



Cheese - West U.S.

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In the West, domestic demand for varietal cheeses is mixed. Some manufacturers and distributors say retail demand is stronger, while others say it is flat. Stakeholders note food service demand as stronger to lighter. Some cheese convertors relay production has picked up recently due to strengthened customer needs. Industry sources indicate demand from international buyers is stronger. Availability of Class III milk is tighter in some parts of the region. However, cheese makers are securing enough Class III milk to accommodate strong to steady processing schedules. A few manufacturers say inventories for spot buyers are tight for the remainder of Q1, but plenty of cheese is available overall. On the CME today, cheese barrels finished at \$1.6700, staying higher than cheese blocks, which finished at \$1.6150.

Information for the period February 26 - March 1, 2024, issued weekly

Secondary Sourced Information:

This week, a cooperative export assistance program accepted requests for export assistance on contracts to sell 1.1 million pounds (490 metric tons) of American-type cheese. So far this year, the program has assisted member cooperatives who have contracts to sell 20.1 million pounds of American-type cheeses and 1.3 million pounds of cream cheese in export markets.

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