

DAIRY MARKET NEWS TERMINOLOGY

Over the years, those engaged in the marketing of dairy products have developed a language peculiar to the trade. Numerous terms and phrases having special meanings are in frequent use. Market reports are intended to convey useful information to readers regarding important phases of a market situation and are best understood by the trade if words and expressions employed are in common usage. The following terms, definitions and abbreviations are used in describing dairy markets and market situations.

AMS - Agricultural Marketing Service: An agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This Agency's responsibilities include administering marketing order programs, standardization, inspection and grading, market news, and the research and promotion programs.

COMPONENT PRICE AND PRODUCT PRICE FORMULAS: Class Prices are derived from National Agricultural Statistic Service average monthly weighted prices of NDM, whey, butter, block, and barrel cheese. Replaced the Basic Formula Price (BFP) in January 2000.

BULK BUTTER - Packed 68 pounds or 25 KG, net weight, in corrugated boxes.

BUTTERFAT / MILKFAT - The fat portion of whole milk.

CCC - Commodity Credit Corporation: An agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This Agency's responsibilities include conducting price support purchases and related activities, involving expenditures of funds under powers granted by the Congress to CCC. The Secretary of Agriculture and other Department officials serve as officers of the Corporation.

ADJUSTED PURCHASES - Total purchases, contract basis, less/plus contract adjustments.

FISCAL/MARKETING YEAR - October 1 through September 30.

MANUFACTURING ALLOWANCES - CCC's estimate of the average amount per hundredweight needed by plants to cover manufacturing costs (fuel, labor, equipment, packaging, etc.) to convert whole milk into cheese or butter and nonfat dry milk. This allowance is used in determining the CCC purchase price which will enable manufacturers to return to the dairy farmers, on a national average basis, the Government support price. Manufacturing allowances are also used in the calculation of class prices.

MILK EQUIVALENT - The equivalent pounds of whole milk containing a specific percentage of milkfat--usually 3.67 percent--used in the production of manufactured dairy products. One method for computing milk equivalent is to multiply the volume of specific manufactured dairy products by a conversion factor derived from the yield of the product from a hundredweight of milk at the specified milkfat percent.

FAT SOLIDS BASIS: factors used: butter, 21.8; cheese, 9.23; and nonfat dry milk, 0.22.
SKIM SOLIDS BASIS: factors used: butter, 0.12; cheese, 9.90; and nonfat dry milk, 11.64.

NET PURCHASES / REMOVALS - referred to interchangeably as CCC, USDA, or Government removals or net purchases. Surplus milk bought by the CCC under the support price program in the form of butter, cheese, and nonfat dry milk, less cancellations and sales to the trade for unrestricted use.

PURCHASE PRICES - Announced prices that CCC pays under the price support program for butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk.

REGIONS - East, Central, and West. The regions consist of the following states:

EAST - Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia.

CENTRAL - Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

WEST - Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

SELLBACK PRICES - The prices determined by CCC at which the government will sell dairy products back to the trade.

RESTRICTED USE - Sales of CCC commodities restricted to a specific use, such as animal feed.

UNRESTRICTED USE - Sales of CCC commodities that may be used for any purpose. These sales are made at both announced and competitive prices.

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SUPPORT PRICE FOR MILK - The price set by the Secretary of Agriculture (since October 21, 1981, the support price has been established by Congress) which is in compliance with the requirements of the Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, for the milk price support program. The support price is a price goal - a national average price for milk of national average milkfat content that USDA hopes to see realized in the marketplace. CCC purchase prices are calculated to provide to milk processors who buy manufacturing grade milk, sufficient revenue to pay producers the support price. CCC does not guarantee that farmers will receive that price.

UNCOMMITTED INVENTORIES - Stocks held by CCC which have not been committed for sale or donation.

CIF - Cost, Insurance, and Freight.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - Products normally held for 30 days or more in public, private, and semiprivate refrigerated storage facilities. Does not include products in wholesalers' and retailers' storage facilities, which are normally held less than 30 days.

COMMERCIAL DISAPPEARANCE - Commercial disappearance includes civilian and military purchases of milk and dairy products for domestic and foreign use, but excludes farm household use and USDA donations of dairy products. Disappearance is a residual figure and therefore can be affected by any inaccuracies in estimating milk production, on-farm use, stocks, and imports.

COMMERCIAL STOCKS - Total U.S. stocks or holdings, minus Government-owned stocks or holdings.

COMPONENT PRICE - Value of milk's major components - butterfat, nonfat solids, or protein and other solids. Derived from the NASS price of the major dairy product made from the component - butter, NDM, block or barrel cheese and whey.

CONTRACT SALES - Contract sales (oral or written) include product that is earmarked for a regular established outlet. The contract may cover a specified period of time or volume. The price may be fixed or based on negotiated differentials over or under some base price or index.

DAIRY MARKET NEWS - DMN: A program administered by USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, collects and provides timely and accurate information pertaining to supply and demand conditions for milk and dairy products. Provide the industry information to help make current buying and selling decisions and aid in future planning.

DMN REGIONS:

DOMESTIC:

CENTRAL - Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin

NORTHEAST - Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont

SOUTHEAST - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia

WEST - Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

INTERNATIONAL:

EASTERN EUROPE - Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine

OCEANIA - Australia and New Zealand

WESTERN EUROPE (EU-15) - Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom

EU-25 - All EU 15 countries plus Poland, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia.

DEIP - Dairy Export Incentive Program: A program administered by USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, which helps exporters of U.S. dairy products compete on the world market.

DELIVERED EQUIVALENT - Prices are derived by using an f.o.b. price, plus an adjustment to reflect the cost of transporting the product to a specified area.

DELIVERED PRICE - f.o.b. price plus transportation and handling.

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DEMAND - The desire to possess a commodity, coupled with the willingness and ability to pay.
VERY GOOD - Offerings or supplies are rapidly being absorbed
GOOD - Firm confidence on the part of buyers that general market conditions are good. Trading is more active than normal.
MODERATE - Average buyer interest and trading.
LIGHT - Demand is below average.
VERY LIGHT - Few buyers are interested in trading.

ERS - Economic Research Service: An agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This Agency's responsibilities include providing economic research and forecasting.

EX DOCK - Often seen as "Ex Doc, Duty Paid." Imported product that has cleared customs and all paperwork has been completed. Product is available for pickup by the buyer.

EXCHANGE - An organization which establishes and enforces rules of trade in a market (cash markets). Terms used by DMN which are associated with Exchange trading.

BID - Refers to the price a buyer is willing to pay for a product. May raise the trading level. Indicated by the letter "B" at the CME.

CARLOAD - Chicago Mercantile Exchange - Cheese = 40,000 - 44,000 pounds

CARLOT - Chicago Mercantile Exchange - butter = 40,000 - 43,000 pounds
NDM = 42,000 - 45,000 pounds

OFFER - Refers to the price an owner is willing to accept for a product. May lower the trading level. Also known as an "ask" in CME terminology, indicated by the letter "A" at the CME.

SALE - A bid filled or an offer covered.

FAS - Foreign Agricultural Service: An agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This Agency's responsibilities include providing foreign agricultural information, administering import regulations, and assisting in the export of U.S. farm products.

FEDERAL MILK ORDERS - Federal Milk orders are authorized by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937. Under this law, the Secretary of Agriculture may establish Federal Orders that apply to buyers (handlers) of milk. Basically, a milk order is a legal document issued to regulate the minimum prices paid to dairy farmers by handlers of Grade A milk in a specified marketing area. Milk under the Federal Milk order system is separated into four separate classes:

CLASS I - milk used for beverages including eggnog and ultra high temperature (UHT) milk.

CLASS II - milk used for soft products. This includes cottage cheese, ricotta cheese, pot cheese, Creole cheese, milk shake and ice milk mixes, frozen desserts, aerated cream, frozen cream, sour cream, half-n-half, yogurt, custards, puddings, pancake mixes, batter, buttermilk biscuit mixes, infant or dietary formulas packaged in hermetically sealed containers, candy, soup and bakery products for general distribution to the public including sweetened condensed milk used for manufacture of aforesaid products, and fluid cream or any product containing artificial fat or fat substitutes that resemble fluid cream.

CLASS III - milk used in the manufacture of cream cheese and other spreadable cheeses, and hard cheese of types that may be shredded, grated, or crumbled. It also includes plastic cream, anhydrous milkfat, and butteroil.

CLASS IV - milk used to produce butter, any milk product in dry form and evaporated or sweetened condensed milk in a consumer-type package.

FDA - Food and Drug Administration: An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

FLUID GRADE MILK (GRADE A) - Milk eligible for sale for use in fluid milk products. This milk must be produced under strict sanitary conditions which meet state and local standards. Fluid grade milk may be used to make manufactured dairy products.

F.O.B. - Free on Board: Seller places product sold in a railcar, truck, or other form of transportation. The buyer then assumes transportation costs.

FSA - Farm Service Agency (formerly ASCS): An agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This Agency's responsibilities include administering the dairy and other farm commodity price support programs.

FUTURES TERMS - several common terms used by traders in futures markets.

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CHICAGO MERCANTILE EXCHANGE - CME

CFTC - The Commodity Futures Trading Commission as created by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Act of 1974. This government agency currently regulates the nations's commodity futures industry.

CONTRACT - Unit of trading for a commodity future. Also, actual bilateral agreement between the parties (buyer and seller) of a futures or option on futures transaction as defined by an exchange.

CONTRACT MONTH - The month in which futures contracts may be satisfied by making or accepting delivery.

DELIVERY - The tender and receipt of an actual commodity or cash in settlement of a futures contract.

LONG - An investor expecting a futures price to increase may decide to go long or buy a futures contract.

SHORT - An investor expecting a futures price to decline may go short or sell a futures contract.
OPEN INTEREST - Total number of futures or options on futures contracts that have not yet been offset or fulfilled by delivery. An indicator of the depth or liquidity of a market (the ability to buy or sell at or near a given price) and of the use of a market for risk and/or asset-management.

SETTLEMENT PRICE - A figure determined by the closing range that is used to calculate gains and losses in futures market accounts. Settlement prices are used to determine gains, losses, margin calls, and invoice prices for deliveries.

VOLUME - The number of transactions in a futures or options on futures contract made during a specified period of time.

LTL - Less than truckload quantity.

MANUFACTURING GRADE MILK (GRADE B) - Milk eligible for sale for which use is limited to manufactured dairy products. This milk must be produced under conditions which meet state and local standards, but these standards are less stringent than those for fluid grade milk (Grade A).

MARKET - A term with several meanings:

- A. A geographic location where a commodity is traded.
- B. The price, or price level, at which a commodity is traded.
- C. To sell a commodity.

MARKET ACTIVITY - The rate at which sales are being made. Often stated as: active, moderate, slow, or inactive.

MARKET CHANNELS:

BROKER/TRADER - A middleman activity involved in facilitating sales between producers and other levels in the marketing chain. Typically does not take title to product.

FOOD SERVICE - A marketing channel which includes purchases of dairy products by hotels, restaurants, fast food outlets, schools, and institutions.

INDUSTRIAL - A marketing channel which includes dairy products purchased as an ingredient in the production of food and nonfood products.

JOBBER - A middleman activity in food distribution involving the transfer of products between wholesalers or manufacturers and end use outlets. Jobbing sales are usually on a small scale and jobbers provide special services to small food stores, restaurants, and institutions. Typically takes title to product.

RETAIL - A marketing channel which sells dairy products directly to the consumer for personal or household consumption.

WHOLESALE - A middle link in the food distribution chain. Wholesalers assemble relatively large quantities of product and resell in smaller lots to various users such as the food service trade, small retail food stores, and jobbers. Major functions may include assembling, grading, warehousing, order taking, cutting, wrapping, printing, and delivery. Customer services such as merchandising aids and credit also may be provided.

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METRIC CONVERSIONS:

KG / KILOGRAM = approximately 2.2 pounds
MT / METRIC TON = approximately 2,204.6 pounds

MOSTLY - The majority of sales within a reported price range. Transaction driven not volume weighted

NA - Not available.

NASS - National Agricultural Statistics Service: An agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This Agency's responsibilities include providing official USDA data and estimates of agricultural prices, dairy products, milk production, cold storage, and other items.

NC - No change.

NDM - Nonfat Dry Milk - See USDA standards.

NOMINAL PRICES - Prices that reflect buyers' and sellers' opinions of current values (bids, offers, grade, and regional differentials, etc.) when there is limited trading of a commodity. Ordinarily, published prices are based on three or more separate, actual spot transactions. However, because of the practical uses made of pricing information by buyers and sellers, nominal prices are used to indicate where spot trades would occur. If a reporter is unable to gather enough information for nominal prices, then prices are reported as too few to report (TFEWR).

PRICE TREND - The direction in which prices are moving in relation to trading in the previous reporting period(s).

HIGHER - The majority of sales are at prices measurably higher than the previous trading session.
FIRM - Prices are tending higher, but not measurably so.
STEADY - Prices are unchanged from the previous trading session.
WEAK - Prices are tending lower, but not measurably so.
LOWER - Prices for most sales are measurably lower than the previous trading session.

PRINT BUTTER - Butter which is packaged in one-pound or smaller pieces.

PRODUCT PRICE FORMULAS - Used to compute minimum class prices under federal milk orders. Consist of product prices, make allowances, and yield factors. Product prices are those collected weekly by NASS for butter, NDM, block and barrel cheese and dry whey. Replaced BFP in January 2000.

RAILCAR = approximately 130,000 to 160,000 pounds

RESALE PRICES - Transactions that reflect product that has been purchased and resold (can be more than once). Trades can occur above, below, or at spot prices depending on current market conditions. These trades are not reported in spot price ranges but may be included in comments.

SMP - Skim Milk Powder

1. An international market term often used interchangeably for NDM.
2. A term used in the U.S. for a dry product made from a blend of condensed skim and another condensed dairy product(s) generally for export sales. This product does not meet USDA standards for NDM.

SOLIDS-NOT-FAT (SNF) - The solids in milk other than milkfat. Also known as nonfat solids.

SPOT PRICES - The first sale, f.o.b. the producing plant, of product that has no regular or committed outlet and is sold on the open market for immediate delivery or delivery within a few days. Sales to CCC under the price support program are included with spot trades.

SUPPLY/OFFERING - The quantity of a particular item available for current sale.

HEAVY - When the volume of supplies is above average for the market being reported.
MODERATE - When the volume of supplies is average for the market being reported.
LIGHT - When the volume of supplies is below average for the market being reported.

TFEWR - Too few to report - insufficient market information to determine a price.

TL - Truckload = approximately 40,000 - 44,000 pounds

UNDERTONE/TONE - Situation or sense of market direction.

USPHS - United States Public Health Service: An agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This agency's responsibilities include the promulgation and administration of Federal standards of identity (which define milk and dairy products) and administering the fluid Grade A milk program (which covers the sanitary aspects of milk and processing).

WET SOLIDS - another term for condensed skim.