

## Switzerland imports more cheese than it exports

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Only a handful of countries are famous for producing cheese. Switzerland is one of them. However, for the first time, Switzerland is importing more cheese than it exports. The reason is that in the 1990s, Switzerland opened up its milk

market. This meant other countries could sell milk in Switzerland. The result is that Swiss farmers have had difficulty competing with the cheaper, imported milk. Many Swiss dairy farmers have given up because they can no longer make a profit. This has led to a decrease in the quantity of cheese made in Switzerland. A spokesperson for the Swiss Dairy Association said the country can now only produce enough cheese for its own population.

Swiss cheese like Gruyere and Emmental are well known for their high quality. Restaurants worldwide add these cheeses to their menus. However, eateries and supermarkets around the world may have to replace Swiss cheeses with those from England, France or Venezuela. Even though Switzerland is not exporting as much cheese, the Swiss are still big cheese eaters. They are actually eating more cheese than ever. The Swiss Info website said Swiss people ate an average of 22.9 kg per person last year. Dairy farmer Lina Fischer was sad to see so many farms disappearing. She said: "From fondues to fried cheese balls, cheese is a big part of life in Switzerland. We need our farms, and cheese."

Sources: [swissinfo.ch](http://swissinfo.ch) / [apnews.com](http://apnews.com) / [huffpost.com](http://huffpost.com)

### Writing

Swiss cheese is the best in the world. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

a handful / cheese / the first time / exports / the 1990s / milk / difficulty / profit / Swiss / restaurants / supermarkets / cheese eaters / average / fondues / farms

### True / False

- 1) The article says many countries are famous for producing cheese. T / F
- 2) Switzerland's milk market was closed to other countries until the 2010s. T / F
- 3) Swiss milk is generally cheaper than the milk from other countries. T / F
- 4) Swiss cheese makers can only make enough cheese for Swiss people. T / F
- 5) Restaurants around the world may have to switch from Swiss cheeses. T / F
- 6) Swiss people are actually eating less cheese. T / F
- 7) A Swiss dairy farmer was sad at the disappearance of farms. T / F
- 8) The dairy farmer said cheese was important in Swiss life. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>producing</b>    | a. amount    |
| 2. <b>difficulty</b>   | b. component |
| 3. <b>given up</b>     | c. citizens  |
| 4. <b>quantity</b>     | d. famous    |
| 5. <b>population</b>   | e. vanishing |
| 6. <b>well known</b>   | f. trouble   |
| 7. <b>ever</b>         | g. consumed  |
| 8. <b>ate</b>          | h. making    |
| 9. <b>disappearing</b> | i. before    |
| 10. <b>part</b>        | j. quit      |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What different kinds of cheese are there?
- c) What dishes containing cheese do you like?
- d) How healthy is cheese?
- e) Are you a big cheese eater?
- f) What do you think of fondues and fried cheese balls?
- g) What food do you really need?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Swiss cheese makers?

## Phrase Match

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Only a handful               | a. up its milk market     |
| 2. Switzerland opened           | b. of 22.9 kg per person  |
| 3. Many Swiss dairy farmers     | c. for its own population |
| 4. they can no longer make      | d. of life in Switzerland |
| 5. produce enough cheese        | e. cheese eaters          |
| 6. Switzerland is not exporting | f. of countries           |
| 7. the Swiss are still big      | g. have given up          |
| 8. eating more cheese than      | h. as much cheese         |
| 9. Swiss people ate an average  | i. a profit               |
| 10. cheese is a big part        | j. ever                   |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of cheese?
- What can we do with cheese?
- Which country makes the best cheese?
- What are your country's biggest exports?
- What would life as a farmer be like?
- How important is cheese in your country?
- Is melted or non-melted cheese best?
- What advice do you have for Switzerland's dairy farmers?

## Spelling

- Only a adnhful of countries
- they can no longer make a rofpit
- This has led to a rcdeesae
- the unqitaty of cheese made in Switzerland
- A soksprepseon for the Swiss Dairy Association
- enough cheese for its own lpuaoitpon
- well known for their high aqiluty
- eplrcae Swiss cheeses
- Switzerland is not xoetrping as much cheese
- the Swiss are still big cheese aeetrs
- an vreaage of 22.9 kg per person
- sad to see so many farms spiapearidng

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. f	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. d	7. i	8. g	9. e	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Cheese

You think cheese is the best dairy product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, butter or yoghurt.

### Role B – Milk

You think milk is the best dairy product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): cheese, butter or yoghurt.

### Role C – Butter

You think butter is the best dairy product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, cheese or yoghurt.

### Role D – Yoghurt

You think yoghurt is the best dairy product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): milk, butter or cheese.

## Speaking – Dairy products

Rank these with your partner. Put the best dairy products at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| • Cream          | • Cheese  |
| • Condensed milk | • Milk    |
| • Custard        | • Yoghurt |
| • Ice cream      | • Butter  |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 F	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.