QuickStats about dairying – NEW ZEALAND

**HERDS AND COWS**
- Total number of herds: 11,590
- Average herd size: 431
- Number of cows (milking): 4.99 million

**FARMERS AND DAIRY LAND**
- Number of farm owner/operators (including herds with contract milkers): 8,380
- Number of sharemilkers: 3,159
- Average farm size: 151 ha
- Average cows per ha: 2.8

**Total effective hectares of dairy land in New Zealand**: 1.76 million hectares

**THE NORTH ISLAND HAS 72% of New Zealand’s dairy herds, 59% of dairy cows and produces 56% of New Zealand’s milksolids.**

**THE SOUTH ISLAND HAS 27% of New Zealand’s dairy herds, 41% of dairy cows and produces 44% of New Zealand’s milksolids.**

**DAIRY FARMING CONTRIBUTED 28% (in 2017-18) of the total value that New Zealand earned from its merchandise exports.” This is about two and a half times greater than the meat sector, more than three times the wood sector and ten times the wine sector.**

**The value of dairying in New Zealand**
- Jobs in the dairy industry: 46,000 employees
- Amount of export revenue NZ earnt from dairy farming (2017-18): $NZ15.1 billion

**Numbers employed in the dairy industry in New Zealand**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Type</th>
<th>Number Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-farm</td>
<td>34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing and wholesaling</td>
<td>12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total dairy employment</td>
<td>46,000</td>
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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 7th largest milk producer worldwide.

**Source:** NZIER, New Zealand Dairy Statistics, Ministry for Primary Industries

**Statistics New Zealand, DairyNZ Economics Group. January 2019**

*Not including meat industry earnings from cull cows which are counted in the beef industry contribution.*