

# **Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market - Global Industry Size, Share, Trends, Opportunity, and Forecast, Segmented By Product Type (Milk, Yogurt, Cheese, Ice-cream, Others (Cream, Butter, etc.)), By Category (Organic and Inorganic), By Distribution Channel (Hypermarkets/Supermarkets, Departmental Stores, Convenience Stores, Online, Others (Direct Sales, etc.)), By Region & Competition, 2021-2031F**

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## **Abstracts**

The Global Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market is projected to expand from USD 14.82 Billion in 2025 to USD 26.53 Billion by 2031, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.19%. This market encompasses products such as milk, cheese, and yogurt that undergo ultra-filtration or treatment with lactase enzymes to remove lactose while maintaining the nutritional value of standard dairy. Growth in this sector is primarily fueled by the widespread global occurrence of lactose intolerance and a significant move toward managing digestive health. These elements represent foundational market pillars rather than passing fads, as they fulfill a lasting biological need for consumers who require dairy nutrition without the associated gastrointestinal issues.

Conversely, the industry faces substantial obstacles due to the elevated production costs associated with specialized enzymatic processing, which frequently leads to higher retail prices that restrict access in price-sensitive areas. Despite these financial barriers, the sector continues to perform robustly in developed economies. Data from Dairy Management Inc. indicates that lactose-free milk achieved a 13.6% increase in dollar sales in the United States during 2024 compared to the previous year,

underscoring the category's enduring growth and its continued relevance to consumers.

## **Market Driver**

The primary catalyst propelling the sector involves the growing global rate of lactose intolerance combined with heightened consumer consciousness regarding digestive health. This driving force bridges the biological needs of those avoiding lactose and the deliberate choices of wellness-focused individuals who link lactose-free products to better gut function. As demand transitions from a specialized medical need to a mainstream lifestyle choice, it compels a lasting structural shift in dairy consumption, favoring items that provide genuine nutrition without digestive distress. Valio reported in February 2025 that the lactose-free milk sector is expected to hit \$8 billion by 2028, growing faster than standard dairy as consumers actively pursue digestive wellness solutions.

Simultaneously, manufacturers are broadening their lactose-free portfolios to generate value beyond standard liquid milk. By utilizing advanced hydrolysis technologies, dairy processors are launching high-value functional products like protein-rich yogurts, cheeses, and portable beverages that maintain the taste and texture of traditional dairy. This strategy of diversification helps prevent product fatigue and attracts new consumer groups through innovative value additions. For instance, Arla Foods noted in February 2025 that its lactose-free Arla Protein line saw a 36.0% volume growth in 2024. Similar momentum is evident market-wide; The Grocer reported in December 2024 that the Arla Lactofree brand achieved a 6.6% volume rise in the United Kingdom, demonstrating the lasting commercial impact of varied product formats.

## **Market Challenge**

Substantial economic barriers arise from the high production costs linked to ultra-filtration and enzymatic hydrolysis, directly hindering volume growth in the Global Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market. These essential manufacturing processes require increased operational spending, costs that manufacturers ultimately transfer to consumers via premium pricing. As a result, this pricing model effectively limits market penetration to wealthier demographics, stopping these products from becoming staple items in price-sensitive regions or households with restricted disposable income.

This economic gap leads to a marked difference between financial revenue and actual consumption volume, constraining the physical scalability of the sector. Recent industry

data highlights this price-related friction; Dairy Management Inc. reported that for the period ending August 2024, lactose-free milk represented 16% of total milk dollar sales in the United States yet only made up 8.4% of total milk volume. This considerable discrepancy demonstrates that while the category yields high per-unit revenue, the higher price points dampen physical sales volume, thereby restricting the market's reach and preventing it from attaining mass-market scale similar to conventional dairy.

## **Market Trends**

The market is being reshaped by the proliferation of ultra-filtered and high-protein formulations, which utilize mechanical filtration instead of relying exclusively on enzymatic hydrolysis. This technique enables the physical removal of lactose sugars while concentrating native milk proteins, addressing consumer desires for both athletic performance nutrition and low-sugar diets. In contrast to standard lactose-free products that simply neutralize lactose, ultra-filtered versions provide an enhanced macronutrient profile, establishing them as functional lifestyle drinks rather than just medical necessities. The success of this segment is clear, with Dairy Foods reporting in August 2025 that Fairlife, a leader in ultra-filtered dairy, achieved \$4 billion in 2024 revenues, highlighting the vast consumer adoption of these advanced products.

Concurrently, the incorporation of functional prebiotics and probiotics to improve digestive health is fueling growth in fermented and cultured beverage categories. Producers are advancing beyond merely offering symptom avoidance to providing active microbiome support, blending lactose-free attributes with live active cultures in products such as drinkable yogurts and kefir. This trend establishes a dual health benefit where the product prevents discomfort while actively restoring gut flora, appealing to a wider audience focused on holistic wellness and immunity. This niche is experiencing strong momentum; as reported by Dairy Business Middle East & Africa in March 2025, kefir producer Lifeway Foods saw a 16.7% sales increase in 2024, emphasizing the rising demand for lactose-free dairy rich in probiotics.

## **Key Market Players**

Arla Foods AMBA

The Danone Company Inc.

Cooperative Regions of Organic Producer Pools

Dairy Farmers of Americas, Inc.

General Mills, Inc.

Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.

Saputo Inc.

Nestle S.A.

The Coca-Cola Company

Agropur Cooperative

## Report Scope

In this report, the Global Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market has been segmented into the following categories, in addition to the industry trends which have also been detailed below:

### Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market, By Product Type

Milk

Yogurt

Cheese

Ice-cream

Others (Cream

Butter

etc.)

### Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market, By Category

Organic

Inorganic

### Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market, By Distribution Channel

Hypermarkets/Supermarkets

Departmental Stores

Convenience Stores

Online

Others (Direct Sales

etc.)

### Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market, By Region

North America

United States

Canada

Mexico

Europe

France

United Kingdom

Italy

Germany

Spain

## Asia Pacific

China

India

Japan

Australia

South Korea

## South America

Brazil

Argentina

Colombia

## Middle East & Africa

South Africa

Saudi Arabia

UAE

## **Competitive Landscape**

Company Profiles: Detailed analysis of the major companies present in the Global Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market.

## **Available Customizations:**

Global Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market report with the given market data, TechSci Research offers customizations according to a company's specific needs. The following

*Lactose-Free Dairy Products Market - Global Industry Size, Share, Trends, Opportunity, and Forecast, Segmented...*

customization options are available for the report:

### **Company Information**

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