Overseas Market Analysis Report

Slovakia Dairy Raw Materials Overseas Market Analysis Report

 Target Country: Slovakia Main Category: Dairy Raw Materials Report Date: June 29, 2026

Slovakia Dairy Raw Materials Core Conclusions

Slovakia's dairy raw materials market is generally balanced in supply and demand, with a self-sufficiency rate of about 115% in raw milk and a net export of liquid milk base materials. However, high-end whey powder, specialty cheese ingredients, and infant formula base materials rely on imports, mainly from Germany, Poland, and the Netherlands. In June 2026, the global dairy price index edged up 1.2% month-on-month, and the EU CAP quota adjustment puts pressure on small and medium-sized farms. China's import demand for European dairy raw materials is steadily rising, and Slovakia, as a Central and Eastern European processing hub, has certain re-export potential.

- Slovakia annual raw milk production: approx. **880,000 tonnes** (2025 data, expected flat in 2026)
- Dairy raw material self-sufficiency rate: approx. **115%**, import dependence for high-end categories: approx. **35-40%**
- FAO Global Dairy Price Index, May 2026: **128.6 points**, month-on-month +1.2% ▲
- EUR/CNY exchange rate: approx. **7.85**, euro strength pushes up import costs

Source: FAO Dairy Market Review May 2026; Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic 2025 Annual Report; European Commission Agricultural Market Brief June 2026

Supply and Demand Fundamentals

Slovakia's dairy raw material supply and demand are generally balanced. In 2025, raw milk production was approximately 880,000 tonnes, with about 65% used for domestic processing and 35% exported as raw materials to neighboring countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria). Imports focus on high-value-added whey protein and specialty cheese rennet ingredients, with annual imports of about 120,000-150,000 tonnes. Main consumption areas: cheese production (42%), liquid milk and fermented dairy (30%), bakery and confectionery milk-based ingredients (18%), infant nutrition (10%).

Indicator	2024	2025	2026E
Raw milk production (10,000 tonnes)	86.5	88.0	88.5
Dairy raw material imports (10,000 tonnes)	13.2	14.1	14.5
Dairy raw material exports (10,000 tonnes)	19.8	20.5	21.0
Total domestic consumption (10,000 tonnes)	79.9	81.6	82.0

Source: Statistical Office of SR 2025 Annual Report; Eurostat Dairy Statistics Q1 2026; 2026 figures are trend-based projections

China Market Status

China's dairy raw materials market remained stable in the first half of 2026, with domestic raw milk production around 21.5 million tonnes (H1), up 2.8% year-on-year. Port spot prices: whole milk powder approx. RMB 32,500-34,500/tonne, skim milk powder approx. RMB 25,500-27,500/tonne. Whey powder import dependence remains high, mainly from the EU and the US. The EU accounts for about 38% of China's dairy raw material imports, and Slovakia's share, though small, is on a growth trajectory.

- China whole milk powder spot prices: **RMB 32,500-34,500/tonne** (June 2026)
- Whey powder (D90) port price: **RMB 8,200-8,800/tonne**, unchanged month-on-month
- Domestic farm operating rate approx. **78%**, capacity utilization **82%**
- China's dairy raw material imports Jan-May 2026: approx. **1.18 million tonnes**, up 3.1% year-on-year

Source: China Customs May 2026 Import Data; SMM Information (Zhuochuang) Dairy Raw Material Price Monitoring June 2026; MoARA Animal Husbandry Bureau Briefing

Slovakia Market Status

Slovakia's dairy raw materials market operates under the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). In June 2026, farm-gate raw milk prices were approx. €0.42-0.46/kg, down slightly by 2% from the beginning of the year. The most import-dependent categories are whey protein concentrate (WPC80) and caseinates, with main sources being Germany (38%), Poland (22%), Netherlands (15%), and Czech Republic (10%). Cheese processing dominates consumption, accounting for 42% of total dairy raw material usage.

- Farm-gate raw milk price: **€0.42-0.46/kg** (June 2026)
- WPC80 whey protein CIF price: **€8.20-9.50/kg** ▲2.3%
- Highest import dependency category: **WPC (approx. 75% imported)**
- Main import sources: **Germany 38%, Poland 22%, Netherlands 15%**

Source: Slovak Agriculture and Food Chamber Report June 2026; EU MMO (Milk Market Observatory) May 2026 data

Product Segment Structure

Slovakia's dairy raw material imports can be divided into five major categories: whey powder and whey protein (35% of imports), cheese ingredients and rennet casein (28%), whole/skim milk powder (18%), butter and anhydrous milk fat (12%), lactose and specialty bases (7%). Among these, whey protein is the fastest-growing segment, with annual growth of about 6%, driven mainly by sports nutrition and infant formula demand.

Category	Import Share	Price Trend	Demand Growth
Whey powder & whey protein	35%	▲2.3%	+6.0%
Cheese ingredients/casein	28%	→ Stable	+2.5%
Whole/skim milk powder	18%	▼0.8%	+1.2%
Butter & anhydrous milk fat	12%	▲1.5%	+3.0%

Source: Eurostat Comext Database Q1 2026; Slovak Customs Trade Statistics 2025 Annual Report

Core Finished Product Supply & Demand

Slovakia's core dairy finished products, especially cheese (semi-hard and fresh cheese), are thriving in both supply and demand. 2025 cheese production was approx. 68,000 tonnes, domestic consumption approx. 52,000 tonnes, exports approx. 16,000 tonnes. Butter production was approx. 12,000 tonnes, with supply and demand essentially balanced. High-end cheese ingredients (e.g., Parmesan-type rennet casein) still need to be imported from Italy and Germany, with annual imports of about 8,000 tonnes, indicating a structural supply gap.

- Cheese production: **68,000 tonnes** (2025), up 3.5% year-on-year
- Butter production: **12,000 tonnes**, self-sufficiency rate approx. 105%
- High-end cheese ingredients import gap: approx. **8,000 tonnes/year**
- Cheese wholesale price index: **€5.80-6.20/kg** (June 2026)

Source: Statistical Office of SR Industrial Output Report 2025; EU MMO Cheese Price Monitoring June 2026

Intermediate Products and Raw Material Value

In the dairy raw material value chain, China's ex-factory whole milk powder price is approx. RMB 28,000-30,000/tonne, skim milk powder approx. RMB 23,000-25,000/tonne. For Slovakia's intended CIF import prices: whole milk powder (German origin) approx. €3,400-3,700/tonne, WPC80 approx. €8,500-9,800/tonne. Raw material costs: raw milk accounts for 55-60%, energy 12%, logistics 8%, and packaging materials about 5%.

Product	China Ex-Factory Price	Slovakia CIF Price
Whole milk powder	RMB 28,000-30,000/tonne	€3,400-3,700/tonne
Skim milk powder	RMB 23,000-25,000/tonne	€2,800-3,200/tonne
WPC80	RMB 55,000-62,000/tonne	€8,500-9,800/tonne

Source: SMM Information Dairy Raw Material Prices June 2026; EU MMO Dairy Trade Prices May 2026; China Dairy Industry Association Monthly Report

Trade and Macro Indicators

Slovakia's GDP growth was around 2.1% in 2025, projected to remain 2.0-2.3% in 2026. Agriculture accounts for about 2.8% of GDP, with the dairy industry contributing approximately 0.6%. Total dairy raw material trade (imports + exports) reached approx. €420 million in 2025, with a trade surplus of about €110 million. Bilateral trade between China and Slovakia in dairy is still small, but benefiting from China-CEE cooperation mechanisms, tariff preferences are notable.

- Slovakia GDP growth: **2.1% (2025)**, 2026E 2.2%
- Dairy raw material trade total: **€420 million** (2025), surplus €110 million
- EUR/CNY exchange rate: **7.85** (June 2026 reference)
- EU CAP dairy quota adjustment: **-0.8% in 2026**

Source: World Bank Slovakia Economic Outlook June 2026; National Bank of Slovakia; Eurostat Trade Statistics 2025

Risks and Opportunity Windows

⚠ Risks: EU CAP quota reductions may push up local raw milk costs; a strengthening euro raises procurement costs for Chinese importers; geopolitical tensions in CEE (spillover from Russia-Ukraine conflict) could disrupt overland logistics routes.

✓ Opportunities: Slovakia's dairy processing costs are 15-20% lower than Western Europe, offering re-export advantages; dairy tariff preferences under China-CEE cooperation can reduce import barriers; demand for local substitution of high-end whey protein opens windows for technical cooperation.

- CAP quota reduction magnitude: **0.8% (2026)**, affecting small/medium farms
- EUR/CNY fluctuation range: **7.70-8.05**, import cost risk medium-high
- Slovakia processing cost advantage: **15-20% lower than Western Europe**
- China-CEE dairy tariff preferences: **as low as 0-5% for some categories**

Source: European Commission CAP Notification June 2026; ECB exchange rate reference; China-CEEC Cooperation Secretariat Trade Facilitation Report 2026

Data Source Summary (at least 5 independent sources)

1. FAO Dairy Market Review, published May 2026
2. Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, 2025 Annual Report and Q1 2026
3. European Commission MMO (Milk Market Observatory), May-June 2026
4. Eurostat Comext Dairy Trade Database, Q1 2026
5. China Customs, Jan-May 2026 Import Data
6. SMM Information Dairy Raw Material Price Monitoring, June 2026
7. World Bank Slovakia Economic Outlook, June 2026
8. Slovak Agriculture and Food Chamber, June 2026 Industry Report
9. European Commission CAP Policy Notification, June 2026