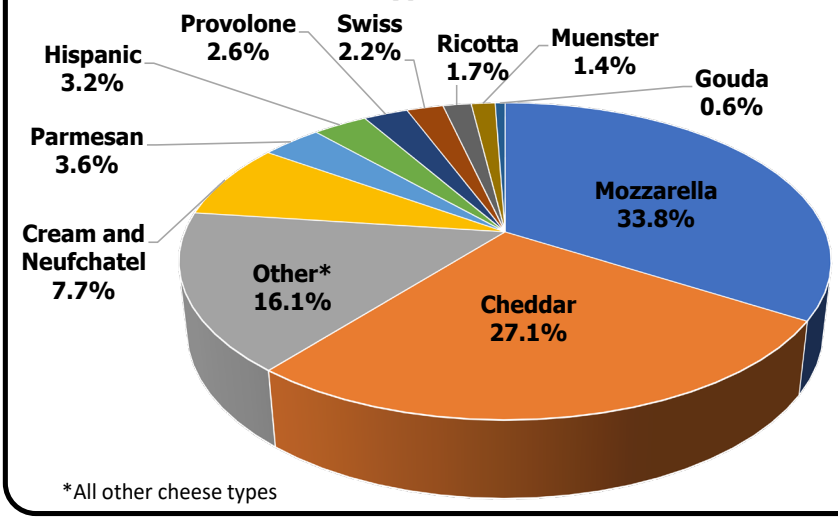
Table 1 displays cheese production statistics by cheese type for recent years. Gouda production gained 10.3 percent in 2025, with production reaching 87.6 million pounds, and increased 24.2 percent from 2023 to 2024. Mozzarella production was 5 billion pounds, increasing 4.5 percent from 2024, while Provolone nearly reached 390 million pounds, rising 0.6 percent. Hispanic cheese production totaled 479 million pounds, showing an increase of 4.3 percent from 2024. Parmesan cheese production was 527 million pounds in 2025, experiencing an increase of 17.9 percent from 2024,

(continued on page 3)

although it had declined 8.4 percent from 2023 to 2024. Swiss cheese was the only type to experience a decline in production for two consecutive years. Overall, Italian-type cheeses were produced in greater quantities than American-style cheeses, totaling 6.3 billion pounds compared to 5.8 billion pounds, respectively.

Figure 2 provides a breakdown of the distribution of cheese production by type in the U.S. Mozzarella cheese accounted for 33.8 percent of total cheese production in 2025, with Cheddar trailing closely at 27.1 percent. Cream and Neufchatel cheese production made up 7.7 percent of the manufacturing market last year, while Parmesan and Hispanic cheeses collectively accounted for 6.8 percent.

Figure 2: Distribution of Cheese Production by Selected Types, 2025



Cottage Cheese Production

In 2025, Cottage Cheese Curd production increased to 514 million pounds, an increase of 14.7 percent from 2024, as shown in Table 2. Creamed Cottage Cheese production reached 470.8 million pounds, reflecting an increase of 11.7 percent. Low-fat Cottage Cheese production rose to 422.2 million pounds last year, an increase of 11.4 percent, after a gain of 13 percent from 2023 to 2024. Additionally, from 2023 to 2024, Cottage Cheese Curd, Creamed Cottage Cheese, and Low-fat Cottage Cheese production increased by 12.5, 11.6, and 13 percent, respectively.

Table 2: Cottage Cheese Production, 2024 and 2025

Cottage Cheese Type	2025 Production	Change from 2024	2024 Production	Change from 2023
	Thousand Pounds	%	Thousand Pounds	%
Cottage Cheese, Curd*	514,274	14.7%	448,512	12.5
Cottage Cheese, Creamed**	470,808	11.7%	421,630	11.6
Cottage Cheese, Low-fat***	422,193	11.4%	379,109	13.0

Source: USDA Dairy Products 2025 Summary Report, NASS Database
* Mostly used for processing into creamed or lowfat cottage cheese.
** Fat content 4 percent or more.
*** Fat content less than 4 percent.

Ice Cream Production

Table 3 displays ice cream production from 2024 to 2025. Regular and Low-fat ice cream production declined in 2025, with Low-fat ice cream declining the most at 21.5 percent. Regular ice cream was the most produced product type, totaling 845 million pounds in 2025, yet declined 9.2 percent from 2024. Nonfat ice cream was the least produced among the three product types, it experienced an increase of 1.9 percent to 12 million pounds last year. Total ice cream production in California decreased by 7.5 percent decline into 2025's volume of 56.4 million pounds. From 2023 to 2024, ice cream production in all categories had increased.

Table 3: Ice Cream Production, 2024 and 2025

Ice Cream Type	2025 Production	Change from 2024	2024 Production	Change from 2023
	Thousand Pounds	%	Thousand Pounds	%
Regular	845,115	-9.2%	931,064	7.9
Low-Fat*	380,879	-21.5%	485,286	4.2
Nonfat	12,051	1.9%	11,821	11.5

Source: USDA Dairy Products 2025 Summary Report, NASS Database
* Includes feezer-made milkshake.

To view additional statistics on dairy product production, see The Dairy Product Summary Report at https://esmis.nal.usda.gov/publication/dairy-products-annual-summary. ❖

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Computation of Producer Price Differential and Statistical Uniform Price*

	Product Pounds	Price per cwt./lb.	Component Value	Total Value
Class I— Skim	375,243,111	$16.92	$63,491,134.38	
Butterfat	9,837,025	1.8929	18,620,504.62	
Less: Location Adjustment to Handlers			(1,112,057.83)	$80,999,581.17
Class II— Butterfat	15,676,423	1.7071	26,761,221.70	
Nonfat Solids	9,186,748	1.5935	14,639,082.96	41,400,304.66
Class III— Butterfat	48,240,720	1.7001	82,014,048.07	
Protein	45,775,910	2.7477	125,778,467.93	
Other Solids	76,754,660	0.3840	29,473,789.45	237,266,305.45
Class IV— Butterfat	6,206,940	1.7001	10,552,418.69	
Nonfat Solids	5,627,486	1.8232	10,260,032.48	20,812,451.17
Total Classified Value		*Total value of milk in the pool* →		**$380,478,642.45**
Add: Value for 60 (f) through 60(j)				(531,091.71)
Other Source Receipts	34,831			
Total Pool Value				**$379,947,550.74**
Less: Value of Producer Butterfat	79,961,108	1.7001	(135,941,879.71)	
Value of Producer Protein	64,243,225	2.7477	(176,521,109.36)	
Value of Producer Other Solids	108,636,687	0.3840	(41,716,487.81)	(354,179,476.88)
Total PPD Value Before Adjustments		*Total Class III value of producer components*		**$25,768,073.86**
Add: Location Adjustment to Producers				9,389,166.17
One-half Unobligated Balance—Producer Settlement Fund				412,240.42
Less: Producer Settlement Fund—Reserve				(794,175.54)
Total Pool Milk & PPD Value	1,889,962,221			**$34,775,304.91**
Producer Price Differential		**$ 1.84**		
Statistical Uniform Price		**$ 18.76**		

Value from which PPD per hundredweight is calculated

* Price at 3.5 percent butterfat, 3.18 percent protein, and 5.79 percent other solids.