

## Strong and steady in 2024

Progressive Dairy Managing Editor **Karen Lee**

As the statistics were gathered and numbers crunched for 2024, the most noticeable theme across the board was very little change from the previous year. This reflects the steadiness and strength within Canada's dairy industry.

Milk production increased slightly in 2024, up 0.7% (714,334 hectolitres) from 2023. The Western Milk Pool grew more in milk production, up 1.6%, over the P5, which increased 0.5% for the year.

Cow numbers held steady at 969,400, only down 100 from the year before and now equal to the number of cows in 2022. With little change in cow numbers, the increase in overall milk production can be attributed to more milk per cow. Canada's average milk per cow rose 0.8% or an additional 75 litres per cow. Largest gains were seen in Prince Edward Island (4%), New Brunswick (3.9%), and Quebec and Manitoba (both at 3.4%).

Nearly 190 farms stopped shipping milk in 2024. With the minimal change in total cow numbers, the result was an increase in the average herd size, bumping the national average up two to 150 cows per farm.

Total dairy cash receipts came in at \$8.9 billion, up 9% from 2023. Total farm input prices were up just 1.2% last year, with machinery fuel, general business costs and crop production expenses all lower than the previous year.

The dairy trade balance grew to -\$1.1 billion. This deficit has been widening the past few years, as the results of trade agreements have doubled the amount of imported dairy products since 2018.

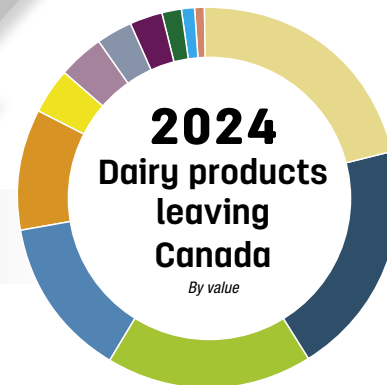


<sup>1</sup>Milk protein substances  
<sup>2</sup>Natural milk constituents  
<sup>3</sup>Skim milk powder and whole milk powder  
<sup>4</sup>Ice cream, yogurt, evaporated milk, condensed milk, dairy spreads, lactose and lactose syrup, milk albumin, and buttermilk products

### Top 10 countries selling dairy products to Canada

Rank	Country	2024 Imports (in dollars)	Percent change from 2023
1	U.S.	\$897,087,827	18%
2	New Zealand	\$203,696,758	-6%
3	Italy	\$162,722,223	16%
4	France	\$87,115,578	-1%
5	Netherlands	\$56,458,768	33%
6	Ireland	\$37,320,304	14%
7	Switzerland	\$36,784,994	-7%
8	Denmark	\$33,242,390	4%
9	Germany	\$27,710,824	0%
10	United Kingdom	\$25,055,053	-35%

## Imports



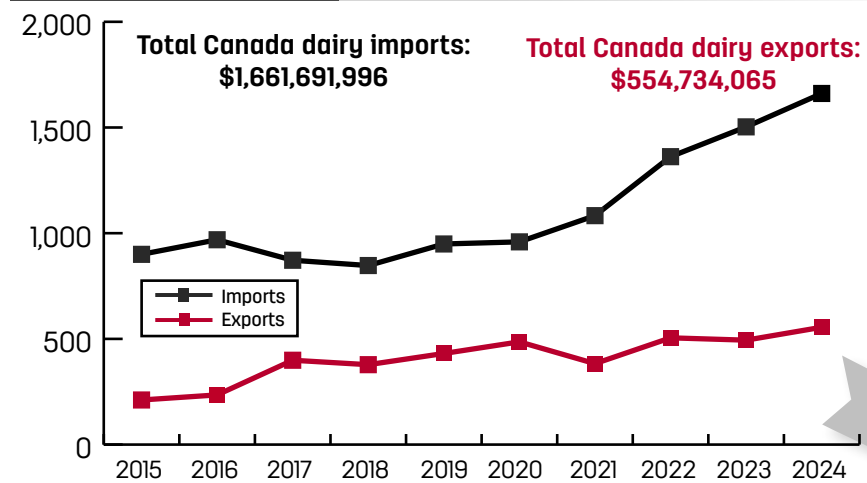
<sup>1</sup>Natural milk constituents  
<sup>2</sup>Skim milk powder and whole milk powder  
<sup>3</sup>Buttermilk, evaporated milk, condensed milk, casein, dairy spreads, etc.

### Top 10 countries buying Canada dairy products

Rank	Country	2024 Exports (in dollars)	Percent change from 2023
1	U.S.	\$357,910,041	22%
2	Egypt	\$37,873,921	-9%
3	Algeria	\$21,204,995	-21%
4	United Arab Emirates	\$17,353,565	5%
5	Philippines	\$14,009,690	3%
6	Japan	\$13,012,116	11%
7	Greece	\$9,372,335	25%
8	Cuba	\$8,784,108	397%
9	India	\$6,270,316	6%
10	Vietnam	\$5,848,433	11%

## Exports

### Canada dairy exports/imports (in millions of dollars)



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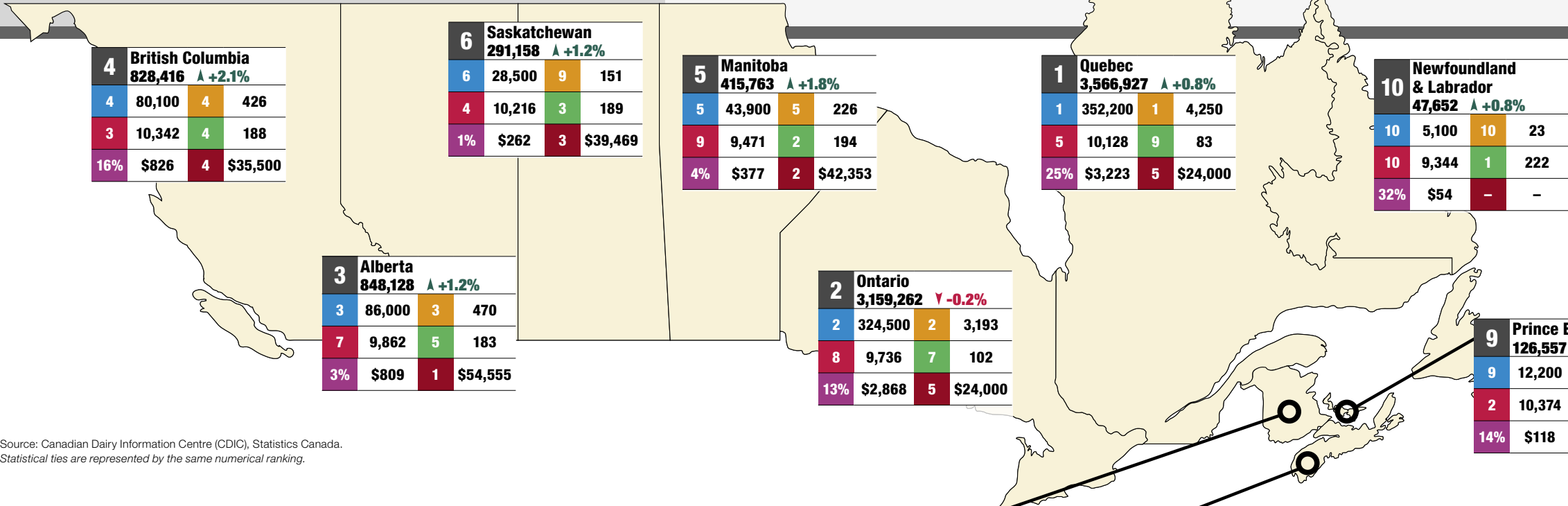




2024 Canada dairy statistics



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Source: Canadian Dairy Information Centre (CDIC), Statistics Canada.  
Statistical ties are represented by the same numerical ranking.

### Legend

Province ranking – total milk production

Total milk production in calendar year (in kilolitres)

Province ranking – number of cows

Number of cows

Province ranking – milk litres per cow

Milk per cow (in litres)

Dairy receipts as a percentage of province's total farm receipts

Dairy receipts annual total (in millions of dollars)

Province ranking – total milk production

Province ranking – number of farms with milk shipments

Number of farms with milk shipments

Province ranking – average herd size

Average herd size

Province ranking – value of quota

Quota value\* (in \$ per kg of butterfat per day)

### New Brunswick

165,175 ▲ +1.3%

8 15,800 7 162

1 10,454 8 98

13% \$154 5 \$24,000

Percentage increase/decrease in total milk from 2023

Province ranking – number of farms with milk shipments

Number of farms with milk shipments

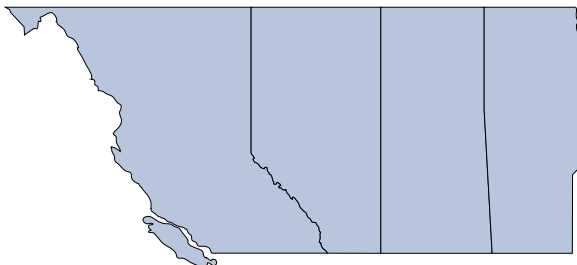
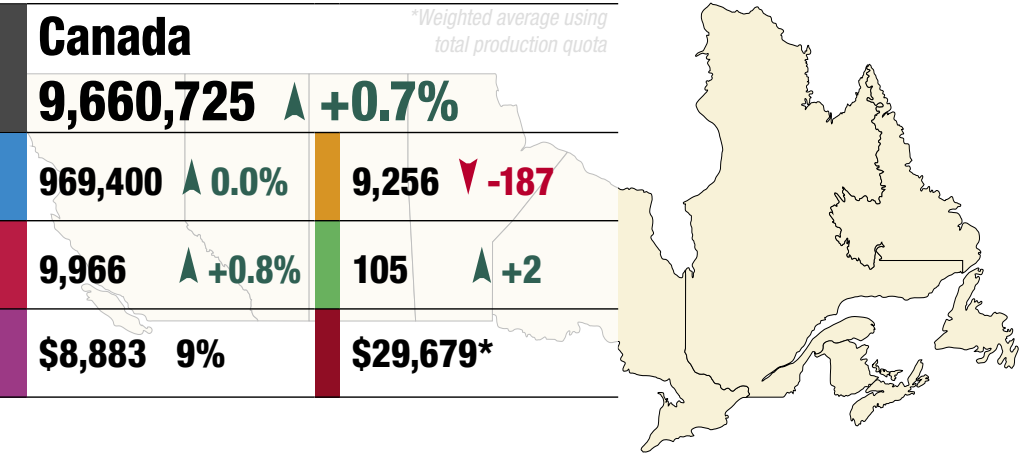
Province ranking – average herd size

Average herd size

Province ranking – value of quota

Quota value\* (in \$ per kg of butterfat per day)

All information is from 2024, unless otherwise noted.  
\*Weighted average using total production quota



(British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba)

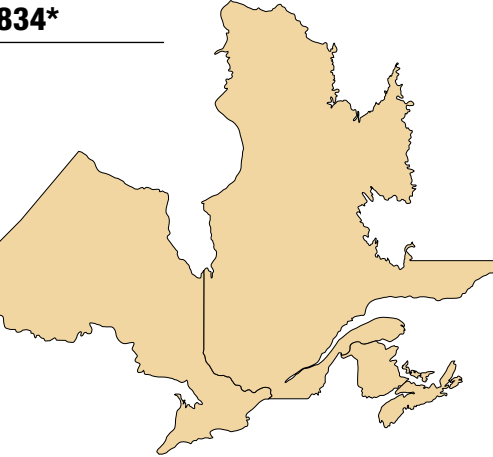
238,500	-0.1%	1,273	-23
9,994	1.7%	187	+3
\$2,275	4.0%	\$44,834*	

\*Weighted average using total production quota

(Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island)

7,229,607	+0.5%		
725,800	0.0%	7,960	-164
9,961	+0.4%	91	+2
\$6,554	17%	\$24,000*	

\*Weighted average using total production quota



Province total production rank	Province	Total milk production (in kilolitres) 2024	Percentage increase/decrease in total milk from 2023	Number of cows 2024	Percentage increase/decrease in number of cows from 2023	Milk per cow (in litres) 2024	Percentage increase/decrease in milk per cow from 2023	Number of farms with milk shipments 2024	Change in number of farms with milk shipments from 2023	Average herd size 2024	Change in avg herd size from 2023
1	Quebec	3,566,927	0.8	352,200	-2.4	10,128	3.4	4,250	-134	83	1
2	Ontario	3,159,262	-0.2	324,500	2.8	9,736	-2.9	3,193	-40	102	4
3	Alberta	848,128	1.2	86,000	0.5	9,862	0.8	470	-7	183	4
4	British Columbia	828,416	2.1	80,100	0.0	10,342	2.1	426	-11	188	5
5	Manitoba	415,763	1.8	43,900	-1.6	9,471	3.4	226	-6	194	2
6	Saskatchewan	291,158	1.2	28,500	0.0	10,216	1.2	151	1	189	-1
7	Nova Scotia	211,686	0.7	21,100	2.9	10,032	-2.1	195	-3	108	5
8	New Brunswick	165,175	1.3	15,800	-2.5	10,454	3.9	162	-2	98	-1
9	Prince Edward Island	126,557	4.0	12,200	0.0	10,374	4.0	160	15	76	-8
10	Newfoundland and Labrador	47,652	0.8	5,100	-1.9	9,344	2.8	23	0	222	-4
CANADA TOTAL		9,660,725	0.7	969,400	0.0	9,966	0.8	9,256	-187	105	2



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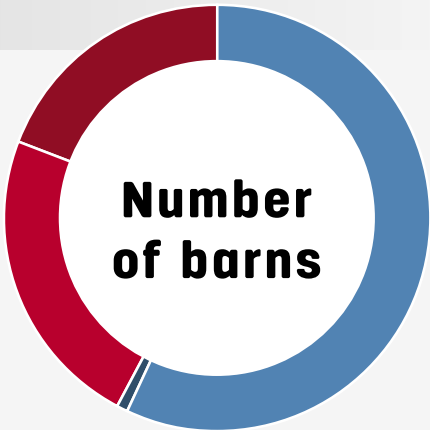
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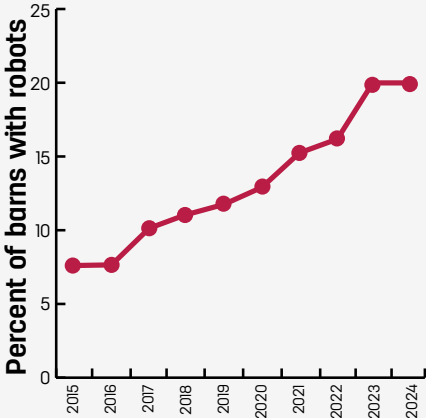
# 2024 Dairy barns by type

Province	Tiestall			Freestall		
	Number	Herd size	Percentage of tiestall barns with robots	Number of barns	Herd size	Percentage of freestall barns with robots
British Columbia	5	33		160	204	33%
Alberta	2	156		274	174	33%
Saskatchewan	6	112		68	209	35%
Manitoba	26	85	4%	95	240	58%
Ontario	1,033	62	0.4%	917	129	42%
Quebec	2,301	72	3%	754	130	59%
New Brunswick	41	65		74	140	42%
Nova Scotia	38	65		72	146	33%
Prince Edward Island	31	71	3%	42	118	26%
Newfoundland and Labrador				9	173	44%
Total	3,483		2%	2,465		46%

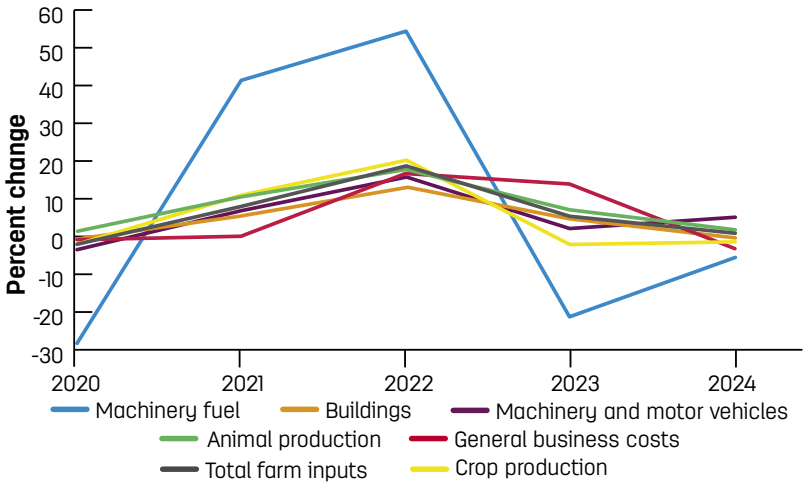
Based on herds enrolled in milk recording program  
Source: Lactanet



Tiestall (3,418) 57% Freestall (1,342) 23%  
Tiestall with robots (65) 1% Freestall with robots (1,123) 19%

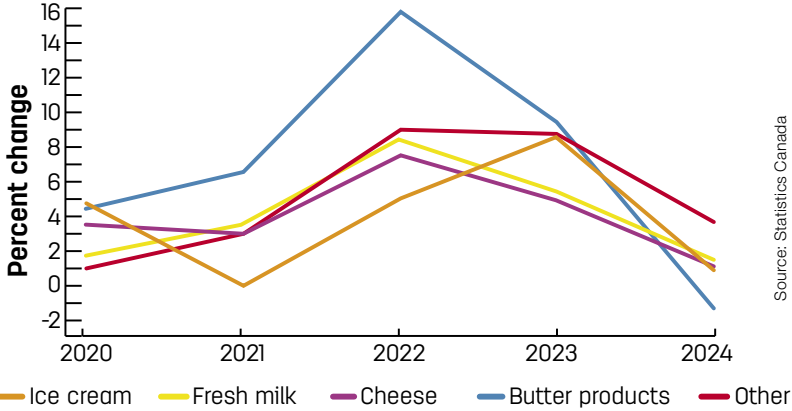


## Percent change in Canadian dairy farm input prices



Source: Statistics Canada

## Percent change in Canadian consumer prices



Source: Statistics Canada



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