

California Cheese Production and Sales, 2004

In the manufacturing cost exhibits for Cheddar cheese, the costs presented are for 40 pound blocks. To get a weighted average cost, the costs for each of the seven plants are weighted by the plants total production of Cheddar and jack cheese, both barrels and blocks. This is done because the processes to make both types of cheese are similar, and combining the pounds gives a better representation of plant size.

In the California Cheddar Cheese Sales exhibit, the prices are for 40 pound blocks sold. To get a weighted average price, the prices for each of the four plants are weighted by the plants total sales of 40 pound blocks of Cheddar cheese.

In response to an industry request, the table below summaries for 2004 the volume of production for the seven plants and the volume of sales for the four plants:

	Block	Barrel	Total
	(million pounds)		
Cheddar & Jack	560	257	817
Cheddar only	290	190	481
Cheddar Sales 40 pound blocks	185		

The difference between block Cheddar cheese production (290 million pounds) and sales (185 million pounds) is the volume of Cheddar cheese cut and wrapped in-house by the processor (105 million pounds).