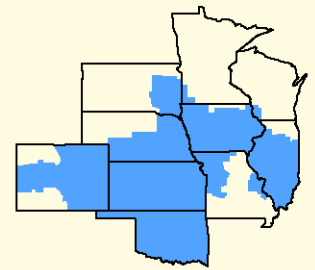


APRIL 2026

Marketing Service

# Bulletin

Facilitating the efficient marketing of milk and dairy products.



CENTRAL MARKETING AREA



## Where's The Milk ..... ???

Milk production in the United States was just under 234 billion pounds in 2025, increasing by 2.5% compared with 2024.

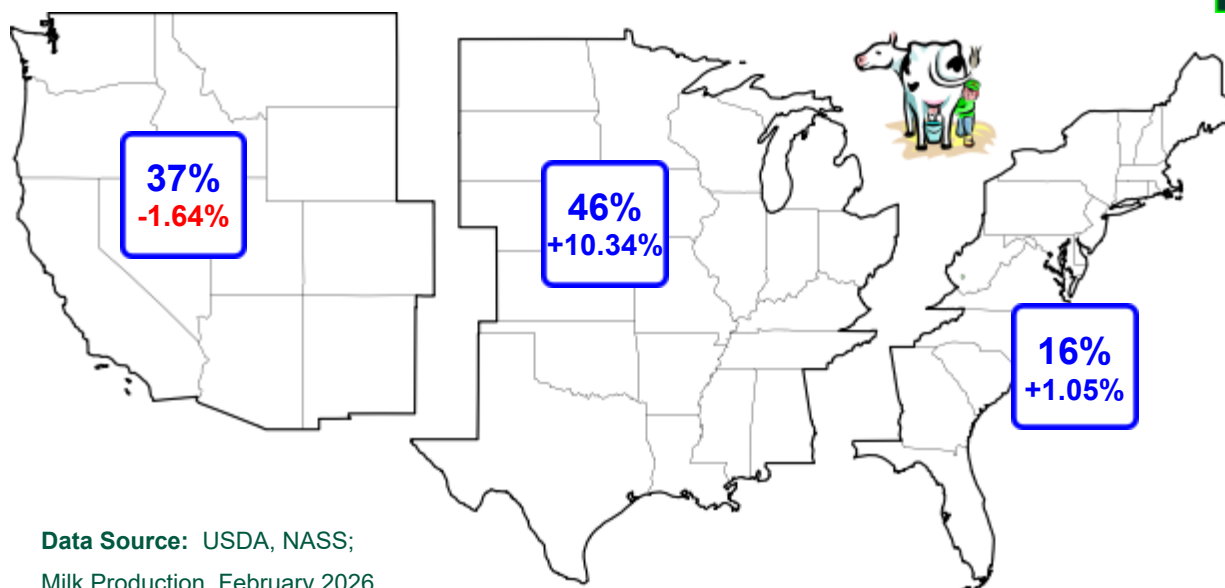
This bulletin addresses the question, "Where's The Milk ?", by examining milk production and dairy product manufacturing on a regional basis. The map graphics and data tables contained in this bulletin depict production of milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, ice cream, dry whey, cottage cheese, and nonfat dry milk for the Atlantic, Central, and West Regions, as specified by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The top number shown in each region represents the region's proportion of total 2025 production for the specified product, while the bottom number represents the percentage change in production comparing 2025 with 2020.



Comparing 2025 with 2020, the **Atlantic and Central Regions increased** milk production by 1.05% and 10.34% respectively, while the **West Region decreased** by 1.64%. The **Central Region** accounted for 45.52% of total U.S. Production, **up** 2.72 percentage points compared with 2020 (42.80%). The **West Region** accounted for 37.11% of U.S. Milk production in 2025, which is **down** 2.03 percentage points compared with the proportion in 2020 (39.14%). The **Atlantic Region** accounted for the smallest proportion of the 2025 total at 15.64%, and this proportion is **down** 0.42 percentage points compared with 2020 (16.06%). Milk production data for 2020 through 2025 are detailed on the last page of this bulletin.

U.S. milk production in 2025 increased by 8.4 billion pounds compared with 2020. The additional milk required to meet increased cheese production during the same period was approximately 15.6 billion pounds.

### Regional Milk Production as a Percentage of 2025 Total U.S. Milk Production with Percentage Change in Production: 2025 vs 2020



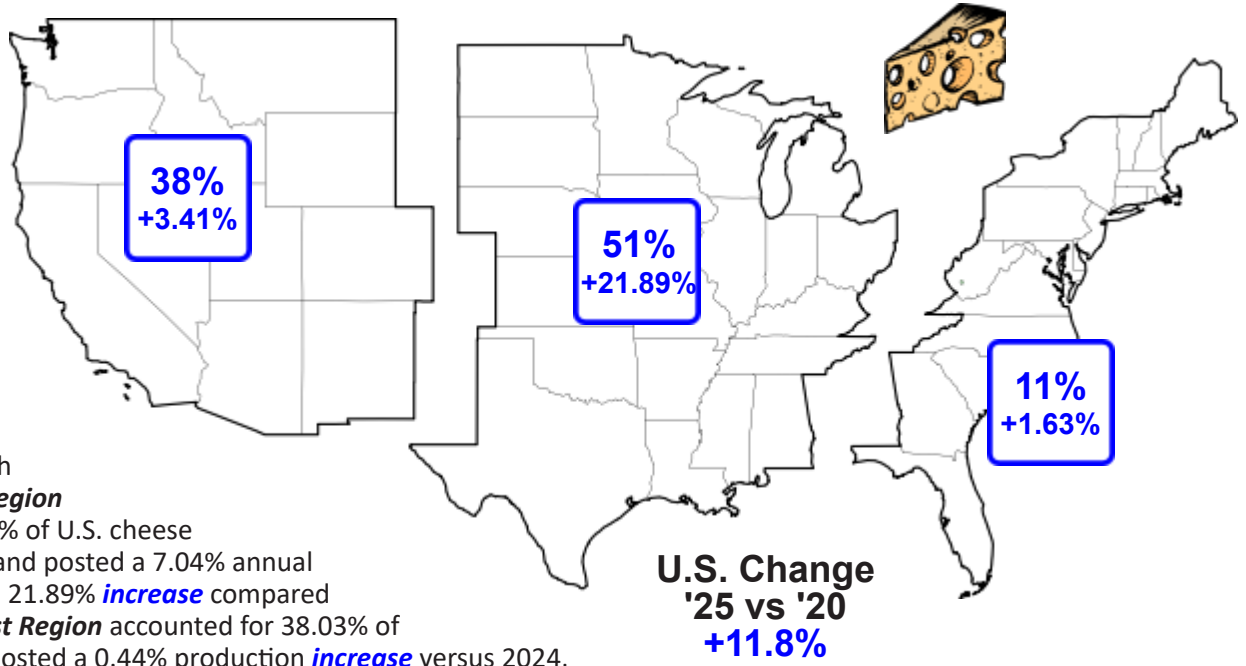
U.S. Change '25 vs '20 +3.7%

Data Source: USDA, NASS; Milk Production, February 2026.

# Regional Cheese Production as a Percentage of 2025 Total U.S. Cheese Production with Percentage Change in Production: 2025 vs 2020

U.S. cheese production totaled 14.800 billion pounds during 2025. The 2025 total is an **increase** of 3.95% compared with 2024, and it is 11.79% **greater than** the amount produced in 2020.

As depicted by the map on this page, all three regions recorded **increases** comparing 2025 with 2020. The **Central Region** accounted for 50.74% of U.S. cheese production in 2025 and posted a 7.04% annual **increase** as well as a 21.89% **increase** compared with 2020. The **West Region** accounted for 38.03% of the 2025 total and posted a 0.44% production **increase** versus 2024, with a 3.41% **increase** compared with 2020. The **Atlantic Region** accounted for 11.23% of the 2025 U.S. total, and this region's cheese production **increased** by 2.71% versus the previous year while **increasing** 1.63% comparing 2025 with 2020.



**Data Source:** USDA, NASS; Dairy Products 2025 Summary, Apr 2026.

The Central Region has accounted for the largest proportion of cheese production over the last five years, and its share has been increasing every year as well. The West Region accounts for the second largest proportion, and its share increased in 2019, but has declined every year since then. The Atlantic Region's share increased in 2020, but has decreased in every year since then.

## Total U.S. Cheese Production By Region (thousand lbs.)

	Atlantic	Central	West	Total
2020	1,635,423	6,160,722	5,443,495	13,239,640
2021	1,616,347	6,611,126	5,479,093	13,706,566
2022	1,642,025	6,859,160	5,561,590	14,062,775
2023	1,627,967	6,959,128	5,568,482	14,155,577
2024	1,618,160	7,015,179	5,604,086	14,237,425
2025	1,662,005	7,509,085	5,628,974	14,800,064

## As a Percent of Total Production

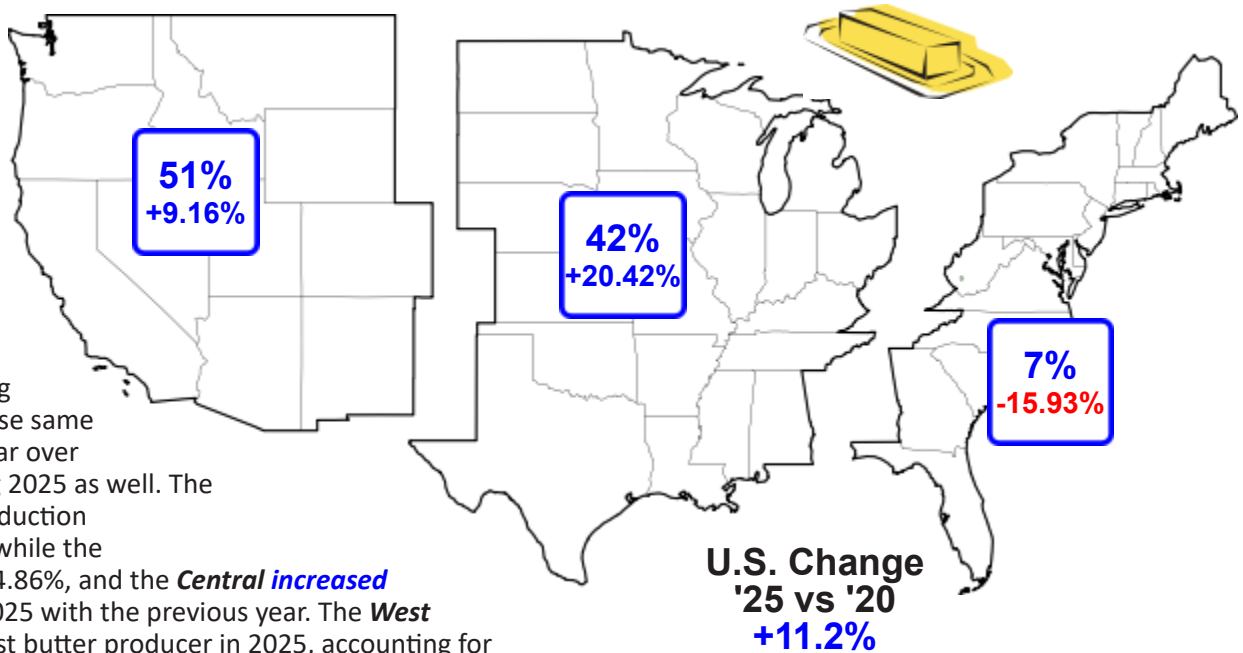
	Atlantic	Central	West
2020	12.35	46.53	41.12
2021	11.79	48.23	39.98
2022	11.68	48.77	39.55
2023	11.50	49.16	39.34
2024	11.37	49.27	39.36
2025	11.23	50.74	38.03



# Regional Butter Production as a Percentage of 2025 Total U.S. Butter Production with Percentage Change in Production: 2025 vs 2020

U.S. butter production **increased** 11.21%, comparing 2025 with 2020. Butter production totaled 2.386 billion pounds during 2025 **up** 6.75% from 2024.

As depicted by the accompanying map, two of the three regions posted **increases** in butter production comparing 2025 with 2020. Those same regions registered year over year **increases** during 2025 as well. The **Atlantic Region's** production **decreased** by 4.33% while the **West's increased** by 4.86%, and the **Central increased** 11.32% comparing 2025 with the previous year. The **West Region** was the largest butter producer in 2025, accounting for 50.91% of the U.S. total, followed by the **Central Region** with 42.08%. The **Atlantic Region** accounted for just 7.01% of the U.S. total in 2025, and its share has been below 10% during each of the last five years.



**Data Source:** USDA, NASS; Dairy Products 2025 Summary, Apr 2026.

## Total U.S. Butter Production By Region (thousand lbs.)

	Atlantic	Central	West	Total
2020	198,973	833,806	1,113,123	2,145,902
2021	168,480	802,339	1,100,897	2,071,716
2022	168,751	772,340	1,117,646	2,058,737
2023	170,715	822,298	1,118,494	2,111,507
2024	174,846	901,999	1,158,748	2,235,593
2025	167,276	1,004,097	1,215,032	2,386,405

The Central Region's share has seen significant growth in the last few years peaking at 42.08% in 2025. The West's share peaked over the past five years at 54.29% in 2022 but has declined in the last three years. The Atlantic Region accounted for just 7.01% of total production during 2025 it's lowest level in the last five years.

## As a Percent of Total Production

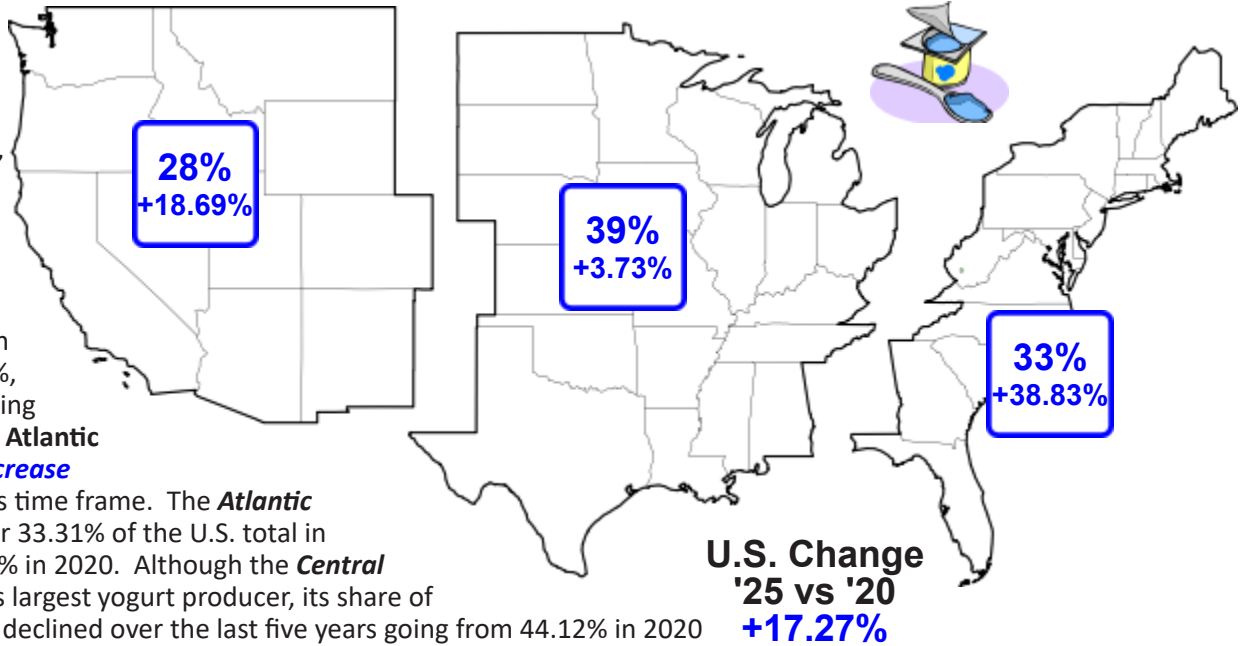
	Atlantic	Central	West
2020	9.27	38.86	51.87
2021	8.13	38.73	53.14
2022	8.20	37.52	54.29
2023	8.08	38.94	52.97
2024	7.82	40.35	51.83
2025	7.01	42.08	50.91



# Regional Yogurt Production as a Percentage of 2025 Total U.S. Yogurt Production with Percentage Change in Production: 2025 vs 2020

U.S. yogurt production **increased** by 17.27% comparing 2025 with 2020. Annual yogurt production during 2025 totaled 5.289 billion pounds, an **increase** of 8.50% compared with 2024.

The **West and Central Regions** **increased** production by 18.69% and 3.73%, respectively, comparing 2025 with 2020. The **Atlantic Region** posted an **increase** of 38.83% during this time frame. The **Atlantic Region** accounted for 33.31% of the U.S. total in 2025, **up** from 28.55% in 2020. Although the **Central Region** is the nation's largest yogurt producer, its share of total production has declined over the last five years going from 44.12% in 2020 to 39.03% in 2025. The **West Region** accounted for 27.66% of total U.S. yogurt production in 2025, **up** from 27.33% in 2020. This region's share of total yogurt production was **up** 1.73 percentage points from the proportion recorded the previous year.



**Data Source:** USDA, NASS; Dairy Products 2025 Summary, Apr 2026.

## Total U.S. Yogurt Production By Region (thousand lbs.)

	Atlantic	Central	West	Total
2020	1,287,343	1,990,110	1,232,407	4,509,860
2021	1,355,355	1,998,119	1,389,753	4,743,227
2022	1,339,503	1,948,945	1,335,112	4,623,560
2023	1,433,203	1,987,963	1,169,365	4,590,531
2024	1,573,407	2,036,906	1,264,166	4,874,479
2025	1,761,493	2,064,389	1,462,703	5,288,585

## As a Percent of Total Production

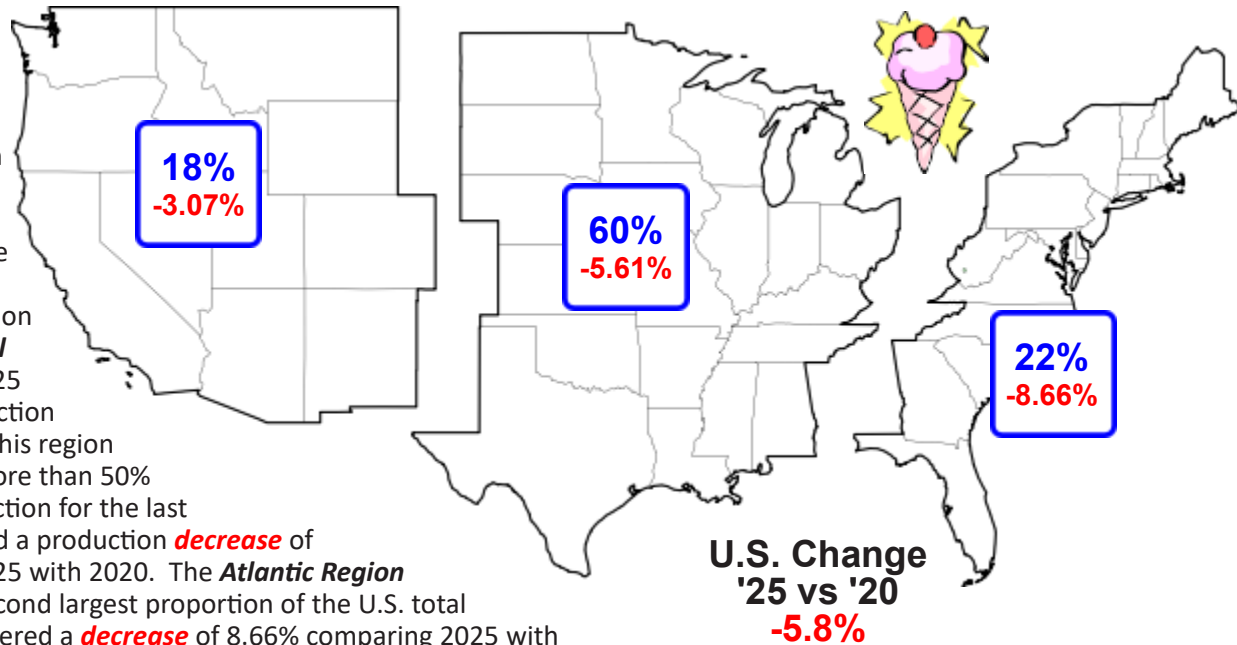
	Atlantic	Central	West
2020	28.55	44.12	27.33
2021	28.57	42.13	29.30
2022	28.97	42.15	28.88
2023	31.22	43.31	25.47
2024	32.28	41.79	25.93
2025	33.31	39.03	27.66

The Atlantic Region's share of U.S. yogurt production has steadily increased year over year with the largest increase being in 2023. The West Region's share jumped slightly in 2021, and had continued to decline until 2025. The Central Region's proportion stayed below the 44% it reached in 2019. Yearly yogurt production increased by 8.50% in 2025, and it was 17.27% more than the amount produced in 2020.



## Regional Ice Cream Production\* as a Percentage of 2025 Total U.S. Ice Cream Production\* with Percentage Change in Production: 2025 vs 2020

U.S. ice cream production\* **decreased** by 5.84% comparing 2025's total with the 766.9 million gallons produced in 2020. Ice cream production totaled 722.1 million gallons during 2025, **down** 2.11% from the previous year. As depicted by the map on this page, the **Central Region's** share of 2025 U.S. ice cream production was just over 60%. This region has accounted for more than 50% of total yearly production for the last five years, and posted a production **decrease** of 5.61% comparing 2025 with 2020. The **Atlantic Region** accounted for the second largest proportion of the U.S. total at 21.70%, and registered a **decrease** of 8.66% comparing 2025 with 2020. The **West Region's** production **decreased** 3.07% between 2020 and 2025. This region accounted for the smallest production share with 18.20% of the 2025 U.S. total.



**Data Source:** USDA, NASS; Dairy Products 2025 Summary, Apr 2026.

### Total U.S. Ice Cream Production\* By Region (thousand gallons)

	Atlantic	Central	West	Total
2020	171,509	459,807	135,585	766,901
2021	167,131	428,879	126,778	722,788
2022	167,643	430,810	128,237	726,690
2023	152,358	424,204	131,633	708,195
2024	152,853	440,144	144,646	737,643
2025	156,659	433,999	131,424	722,082

### As a Percent of Total Production

	Atlantic	Central	West
2020	22.36	59.96	17.68
2021	23.12	59.34	17.54
2022	23.07	59.28	17.65
2023	21.51	59.90	18.59
2024	20.72	59.67	19.61
2025	21.70	60.10	18.20

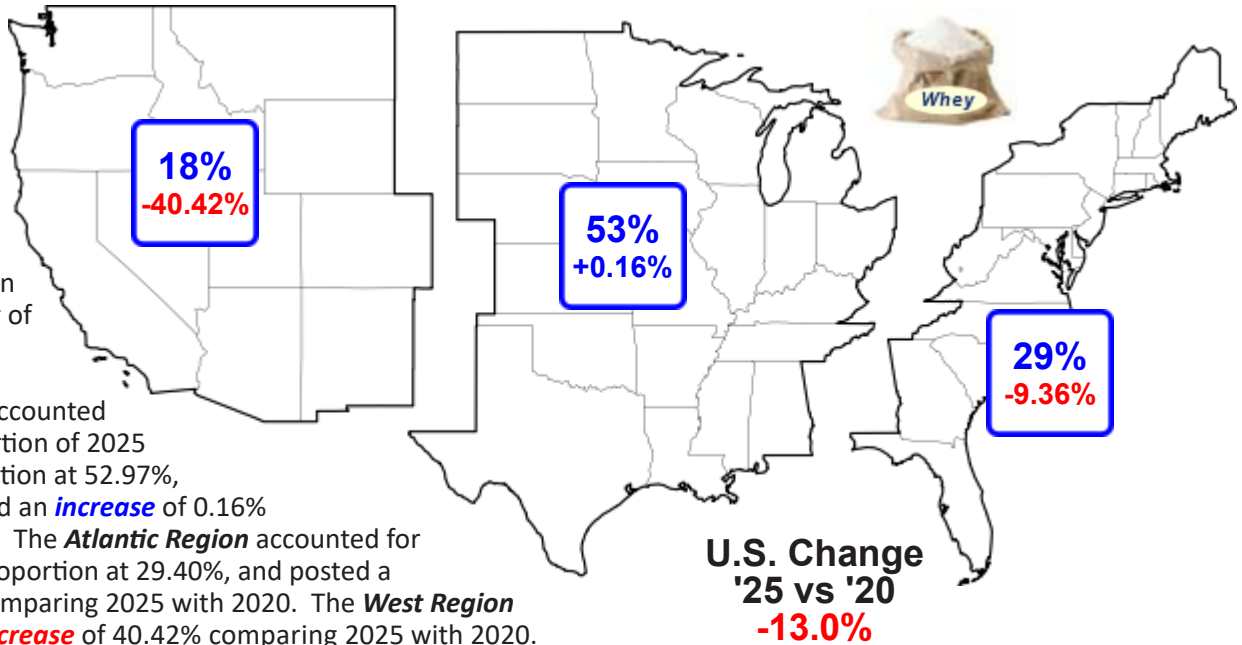


U.S. regular (hard) ice cream production decreased by 2.11% in 2025, after increasing in the previous year. The Central Region's share of the 2025 total was 61.10%, and this region has accounted for more than 50% of total U.S. ice cream production the last five years. The Atlantic Region's share had a slight increase in 2021 and had decreased every year since until 2025. The West Region's production has been less than 20% of the U.S. total the last five years.

# Regional Dry Whey Production\* as a Percentage of 2025 Total U.S. Dry Whey Production\* with Percentage Change in Production: 2025 vs 2020

U.S. dry whey production\* **decreased** by 12.98% comparing 2025's total with the 940.2 million pounds produced in 2020. Dry Whey production totaled 818.2 million pounds during 2025, **up** 2.51% from 2024. Production has decreased in four of the last five years.

The **Central Region** accounted for the largest proportion of 2025 U.S. dry whey production at 52.97%, and this region posted an **increase** of 0.16% compared with 2020. The **Atlantic Region** accounted for the second largest proportion at 29.40%, and posted a **decrease** of 9.36% comparing 2025 with 2020. The **West Region** posted the largest **decrease** of 40.42% comparing 2025 with 2020. This region accounted for 17.63% of 2025 U.S. dry whey production, the smallest proportion among the three regions.



**Data Source:** USDA, NASS; Dairy Products 2025 Summary, Apr 2026.

## Total U.S. Dry Whey Production\* By Region (thousand lbs.)

	Atlantic	Central	West	Total
2020	265,409	432,675	242,158	940,242
2021	279,129	438,099	194,274	911,502
2022	251,325	410,487	224,117	885,929
2023	250,199	437,236	197,655	885,090
2024	242,871	403,150	152,164	798,185
2025	240,567	433,386	144,274	818,227

## As a Percent of Total Production

	Atlantic	Central	West
2020	28.23	46.02	25.75
2021	30.62	48.06	21.32
2022	28.37	46.33	25.30
2023	28.27	49.40	22.33
2024	30.43	50.51	19.06
2025	29.40	52.97	17.63



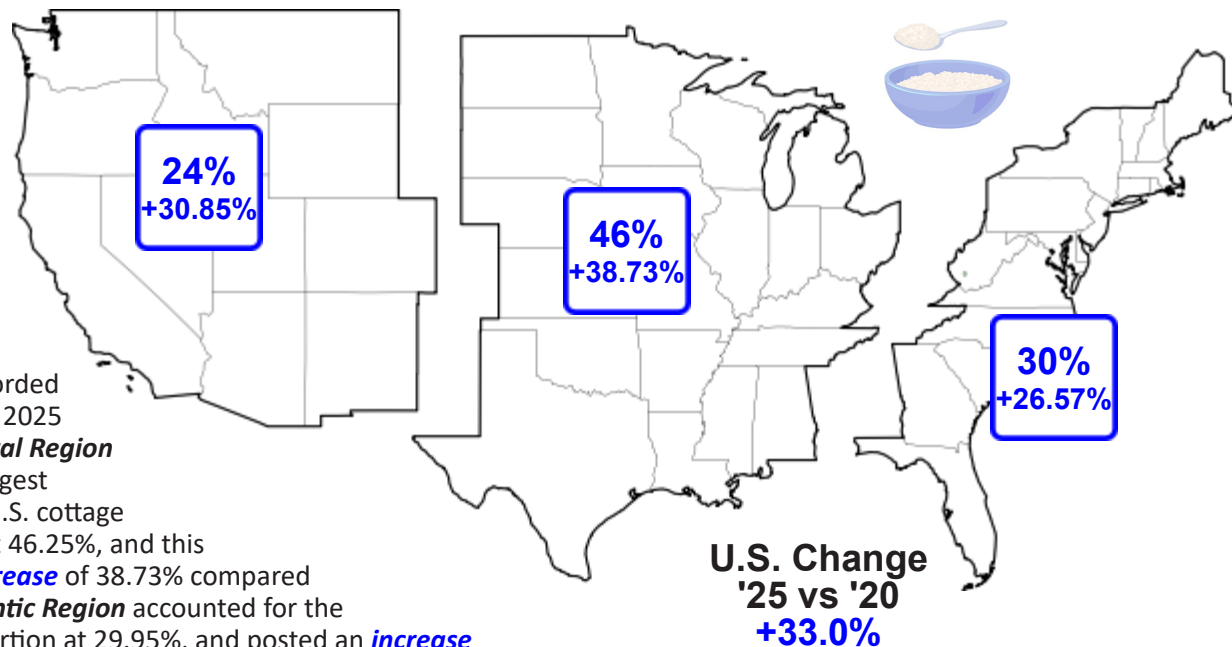
U.S. dry whey (human) production had decreased in four of the last five years. Two of the three regions saw year over year decreases in production in 2025. The Central Region increased 7.50% during 2025, while the West Region fell 5.19% and the Atlantic Region fell 0.95%. Comparing 2025 with 2020, total U.S. dry whey production was down 12.98%.

\*Dry Whey (Human) Production.

## Regional Cottage Cheese Production\* as a Percentage of 2025 Total U.S. Cottage Cheese Production\* with Percentage Change in Production: 2025 vs 2020

U.S. cottage cheese production\* **increased** by 33.00% comparing 2025's total with the 671.4 million pounds produced in 2020. Cottage Cheese production totaled 893.0 million pounds during 2025, **up** 11.52% from 2024.

All three regions recorded **increases** comparing 2025 with 2020. The **Central Region** accounted for the largest proportion of 2025 U.S. cottage cheese production at 46.25%, and this region posted an **increase** of 38.73% compared with 2020. The **Atlantic Region** accounted for the second largest proportion at 29.95%, and posted an **increase** of 26.57% comparing 2025 with 2020. The **West Region** posted and **increase** of 30.85% comparing 2025 with 2020.



**Data Source:** USDA, NASS; Dairy Products 2025 Summary, Apr 2026.

### Total U.S. Cottage Cheese Production\* By Region (thousand lbs.)

	Atlantic	Central	West	Total
2020	211,290	297,699	162,456	671,445
2021	198,979	277,438	165,365	641,782
2022	204,648	274,345	159,333	638,326
2023	236,884	307,612	168,758	713,254
2024	257,492	356,616	186,631	800,739
2025	267,430	412,996	212,575	893,001

### As a Percent of Total Production

	Atlantic	Central	West
2020	31.47	44.34	24.19
2021	31.00	43.23	25.77
2022	32.06	42.98	24.96
2023	33.21	43.13	23.66
2024	32.16	44.54	23.31
2025	29.95	46.25	23.80



U.S. cottage cheese production has seen a large increase in production over the last three years. All regions saw year over year increases in production in 2025. The West Region increased 13.90% during 2025, while the Central Region rose 15.81% and the Atlantic Region rose 3.86%. Total U.S. cottage cheese production was up 11.52% from the previous year.

\*Lowfat and Creamed Cottage Cheese Combined



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	Statistical Uniform Price		Producer Price Differential		Class I Utilization	
	Mar '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Feb '26
Northeast	18.82	17.31	2.66	2.37	28.16	28.69
Appalachian	20.64	19.69	-----	-----	70.09	73.73
Florida	21.55	20.65	-----	-----	78.11	79.00
Southeast	20.95	20.14	-----	-----	72.15	76.13
Upper Midwest	16.66	15.52	0.50	0.58	7.46	9.98
<b>Central</b>	<b>17.65</b>	<b>16.33</b>	<b>1.49</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>28.87</b>	<b>30.68</b>
Mideast	17.74	16.44	1.58	1.50	33.34	31.15
California	17.22	16.04	1.06	1.10	21.88	23.13
Pacific Northwest	17.03	16.47	0.87	1.53	18.49	34.25
Southwest	17.68	16.55	1.52	1.61	25.62	29.35
Arizona	18.12	16.26	-----	-----	38.16	28.07

**Total U.S. Milk Production  
By Region**

	Million Lbs.				% of Total		
	Atlantic	Central	West	Total	Atlantic	Central	West
2020	37,458	97,131	88,676	223,309	16.77	43.50	39.71
2021	37,266	100,195	88,797	226,258	16.47	44.28	39.25
2022	37,074	101,433	87,950	226,462	16.37	44.79	38.84
2023	37,310	102,490	86,505	226,311	16.49	45.29	38.22
2024	37,113	103,517	85,230	225,868	16.43	45.83	37.73
2025	36,545	106,381	86,724	233,683	15.64	45.52	37.11

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