

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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**Date:** 9/21/2010

**GAIN Report Number:** GR1005

## Greece

**Post:** Rome

### Greece Dairy 2010

**Report Categories:**

Dairy and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The Greek dairy industry is the third most important segment of the food and drink sector. However, Greece's current economic crisis has affected milk and cheese production, consumption, and trade.

## General Information:

### Greek Dairy Market

The Greek dairy industry is the third most important segment of the food and drink sector, accounting for 17 percent of the total. While the majority of milk collected in the EU comes from cows, the greater part of Greek milk comes from sheep and goats. Greece's economic crisis is affecting both milk production and consumption. Therefore, according to Eurostat, MY 2010/2011 Greek milk production is forecast at 2.05 Million Metric Tons (MMT), slightly down from the previous year (2.07 MMT). MY 2010/2011 Greek milk consumption is forecast at 2.11 MMT – a decrease of 5 percent compared to MY 2009/2010 (2.21 MMT). MY 2010/2011 milk imports are forecast to decrease by about 55 percent to 65,277 MT, due to a lower domestic consumption. Greek milk imports are mainly from Germany and Netherlands, accounting for 85 percent of the total. Greece exports small amounts of milk to Cyprus, Bulgaria, and Romania.

## Milk

**Table 1: Greek Production, Supply, and Demand (1000 MT)**

Milk	2009	2010	2011
	Estimates 2009/2010	Estimates 2010/2011	Forecast 2011/2012
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Cows In Milk	166	164	163
Cows Milk Deliveries to Dairies	725	717	714
Other Milk Production	1,345	1,332	1,326
Total Milk Production/Deliveries	2,070	2,050	2,040
Extra EU27 Imports	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,040</b>
Extra EU27 Exports	0	0	0
Fluid Use Dom. Consumption	465	444	423
Factory Use Dom. Consumption	1,749	1,671	1,592
Feed Use Dom. Consumption	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	2,214	2,115	2,015
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>2,214</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>2,015</b>

**Source:** Eurostat

## Cheese

**Table 2: Greek Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)**

Cheese	2009	2010	2011
	Estimates 2009/2010	Estimates 2010/2011	Forecast 2011/2012
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Production	214,000	218,000	220,000
Extra EU27 Imports	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>214,000</b>	<b>218,000</b>	<b>220,000</b>
Extra EU27 Exports	0	0	0
Human Dom. Consumption	285,000	244,000	239,000
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	285,000	244,000	239,000
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>247,000</b>	<b>242,000</b>

**Source:** Eurostat

MY 2010/2011 Greek cheese production is forecast to remain steady from the previous year (214,000 MT) with a small increase of 2 percent (218,000 MT). Cheese represents the most traditional product of the Greek dairy industry. The largest cheese production mainly comes from Northern Greece and the mountainous areas throughout the country (Macedonia, Thrace, Epirus, Thessaly, Sterea Hellas, Peloponnisos, Lesvos, and Mitilini). Greece produces a large number of DOC (Controlled Denomination of Origin) cheeses from sheep and goat's milk. (Anthotiros, Formaella of Parnassos, Graviera of Crete, Kasseri, Kalathaki of Limmos, Kefalograviera, Kefalotiri, Kopanisti, Ladotiri of Mitilini, Manouri, Metsovone, and Mizithra). Greek yogurt is made from sheep and cow's milk.

MY 2010/2011 Greek cheese consumption is forecast at 244,000 MT - a 14 percent decrease compared to the previous year (285,000 MT), due to Greece's recession. Cheese products account for about 13 percent of sales in Greek supermarkets. Feta is the most well-known Greek cheese around the world and the most consumed in Greece. It is made from 70 percent of sheep's milk and 30 percent of goat's milk. Feta is a type of brine matured cheese, packaged in traditional wooden barrels, tin vessels, or wrapped in plastic. It is growing in popularity in developed markets for its lower fat content, when compared to traditional European cheeses.

MY 2010/2011 Greek cheese imports are forecast to decrease by 62 percent to 41,984 MT, due to a drop in domestic consumption. Greek imports mainly come from Germany, Netherlands, and Denmark. MY 2010/2011 Greek cheese exports are forecast at 16,052 MT, significantly down from the previous year (41,039 MT), as a consequence of Greece's recession. Germany and Cyprus continue to be the main destination for Greek cheese exports, accounting for almost 45 percent of

the total.

## Butter

**Table 3: Greek Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)**

Butter	2009	2010	2011
	Estimates 2009/2010	Estimates 2010/2011	Forecast 2011/2012
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Production	1,600	1,600	1,600
Extra EU27 Imports	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,600</b>
Extra EU27 Exports	0	0	0
Human Dom. Consumption	11,000	5,000	5,000
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	11,000	5,000	5,000
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>

**Source:** Eurostat

Greek production of butter is small and expected to remain steady at 1,600 MT. MY 2010/2011 Greek butter consumption is forecast at 5,000 MT, significantly down from MY 2009/2010 (11,000 MT), due to Greece's financial crisis and driven by lighter and healthier dietary trends. MY 2010/2011 Greek butter imports are forecast at 3,654 MT – a decline of 61 percent compared to the previous year (9,277 MT), due to a decrease in domestic consumption. Greek imports mainly come from the Netherlands, France, and Denmark, accounting for 62 percent of the total.