

# Dairy Sector Quickfacts

## ECONOMICS AND MARKETS



### Herds and cows

Total number of herds **10,601**

Average herd size **441**

Number of cows (milking) **4.67m**

### Milk production

**20.7 billion** litres of milk processed by New Zealand dairy companies in 2022/23

**1.8 billion** kgs of milksolids produced by dairy farmers in 2022/23

Total effective hectares of dairy land in New Zealand **1.7 million** hectares

Dairy employs almost **55,000** people  
On farm – **38,000**  
Processing – **16,000**

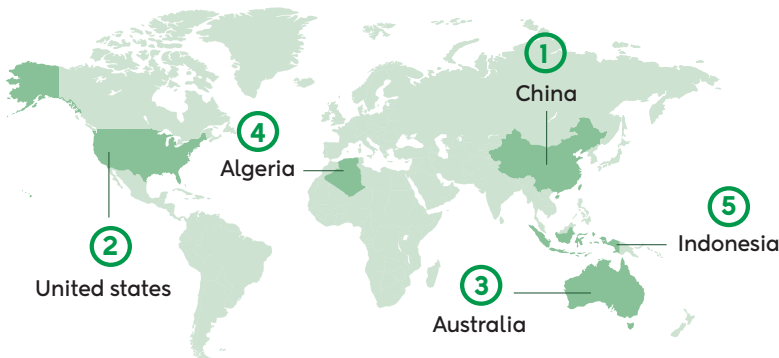


### Operating structure

Approx herds  
Owner operator – **6000**  
Contract milkers – **1500**  
Sharemilkers – **3000**

**80%** of dairy farmers have a Farm Environment Plan

## TOP 5 MARKETS for New Zealand dairy exports are:



### Export markets

**\$26 billion**

of dairy exports for the year ending June 2023  
*That's around one in every four export dollars earned by New Zealand.*

New Zealand is the world's **largest exporter** of dairy products, but is only the **9<sup>th</sup>** largest milk producer worldwide.

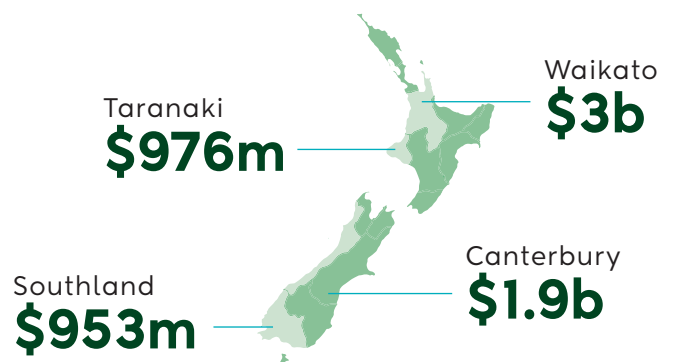
New Zealand produces **3%** of all the milk in the world

Dairy contributed **\$11.3 billion** to New Zealand's GDP in the year to March 2023.

Dairy is New Zealand's largest goods exporter by a long way **35%** of goods exports



Greatest contribution to **regional GDP** in 2021/22



### What we feed our cows

