




Dairy Trade and Mexico

Last update: July 2026

The EU Dairy Sector and EDA

The **European Dairy Association (EDA)** is the voice of milk processing companies, cooperatives and privately-owned dairies, at EU level. With **12,000** milk and dairy processing sites across Europe, our sector represents the economic backbone of rural Europe.

EU dairy companies' diversified export portfolio ensures that consumers in all regions of the world can be supplied with our unique and healthy European dairy products. With more than **45,000 jobs** directly linked to these exports, the dairy sector is also a key contributor to local communities, supporting growth and employment directly and indirectly through dairy production and exports.

 Trade relations between the **EU and Mexico** are currently governed by the trade pillar of the **1997 EU-Mexico Global Agreement**, which entered into force in 2000. Mexico is a strategic partner of the EU and its second-largest trading partner in Latin America, after Brazil. EU food and drink exports to Mexico are worth **€2.5 billion** annually, including **€175 million (7%)** in dairy products.

The EU and Mexico agreed to review the Global Agreement in 2018. Negotiations on the **Modernised Global Agreement (MGA)** were concluded in January 2025, and the agreement was signed in May 2026. Once ratified, the MGA will replace the current agreement, eliminating Mexican tariffs of **45–50%** on most EU cheeses and dairy products, thereby making these **exports duty-free**. It will also protect **568 EU geographical indications**, including names such as Gouda Holland, Roquefort and Feta.

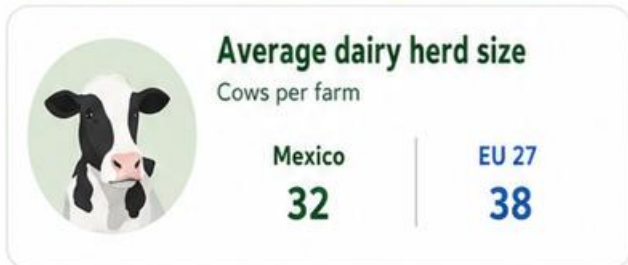
Mexico's population of around **132** million makes it a sizeable consumer market, while demographic expansion, rising purchasing power and public programmes continue to support dairy demand. With domestic milk production covering approximately **82%** of national demand, imports continue to play an important role in supplying the Mexican dairy market. At present, many dairy products remain subject to relatively high import tariffs, including on certain cheeses and milk powders. In addition, Mexico grants preferential market access to major dairy exporters such as the United States under the **USMCA** and Chile under the **Chile–Mexico Free Trade Agreement**.



European Commissioner for Agriculture and Food, Christophe Hansen, announced in May 2026 a high-level **mission to Mexico**, which will take place from 16 to 19 November 2026. The business delegation aims to facilitate exchanges and business agreements between European and Mexican companies active in the agri-food sector and to promote Europe's high quality-food standards.

➤ Current market access conditions prevent EU dairy exports to Mexico from reaching their full potential. EDA welcomes progress on the modernised agreement and looks forward to its ratification.

The Dairy sector in Mexico and the EU

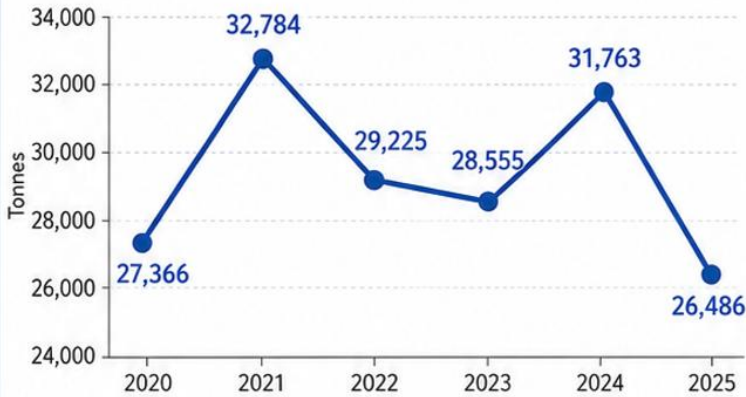


EU Dairy Trade with Mexico

2020–2025 performance and the opportunity ahead



EU Dairy Exports to Mexico, Total Volume (tonnes)



~29,000 tonnes per year on average

2024 was a strong year

Key Insights

Cheese remains the leading export category

Butter is up **39%** vs 2020

Cheese is up **22%** vs 2020

Cheese + Casein account for **82%** of 2025 trade volume

Before ratification



Mexican tariffs of **up to 45%** on many EU cheeses and dairy products



EU dairy exports to Mexico currently around **€175 million** per year



U.S. suppliers benefit from favourable access under **USMCA**



Chile also benefits from preferential access under its **FTA**



After MGA ratification



Most EU cheeses and dairy products become **duty-free**



568 EU geographical indications protected



Better access to a market of **132 million** consumers



Stronger **growth** potential for EU dairy exporters

