

MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS SURVEY

Reference Metadata in Euro SDMX Metadata Structure (ESMS)

Reference Metadata

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1. Contact	
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2. Metadata update	
2.1. Metadata last certified	10.07.2026
2.2. Metadata last posted	10.07.2026
2.3. Metadata last update	10.07.2026
3. Statistical presentation	
3.1. Data description	The Milk and Dairy Products Survey is a statistical survey carried out among enterprises that collect and process milk throughout the territory of the Republic of Albania. The main objective of the annual survey is to provide complete information on the amount of milk collected (all types of milk) and the dairy products produced. Information is also provided on the average fat and protein content of the collected milk.

3.2. Classification system	The definitions are in accordance with Eurostat regulations and decisions: Commission Decision No 97/80/EC, laying down the provisions for the implementation of Council Directive No 96/16/EC, on surveys of Milk and Dairy Products. Other classifications used in survey of Milk and Dairy Products are: • Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 on “Livestock and Meat Statistics”; • NACE Rev.2.1 - Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Union – 2025 edition.
3.3. Sector coverage	Statistical information covers data on enterprises operating in the field of milk collection and processing in NACE 10.51. Raising of dairy cattle, NACE 01.41 and raising of sheep and goats NACE 01.45 by classification of economic activity NACE Rev.2.1
3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions	Manufactured quantities of dairy products. The data represent the sum of all dairy products produced during the reference year. Drinking milk: Is milk produced for consumption in packages of 2L or less. It includes raw milk, processed milk, semi-skimmed milk, skimmed milk. Pasteurized Milk: Milk that has been exposed briefly to high temperatures to destroy microorganisms and prevent fermentation. UHT Milk: Ultra-high temperature processing (UHT), ultra-heat treatment, or ultra-pasteurization above 135 °C (275 °F). Buttermilk: Is residual product (may be acid or acidified) of the processing of milk or cream into butter. Cream: A fat layer that forms naturally on the surface of milk. Obtained from the surface of milk to or extracted from milk by the process of centrifugation. The cream has a high fat content (typically over 10%). It includes direct consumer cream, which contains more or less than 29% of milk fat. Acidified milk products: Include yoghurts, drinkable yoghurts, sour milk, acidified milk and other fermented products. Butter and other yellow-fat: Products are products with a milk fat content equal to 82% by weight of the product, maximum water content of 16% and maximum dry non-fat milk material content of 2%. Cheese: Shall be a fresh or matured, solid or semi-solid obtained by coagulating skimmed milk, semi skimmed milk, cream, whey cream, or buttermilk alone or in combination by the action of rennet or other suitable coagulating agents. Soft cheese: Cheese in which the MFFB when refined is in general not less than 68 %.

	Semi-soft cheese: Cheese in which the MFFB when refined is in general not less than 62 % and less than 68 %. Semi-hard cheese: Cheese in which the MFFB when refined is in general not less than 55 % and less than 62 %. Hard cheese: Cheese in which the MFFB when refined is in general not less than 47 % and less than 55 %. Fresh cheese: Product obtained from sour milk from which most of the serum has been removed (e.g. by draining or pressing). Also includes curds (other than in powder form) containing up to 30 % by weight in the form of sugar and added fruits. Includes fresh whey cheese (obtained by concentrating whey and adding milk or milk fat).
3.5. Statistical unit	The statistical unit observed is the Enterprise.
3.6. Statistical population	Milk and Dairy Products Survey include all enterprises active in Albania, of all legal forms, included in the Statistical Register of Enterprises (based on the latest closed reference year), that collect and process milk according to the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev.2.1) specifically classes 01.41, 01.45 and 10.51.
3.7. Reference area	Milk and Dairy Products survey cover the entire territory of Albania.
3.8. Time coverage	Statistical data on Milk and Dairy Products date back to 2014.
3.9. Base period	Not applicable.
4. Unit of measure	The measurement units used are: thousand tons, kg, and percentages (%).
5. Reference period	The reference period for Milk and Dairy Products survey refers to the calendar year from 01 January 2025 - 31 December 2025.
6. Institutional mandate	
6.1. Legal acts and other agreements	The legal basis for the collection of Agricultural and Livestock Statistics consists of the following: • National Statistical Law No.17/2018; • The Official Statistics Program 2022-2026; • Regulation (EC) No 1165/2008 on “Livestock and Meat Statistics”. Classifications and definitions according to relevant EU regulations.

	• Council Directive 96/16/EC, on Milk and Dairy Products survey; • Commission Regulation (EC) No 1242/2008 on Typology for Agricultural Holdings; • NACE Rev.2.1 - Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Union – 2025 edition - Manuals and guidelines - Eurostat.
6.2. Data sharing	Milk and Dairy Products Statistics are transmitted to Eurostat via eDAMIS platform.
7. Confidentiality	
7.1. Confidentiality - policy	The data collected are considered as strictly confidential and used only for statistical purposes and scientific research in accordance with the National Statistical Law No.17/2018 “On Official Statistics”, date 10.03.2018 and the Law No. 124/2024 on the Protection of Personal Data. Article 31 of the Law on Official Statistics clearly defines that all statistical information collected by INSTAT are confidential and may only be used or published in such summary tables that do not identify the information of the unit. The direct identification is called when a statistical unit is directly identified by the name, address or any officially recognized identification number. When data processing is performed in such a way as to enable the data subject to be identified, the data must be coded immediately so that the entities are no longer recognized.
7.2. Confidentiality - data treatment	Albanian Institute of Statistics protects and does not disseminate data it has obtained or it has access to, which enable the direct or indirect identification of the statistical units. Albanian Institute of Statistics takes all appropriate preventive measures so as to render impossible the identification of individual statistical units by technical or other means that might reasonably be used by a third party. Statistical data that could potentially enable the identification of the statistical unit are disseminated by Albanian Institute of Statistics if and only if: a) these data have been treated, as it is specifically set out in the Regulation, in such a way that their dissemination does not prejudice statistical confidentiality; or b) the statistical unit has given its consent, without any reservations, for the disclosure of data. The confidential data that are transmitted to the Albanian Institute of Statistics are used exclusively for statistical purposes and the only persons who have the right to have access to these data are the personnel engaged in this task. Issues referring to the observance of statistical confidentiality are examined by the staff working in Albanian Institute of Statistics. The responsibilities of this staff are to recommend on: which detailed level the statistical data can be disseminated, so as the identification, either directly or indirectly, of the surveyed statistical unit

	is not possible; the anonymization criteria for the microdata provided to users; the access granting to researchers on confidential data for scientific purposes.
8. Release policy	
8.1. Release calendar	Announcements regarding the distribution of statistics are published in the publication calendar, which is available on the website. Notifications and delays are pre-announced in this calendar.
8.2. Release calendar access	The calendar of publications is available on INSTAT website.
8.3. User access	In line with the article 34 of Law No.17/2018 on “Official Statistics”, INSTAT disseminates statistics on INSTAT website and other media for simultaneous access, respecting professional independence and in an objective, professional and transparent manner in which all users are treated equitably. The following dissemination channels are used to release the results of Milk and Dairy Products survey: • Website – online release; • Written requests, (by mail or e-mail); • Annual publication of the results of Milk and Dairy Products Statistics; • Statistical Yearbook; • Data request, section available for external users.
9. Frequency of dissemination	Statistics on Milk and Dairy Products are published on an annual basis.
10. Accessibility and clarity	
10.1. News release	The press release contains information about the main Milk and Dairy Products indicators. The Milk and Dairy Products Press Release is published online on the INSTAT website.
10.2. Publications	Results for Milk and Dairy Products Statistics are published in the publication " Milk and Dairy Products ", " Statistical Yearbook ". Users can find the results on the INSTAT website.
10.3. Online database	Data on Milk and Dairy Products Statistics are published on INSTAT official website, Database section.
10.4. Micro-data access	Microdata are not publicly available due to confidentiality requirements. Aggregated data are the only type of data available to external users. Although

	micro data are not published, access may be granted in accordance with Article 34 of Law no. 17/2018.
10.5. Other	Users can submit other specific Milk and Dairy Products Statistics through a dedicated Data Requests section.
10.6. Documentation on methodology	A brief explanation of user definitions, key concepts and methodological explanations is published in the press release and publications. Additional information is provided to internal users when needed. The INSTAT page has a section on Methodology on Milk and Dairy Products Statistics.
10.7. Quality documentation	Livestock and Fisheries Statistics Sector documents the entire process and procedures for internal purposes.
11. Quality management	
11.1. Quality assurance	INSTAT is committed to ensure the highest quality in respect to the compilation of statistical information. In accordance with the Law on Official Statistics No. 17/2018 , INSTAT uses statistical methods and processes in compliance with internationally recognized scientific principles and standards, conducts ongoing analyses of the statistics with a view to improving quality, and ensures that statistics remain up to date. In performing its tasks, INSTAT follows the general principles of quality management in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice . INSTAT is guided by the following principles: impartiality, quality of statistical processes and products, user orientation, employee orientation, effectiveness of statistical processes and reduction of the response burden on respondents.
11.2. Quality assessment	The data from the Milk and Dairy Products Survey are compared with those from previous years in order to assess data consistency and identify significant changes. Where substantial differences are detected, information from other available sources is used to validate the results and to explain any major year-to-year variations.
12. Relevance	
12.1. User needs	Users of Milk and Dairy Products are divided into internal and external users. External users: • Public administration institutions; • Universities; • National and international non-profit organizations; • Businesses; • Researchers, students and other similar groups.

	Internal users include all INSTAT directorates and sectors that use the statistics from the Milk and Dairy Products Survey as a source of information to support their tasks and activities.
12.2. User satisfaction	INSTAT conducts the User Satisfaction Survey annually and its results are published on the INSTAT website under the link " User Satisfaction Survey ".
12.3. Completeness	The completeness of the Milk and Dairy Products Survey data for 2025 is judged by comparing the quality and quantity of indicators covered by INSTAT with those of the regulations followed. Based on the data transmitted, the completeness of Table B is estimated at 93.28 %. The level of completeness of the indicators at both aggregated and detailed level is fully compliant with the "Council Directive 96/16/EC of 19.04.1996 on statistical surveys of Milk and Dairy Products".
13. Accuracy and reliability	
13.1. Overall accuracy	Overall, the data is checked with previous years to identify any significant changes in the data. Where changes occur, the survey data is checked with alternative sources, if any. When there is no information from alternative sources, INSTAT corrects or confirms the data using e-mails or by calling the respondents. Measures taken by INSTAT each year, to increase response rates or to reduce the impact of non-response by imputing them are as follow: • Data are collected directly from the enterprise; • Data are collected by using PAPI method with face to face interviews using paper questionnaires; • The interviewers are trained how to handle difficult respondents; • Due to the lack of an address system, it is often difficult for interviewers to find an enterprise. For this reason, INSTAT staff, via e-mail addresses or phone number, contacts the person responsible for completing the survey and receives more information on the location as well as the date and time of the meeting; • When this enterprise refuses to respond to the interviewer, an official request is directed for the president of the enterprise, which is signed by INSTAT general director; • A formal request is also sent to other companies that agree to respond only if the information is formally requested; • Enterprises are encouraged to contact the central offices of the Institute of Statistics if they have any questions. Qualified staff are always available to respond to enquiries from enterprises.

13.2. Sampling error	Not applicable, since no random sampling is used. The survey is based on a complete register of enterprises.						
13.3. Non-sampling error	The response rate is 98.06%. Actions to reduce non-response include sending informative reminder letters to respondents, making phone calls, conducting visits to medium and large enterprises. In case of unit non-response, some evaluation methods are used prior to imputation: based on last year's data, based on the production trends of this unit from the beginning of the current year to the end of this year, or based on the trend of previous years of this enterprise. Unit non-response rate for 2025 is 1.94%. In case of variable non-response, missing variables are requested by phone call. Technical errors are faced with automatic checks that are included in the data editing process. Many controls are performed automatically with human interaction. There are very detailed charts to check each respondent at the product level and to find possible discrepancies. There are some aggregate controls done as well. The data are checked at different levels of collection first by the persons responsible for specific activities, then by supervisor and by head of the responsible unit. Over-coverage occurs when the selected enterprise is surveyed in a particular activity and during the interview process it is no longer subject to survey or the status of the enterprise has changed, it is no longer active. The over-coverage rate on Milk and Dairy Products Survey for 2025 is 3.43%. When data cannot be obtained from the enterprise, they are completed using imputation methods. The imputation rate for the Milk and Dairy Products Survey in 2025 was 0.33%.						
14. Timeliness and punctuality							
14.1. Timeliness	Results of Milk and Dairy Products are published on INSTAT website 191 days after the end of the reference period (T+191 days). The last day of the reference period for the Milk and Dairy Products Statistics is 31 December 2025. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Reference period</td><td>12/31/2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Date of publication</td><td>07/10/2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Timeliness</td><td>191</td></tr> </table>	Reference period	12/31/2025	Date of publication	07/10/2026	Timeliness	191
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Timeliness	191						
14.2. Punctuality	The data of Milk and Dairy Products are disseminated according to the publication calendar. The publication of Milk and Dairy Products has been punctual in time 100% of publications carried out over the years. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Reference period</td><td>12/31/2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Date of announcement</td><td>07/10/2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Date of publication</td><td>07/10/2026</td></tr> </table>	Reference period	12/31/2025	Date of announcement	07/10/2026	Date of publication	07/10/2026
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Date of announcement	07/10/2026						
Date of publication	07/10/2026						

	Time lag	0
15. Coherence and comparability		
15.1. Comparability - geographical	The data on Milk and Dairy Products Statistics are comprehensive; they are produced at the country level.	
15.2. Comparability - over time	Statistical information on Milk and Dairy Products Statistics has been collected in the same way dating back to 2014, providing a comparability of 12 years (CC2=Jlast-Jfirst+1=12). Data is constantly monitored to ensure comparability over time.	
15.3. Coherence - cross domain	Published data related to the Survey of Milk and Dairy Products can be found in these related areas such as: Annual Survey in Agriculture or administrative data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Despite the similarity of the indicators produced by these indicators, it should be noted that methodological differences exist between the data.	
15.4. Coherence - internal	The internal consistency of the data is checked before being finalized. The relation between the variables and the coherence in the various series are also checked.	
16. Cost and burden	The staff involved in the preparation of the Milk and Dairy Products Statistics in the Livestock and Fisheries Statistics sector are: • 3 employees at the central offices of INSTAT; • Regional Offices staff, 17 in total; • Interviewers, 30 in total; • 1 controller and operator and 1 IT employee.	
17. Data revision		
17.1. Data revision - policy	Revision policy is done in accordance with general Revision Policy and Errors Treatment Policy introduced by INSTAT in the links below: • Revision Policy; • Errors Treatment Policy.	
17.2. Data revision-practise	Enterprises submitting data to INSTAT may report changes to the tables provided. This information will be updated in the next publication, accompanied by an explanatory note for users. No revisions have been made to the data on “Survey of Milk and Dairy Products” for the year 2025, which is the subject of this report.	

18. Statistical processing	
18.1. Source data	Survey is the only source of data collection. The population under study for the Annual Survey Milk and Dairy Products for 2025 contains 380 enterprises, which have been exhaustively surveyed. The surveyed enterprises include all legal forms and ownership types that collect and process milk, classified according to their principal economic activity based on NACE Rev. 2.1. From this existing list of enterprises, 304 enterprises resulted active. The data collection instrument consists of direct interviews using paper questionnaires.
18.2. Frequency of data collection	Milk and Dairy Products data are collected on annual basis. The process of data collection is carried out over a month, from February to March, throughout the country.
18.3. Data collection	The data required for the Annual Milk and Dairy Products Survey are provided by all registered entities engaged in the collection and processing of milk (cow, sheep, and goat milk), through interviews with the responsible person who has access to the economic data of the enterprise (economist, financial officer, director/administrator, or company president). The preparatory phase for data collection includes the preparation of all necessary materials, data entry and processing systems, and questionnaires. The enterprises to be interviewed must be identified, the required number of interviewers must be determined, and the selection of interviewer must be carried out. During training sessions organized for interviewer on how to conduct the survey, they are also provided with necessary materials such as the questionnaire manual, interviewer instructions, list of economic activities, notification letters for enterprises, and laptops. Training is also provided on how to complete the questionnaire using laptops, considering relevant technical and IT aspects. Interviewers involved in this process must be communicative and fully clear about the objectives and information required by the survey. They must also inform respondents about the confidentiality law, which protects the data provided to INSTAT and ensures that such data will be used only in aggregated form for statistical purposes. During the data collection process, all information reported by enterprises is recorded. In case of any uncertainties, the enterprise is re-contacted. In case of non-response, an official letter signed by the head of the institution is sent to the enterprise. Interviewers are required to behave ethically in cases of refusal by enterprises. In case of refusal by the respondent, interviewers should insist on obtaining the required information or seek support from supervisory staff. If, despite these efforts, the enterprise still refuses to respond, the interviewer records the reason for the refusal.

18.4. Data validation	In terms of data validation, data editing procedures generally refer to micro level or otherwise enterprise level editing. Data editing in data entry program. • Control of incoming questionnaires, completeness checks, valid values checks, range checks, logical control of the questionnaire. The number of incoming questionnaires should be equal with the number of distributed questionnaires in the prefectures; • Individual checks are done for the cases of refusal and no contacts; • The responses provided by enterprises are checked for consistency across the different sections of the questionnaire. Control of some questions through information that can be found from individual contact with enterprise.
18.5. Data compilation	When compiling data collected annually on Milk and Dairy Products processing entities, we check the internal consistency of data (including consistency with other sources) and consistency with data from previous periods. In case of major discrepancies, the data is checked by contacting the reporting units. For the data compilation there are two basic procedures: a) Analysis of data quality, which serves to assess data quality, where several rules are applied: ○ Mathematic and logical checks of survey data; ○ Comparison of time series data with previous years; ○ Analyze of large deviations from average. b) Cases of non-response are considered as follows: ○ No contact; ○ Full refusal; ○ Partial refuses (for different tables and indicators). For non-response cases, logical corrections should be made where information can be extracted from other variables and priority is given to further contacts with enterprises to collect missing information. Data is statistically edited with appropriate imputation procedures such as: logical imputations, average imputations, historical imputations, etc.
18.6. Adjustment	Not applicable.
19. Comments	
Annex	