



Wisconsin Ag News – Specialty Cheese



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Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Production Up 1 Percent

With 25 percent of the nation's total cheese production, Wisconsin maintained its ranking as the nation's top cheese producing state in 2025. At 1.03 billion pounds, specialty cheese accounted for 28 percent of Wisconsin's total cheese production. This was an increase of 11.1 million pounds from 2024.

Wisconsin cheese makers are known for offering a wide variety of high-quality specialty cheeses. A specialty cheese is a value-added product which commands a premium price. According to the Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Institute, the nature of specialty cheese is derived from one or more unique qualities, such as exotic origin, particular processing or design, limited supply, unusual application or use, and extraordinary packaging or channel of sale. The common denominator is its very high quality.

Specialty Cheese Production – Wisconsin: 2024 and 2025

Type	2024 number of producers	2024 revised production	2025 number of producers	2025 production	Change in production from 2024
		(1,000 pounds)		(1,000 pounds)	(percent)
Asiago.....	16	43,484	13	43,664	0
Cheddar ¹	40	44,864	36	38,126	-15
Farmers.....	12	1,163	13	968	-17
Feta.....	8	133,391	8	124,823	-6
Fontina.....	12	11,262	11	10,458	-7
Gouda.....	32	15,908	29	17,944	13
Gruyere.....	(D)	(D)	5	3,587	(NA)
Havarti.....	14	44,611	15	45,246	1
Hispanic.....	19	151,316	21	154,881	2
Monterey Jack ¹	18	29,482	(D)	(D)	(NA)
Parmesan Wheel.....	6	85,406	7	113,644	33
Romano Wheel.....	6	11,349	5	16,013	41
All Other ²	50	443,513	53	457,500	3
Total ³	93	1,015,749	93	1,026,854	1

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(NA) Not Available.

¹ Includes only specialty types of this variety.

² Combined to avoid disclosure of individual plant data. Includes: Alpine, American Grana, Auribella, Bel Paese, Blue, Brie and Camembert, Butterkase, specialty Colby, Edam, Fior di Latte, Fontinella, Gorgonzola, Gruyere (2024 only), other specialty Italian, Italico, Juustoleipa, Krakow, Limburger, Mascarpone, Middle Eastern cheeses, specialty Monterey Jack (2025 only), specialty Mozzarella, other specialty Parmesan, Pepato, Peperon, specialty Provolone, Quark, Raclette, other specialty Romano, Soft-ripened, other specialty Swiss, and Tvarog Polish.

³ Total cheese plants producing one or more specialty cheeses.