



South American Dairy Market Overview

Agricultural Marketing Service
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Weather has been relatively beneficial to some key milking regions in South America during the hot summer months. El Nino-wrought weather has provided some much-needed rainfall to some areas, but Argentina's milk output continues to be hampered by dryness and heat. As neutral weather patterns are expected to emerge near-term, Argentinian farmers are hopeful for increased rainfall to provide heartier feedstuffs and increased forage for their herds. That said, per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the La Nina phenomenon is expected to return after what Argentinian farmers feel was a very brief hiatus, sometime in the Southern Hemisphere's winter months.

Brazil's milk output improved in 2023, according to reports. Contacts expect this to continue, if weather cooperates, as the country continues to push more self-reliance when it comes to milk output and processing capacity. That said, early 2024 reports suggest Brazilian importers are not slowing down. Reports for January show import volumes for key dairy commodities, such as cheese, whole milk powder and skim milk powder, continue to increase notably compared to previous years' figures. On the dairy production side, increases are noted, but are generally at modest year-over-year rates.

Information for the period February 19 - March 1, 2024, issued biweekly

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Cheese imports to Brazil during January 2024, 3,600 MT, increased 43 percent from the same duration in 2023, according to CLAL data made available to USDA.

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