

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Greece

**Post:** Rome

### Greece Dairy Annual 2011

**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. MY 2011/12 Greek milk production and consumption are expected to contract by 1.3 percent as a result of the financial crisis gripping the country. MY 2011/12 cheese production is expected to drop by 4.5 percent from a notably high level of output in 2010.

## Milk

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

Milk	2010	2011	2012
	Estimates 2010/2011	Estimates 2011/2012	Forecast 2012/2013
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Cows In Milk	145	144	144
Cow's Milk Deliveries to Dairies	688	688	688
Other Milk Production	1,368	1,342	1,348
Total Milk Production/Deliveries	2,056	2,030	2,036
Extra EU27 Imports	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>2,056</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>2,036</b>
Extra EU27 Exports	0	0	0
Fluid Use Dom. Consumption	468	462	463
Factory Use Dom. Consumption	1,759	1,737	1,742
Feed Use Dom. Consumption	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	2,227	2,199	2,205
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>2,199</b>	<b>2,205</b>

**Source:** Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

The Greek dairy industry is the third most important segment of the food and drink sector, accounting for 17 percent of total production. While the majority of milk collected in the EU comes from cows, the greater part of Greek milk comes from sheep and goats. MY 2011/12 Greek milk production and consumption are expected to contract by 1.3 percent as a result of the financial crisis gripping the country. Less efficient producers are likely to go out of business as credit becomes increasingly difficult to secure and investment is scaled back. However, Greek milk production is forecast to recover steadily during 2012 due to gradual improvements in output yields. Germany supplies about 81 percent of Greece's milk import demand. Greece exports small amounts of milk to Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Romania.

## Cheese

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

Cheese	2010	2011	2012
	Estimates 2010/2011	Estimates 2011/2012	Forecast 2012/2013
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Production	221,000	210,000	214,000
Extra EU27 Imports	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b>	<b>221,000</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>214,000</b>
Extra EU27 Exports	8	8	8
Human Dom. Consumption	276,500	265,390	269,390
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	276,500	265,390	269,390
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>276,500</b>	<b>265,390</b>	<b>269,390</b>

**Source:** Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

MY 2011/12 cheese production is expected to drop by 4.5 percent from a notably high level of output in 2010. Export opportunities for Greek cheese should encourage greater production during 2012. Cheese is a traditional product of the Greek dairy industry. Cheese is produced mainly in 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, Mizithra, and Xigalo Siteias). Greek yogurt is made from both sheep and cow's milk.

Cheese products account for about 13 percent of sales in Greek supermarkets. Feta is the most well-known Greek cheese 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.

Greece imports cheese mainly from Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark. Germany continues to be the main destination for Greek cheese exports, accounting for almost 35 percent of the total.

## Butter

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

Butter	2010	2011	2012
	Estimates 2010/2011	Estimates 2011/2012	Forecast 2012/2013
	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	7,723	7,774	7,776
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0
Total Dom. Consumption	7,723	7,774	7,776
<b>Total Distribution</b>	<b>7,723</b>	<b>7,774</b>	<b>7,776</b>

**Source:** Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry; GTA

MY 2011/2012 Greek butter production is forecast to remain fairly flat. MY 2011/12 Greek butter consumption and trade are expected to recover steadily. Germany and Denmark are the main suppliers to the Greek market, accounting for 46 percent of total imports.

## **Abbreviations and definitions used in this report**

HS codes:

Milk Fluid: 040110, 040120

Cheese: 040620, 040630, 040640, 040690

Butter: 040510

MT Metric ton = 1,000 kg

MY Marketing year: January/December