QuickStats about dairying – NEW ZEALAND

HERDS AND COWS

- Total number of herds: 11,748
- Average herd size: 414
- Number of cows (milking): 4.8 million

FARMERS AND DAIRY LAND

- Number of farm owner/operators: 8,508
- Number of sharemilkers: 3,240
- Average farm size: 147ha
- Average cows per ha: 2.8

DAIRY FARMING CONTRIBUTED 28% (in 2016-17) of the total value that New Zealand earned from its merchandise exports. That is 35% of New Zealand’s total primary industry export value.

The value of dairying in New Zealand

- Jobs in the dairy industry (excl. farm business owners): 47,310 employees
- Amount of export revenue NZ earned from dairy farming (2016-17): $NZ13.4 billion

New Zealand produces 3% of all the milk in the world.

- New Zealand is the world’s largest exporter of dairy products, but is only the 8th largest milk producer worldwide.

Numbers employed in the dairy industry in New Zealand

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<th>Number employed</th>
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<tr>
<td>On-farm</td>
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<td>Processing and wholesaling</td>
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<td>Total dairy employment</td>
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*Not including meat industry earnings from cull cows which are counted in the beef industry contribution.