

Global Halloumi Cheese Market 2026

Market size, segmentation, competitive landscape and outlook

2021-2031

Moving forward, together



Every one of us has, at some point, heard the line from *Alice in Wonderland*: “It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast.” Cliché as the quote has become, our world is changing at extraordinary speed. And yet, to my mind, it matters not only to run fast, but — more importantly — to know where you are running.

We see ourselves as the navigator, ready at the right moment to point out the correct course. By providing current, timely information for the decisions that matter, we aim to protect our clients from missteps and to help them find new opportunities.

It matters to us that you are satisfied with the work we have done. If you have any questions about this report, we will be glad to answer them.

ANDREY SHEVCHENKO, Managing Partner

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Market at a glance

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Indicator	Value
Market size (2025)	USD 0.7 bn
Forecast (2031)	USD 1 bn
CAGR (2021-2031)	7.3%
Study period	2021-2031
Largest region	Europe · 58%
Fastest-growing region	Asia-Pacific · 9.5%
Market concentration	Moderate
Licence	Individual / Company

The global halloumi cheese market reached USD XXX billion in 2025 and is forecast to attain USD XXX billion by 2031, expanding at a CAGR of XX%. Europe generated XX% of 2025 revenue, supported by established retail penetration in the United Kingdom, Germany and the Nordic countries, while Asia-Pacific is forecast to grow fastest at XX% annually. Demand is moving beyond traditional Mediterranean households as halloumi gains menu space as a grillable protein, meat substitute and premium ingredient. PDO protection, Cypriot milk availability, private-label expansion and investment in automated production will determine how value is distributed across the supply chain.

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Executive summary

The global halloumi cheese market reached USD XXX billion in 2025 and is forecast to attain USD XXX billion by 2031, expanding at a CAGR of XX%. Europe generated XX% of 2025 revenue, supported by established retail penetration in the United Kingdom, Germany and the Nordic countries, while Asia-Pacific is forecast to grow fastest at XX% annually. Demand is moving beyond traditional Mediterranean households as halloumi gains menu space as a grillable protein, meat substitute and premium ingredient. PDO protection, Cypriot milk availability, private-label expansion and investment in automated production will determine how value is distributed across the supply chain.

Indicator	Value
Market size 2025	XXX
Forecast 2031	XXX
CAGR	XXX
Largest region	XXX
Fastest region	XXX

Key findings

- The global market generated USD XXX billion in 2025 and will reach USD XXX billion in 2031.
- Cyprus produced XXX tonnes of halloumi with industrial sales of EUR XXX in 2024.
- Halloumi exports from Cyprus reached EUR XXX during January-November 2025.
- Europe accounted for XX% of global market value in 2025, led by the United Kingdom and Germany.
- Fresh traditional halloumi represented XX% of 2025 market value, while flavoured and smoked products are forecast to grow at XX% annually.
- Retail generated XX% of global sales, with foodservice contributing XX% and industrial users XX%.
- Vacuum-sealed packs held XX% of packaging revenue because they support long chilled shelf life and export efficiency.
- Asia-Pacific is forecast to expand at XX% annually through 2031, led by Australia, China, Japan and South Korea.

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Market size and forecast

Market value by year, USD bn

Indicator	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	CAGR
Market value, USD bn	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Market volume	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Production	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Imports	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Exports	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Apparent consumption	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

Year-over-year value change

Indicator	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	CAGR
Market value	X%	X%	X%	X%	X%	X%
Production	X%	X%	X%	X%	X%	X%
Imports	X%	X%	X%	X%	X%	X%
Exports	X%	X%	X%	X%	X%	X%

Source: XXX

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Global Halloumi Cheese Market Trends and Growth Drivers

Halloumi is shifting from a geographically concentrated Cypriot export into a globally recognised cooking-cheese category. Its commercial advantage rests on a distinctive functional property: the cheese browns under high heat while retaining shape, allowing it to compete for meal occasions normally occupied by meat, paneer or other grilling cheeses.

The demand outlook is favourable, but production economics are becoming more exacting. PDO compliance increases the strategic importance of Cypriot sheep- and goat-milk supply, while retailers expect audited plants, consistent specifications and competitive private-label pricing. Investment is therefore moving simultaneously into livestock productivity, automated cheese lines, renewable energy, wastewater treatment and export-scale packing.

The strongest value creation will occur where suppliers convert restaurant familiarity into habitual home consumption. Pre-sliced formats, reduced-salt recipes, clear cooking instructions and branded Cypriot provenance are the principal mechanisms for expanding frequency without reducing halloumi to a promotion-led commodity.

Growth drivers

Flexitarian demand for grillable protein

Halloumi's high melting point gives consumers a centre-of-plate format that can be grilled, fried or air-fried without complex preparation. This makes the category especially relevant to flexitarian households and foodservice operators seeking a vegetarian menu item with recognisable dairy credentials.

Mediterranean menu expansion

Mediterranean, Middle Eastern and all-day dining concepts are broadening halloumi's use from mezze into burgers, wraps, salads and breakfast dishes. Restaurant trial supports subsequent retail conversion and raises demand for sliced and bulk foodservice formats.

PDO provenance premium

EU protection of Χαλλούμι/Halloumi/Hellim strengthens the commercial value of Cypriot origin and gives certified producers a defensible quality signal. Provenance is most valuable in European premium retail, where shoppers increasingly distinguish PDO products from generic grilling cheese.

Private-label retail scale

Supermarket private labels are placing halloumi in mainstream chilled-cheese sets rather than limiting it to specialist ethnic ranges. High-volume contracts improve factory utilisation and introduce the product to price-sensitive households, although they intensify negotiations over supplier margins.

Convenient value-added formats

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Pre-sliced, burger-shaped, marinated, smoked and reduced-salt products address preparation, portioning and flavour barriers. These formats create incremental usage occasions and support higher revenue per kilogram than standard blocks.

Automated Cypriot capacity expansion

New automated lines increase throughput, standardise texture and reduce labour intensity across large Cypriot dairies. Capacity growth also improves producers' ability to serve multinational retailers with audited, consistent and private-label supply.

Restraints

Sheep- and goat-milk constraint

The PDO specification links certified production to Cypriot milk and requires sheep or goat milk, individually or together, to exceed cow milk in the final composition once transitional arrangements conclude. Seasonal yields, herd economics and disease-management requirements restrict how quickly compliant milk supply can expand.

Input and cold-chain inflation

Milk procurement, energy-intensive heating, chilled storage and refrigerated transport keep halloumi structurally more expensive than many mainstream cheeses. Exporters serving distant markets face additional working-capital and freight exposure because the category is predominantly distributed under refrigeration.

Sodium and nutrition scrutiny

Traditional brining creates a salty sensory profile that can conflict with public-health efforts to reduce sodium intake. Reformulation must preserve texture, microbial stability and cooking performance, limiting the speed at which producers can reposition the category.

Naming and trade-rule fragmentation

Halloumi is protected as a PDO in the European Union, while treatment varies across several third-country markets with established trademarks and local production. Suppliers must operate market-specific labels, specifications and intellectual-property strategies, raising compliance costs and fragmenting brand architecture.

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Halloumi Cheese Market Driver and Restraint Impact on the Forecast

Drivers — impact on forecast

Driver	Impact on CAGR	Geography	Horizon
Flexitarian demand for grillable protein	XXX	XXX	XXX
Mediterranean menu expansion	XXX	XXX	XXX
PDO provenance premium	XXX	XXX	XXX
Private-label retail scale	XXX	XXX	XXX
Convenient value-added formats	XXX	XXX	XXX
Automated Cypriot capacity expansion	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

Restraints — impact on forecast

Restraint	Impact on CAGR	Geography	Horizon
Sheep- and goat-milk constraint	XXX	XXX	XXX
Input and cold-chain inflation	XXX	XXX	XXX
Sodium and nutrition scrutiny	XXX	XXX	XXX
Naming and trade-rule fragmentation	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

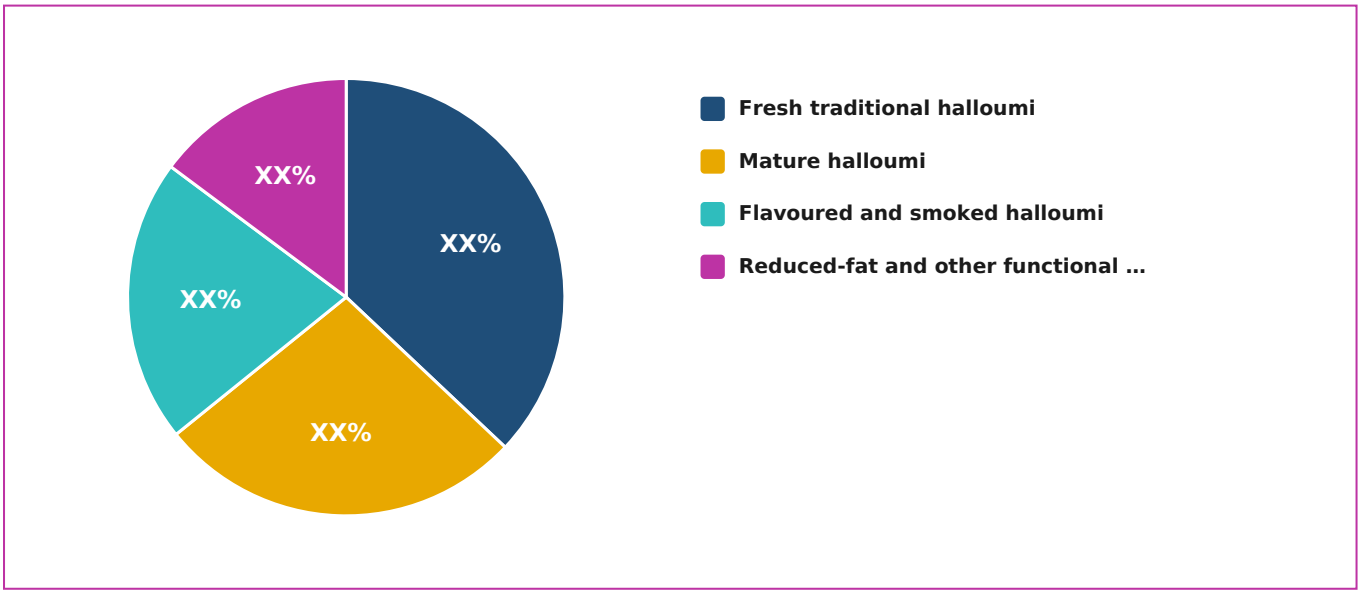
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Halloumi Cheese Market Segmentation by Product, Milk, Packaging and Channel

By Product Type

Fresh blocks dominate retail and foodservice because they deliver the familiar squeak, salt profile and browning performance expected by buyers. Mature halloumi remains concentrated in Cyprus and specialist Mediterranean channels. Flavoured, smoked and reduced-fat variants are expanding from a smaller base as producers create differentiated grilling, snacking and premium retail propositions.

Value share by product Type, 2025



Source: XXX

Value by product Type, USD bn

Segment	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Share 2025	CAGR
Fresh traditional halloumi	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Mature halloumi	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Flavoured and smoked halloumi	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Reduced-fat and other functional halloumi	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

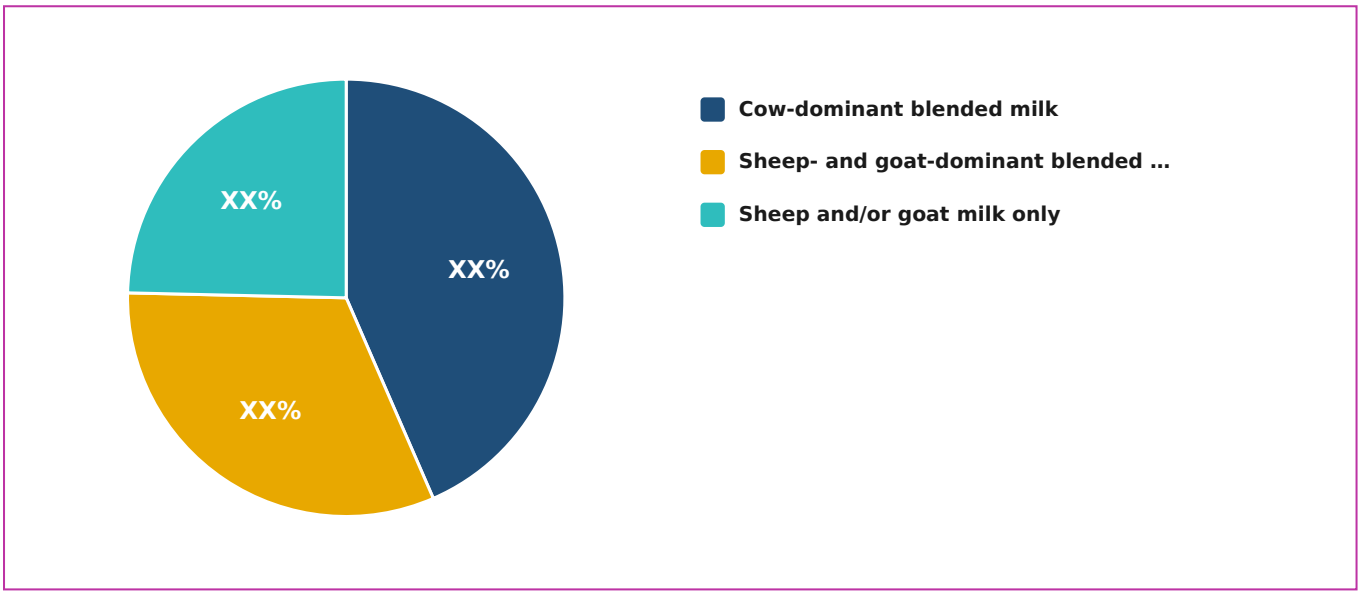
By Milk Composition

Cow-dominant blends retain the largest installed production base and supply competitively priced retail and foodservice contracts. Sheep- and goat-dominant blends command a premium through richer flavour, stronger provenance and closer alignment with the full PDO composition requirement. Pure sheep, goat or

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combined small-ruminant formats remain limited by milk availability but offer the highest-value artisanal positioning.

Value share by milk Composition, 2025



Source: XXX

Value by milk Composition, USD bn

Segment	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Share 2025	CAGR
Cow-dominant blended milk	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Sheep- and goat-dominant blended milk	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Sheep and/or goat milk only	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

By Packaging

Vacuum packs are the default export format because they minimise shipping weight and preserve product integrity across chilled supply chains. Brine tubs serve traditional retail and foodservice buyers seeking a softer, highly hydrated product. Bulk foodservice packs are gaining as restaurants standardise portion costs, while snack packs and flow-wrapped slices create premium convenience opportunities.

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Value by packaging, USD bn

Segment	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Share 2025	CAGR
Vacuum-sealed packs	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Brine tubs and containers	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Bulk foodservice packs	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Snack packs and other formats	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

By Distribution Channel

Supermarkets and hypermarkets remain the principal route to scale, combining branded, private-label and promotional activity. Foodservice generates disproportionate consumer trial through burgers, wraps, salads and breakfast dishes and is forecast to outpace retail. Industrial demand includes prepared meals, frozen appetisers and bakery applications requiring standardised melt resistance and portion control.

Value by distribution Channel, USD bn

Segment	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Share 2025	CAGR
Retail	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Foodservice	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Industrial and prepared foods	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

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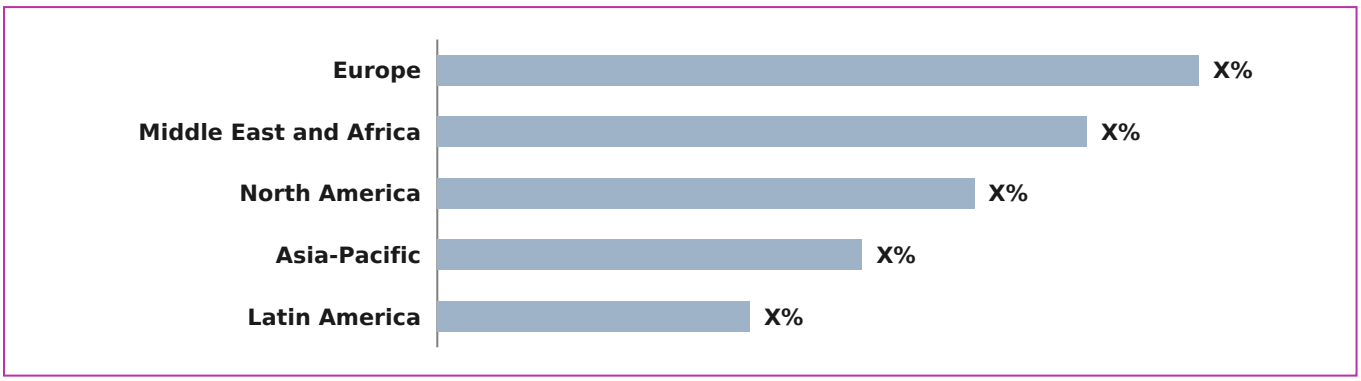
Halloumi Cheese Market Regional Analysis and Country Outlook

Europe accounted for XX% of global revenue in 2025. The United Kingdom remains the category's largest individual consumption market outside Cyprus, supported by decades of Cypriot diaspora demand, extensive supermarket distribution and established use in pubs and casual dining. Germany and the Nordic markets provide a second growth axis through grilling occasions, discount retail and private-label products, while PDO protection increases the value of clearly communicated Cypriot provenance.

The Middle East and Africa represented XX% of value, with the Gulf states combining high expatriate populations, established Levantine food culture and strong demand from hotels and restaurants. North America held XX%; US growth is accelerating from a smaller base as Mediterranean restaurants, speciality grocers and club stores expand distribution. Cypriot halloumi exports to the United States reached EUR XXX in 2025, demonstrating the runway available beyond European core markets.

Asia-Pacific is forecast to grow fastest at XX% annually through 2031. Australia already has mature awareness through Cypriot and Greek communities, whereas China, Japan and South Korea are earlier-stage markets where premium supermarkets and Western-style foodservice lead adoption. Latin America remains the smallest region, but familiarity with frying cheeses provides a useful consumption bridge in Brazil and Mexico.

Growth rate by region, 2025-2031



Source: XXX

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Market value by region, USD bn

Region	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Share 2025	CAGR
Europe	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Middle East and Africa	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
North America	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Asia-Pacific	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Latin America	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

Market value by leading country, USD bn

Country	2025	2031	Share 2025	CAGR
United States	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Germany	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
United Kingdom	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Belgium	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Netherlands	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Japan	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
China	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Mexico	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

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Halloumi Cheese Market Competitive Landscape and Company Share

The market is moderately concentrated: the five largest suppliers generated an estimated XX% of 2025 revenue. Competition combines large export-oriented Cypriot dairies, specialist family-owned producers, Turkish Cypriot manufacturers and brand owners sourcing private-label products. Scale advantages arise from milk procurement, retailer certification, automated folding and packing, export documentation and the ability to provide multiple pack sizes.

Hellenic Dairies has materially altered the capacity structure through its Tseri facility and investment in Kouroushis, while Omiros Dairies has entered Cyprus through Hadjipieris and plans additional production capacity. Charalambides Christis, Petrou Bros, Papouis and Pittas retain strong positions through established export relationships, recognised brands and private-label manufacturing. These investments will increase competitive pressure for contracted milk and qualified technical labour.

Strategic differentiation is moving toward PDO provenance, sheep- and goat-milk credentials, reduced-salt recipes, organic or halal certification, pre-sliced formats and credible resource-efficiency claims. Large retailers will continue to exercise purchasing power, making manufacturing efficiency and product innovation essential to protect margins.

Leading companies

Company	HQ	Est. revenue 2025	Market share 2025	YoY
Hellenic Dairies S.A.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Charalambides Christis Ltd.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Petrou Bros Dairy Products Ltd.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Papouis Dairies Ltd.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Pittas Dairy Industries Ltd.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
N. Th. Kouroushis Ltd.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Omiros Dairies Cyprus Ltd.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Zita Dairies Ltd.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Arden Gida Ltd.	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX
Koop Dairy	XXX	XXX	XXX	XXX

Source: XXX

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Halloumi Cheese Market Forecast and Commercial Opportunities

Global value will rise from USD XXX billion in 2025 to USD XXX billion in 2031. The central forecast assumes sustained European household penetration, faster menu adoption in North America and Asia-Pacific, continued Cypriot capacity investment and sufficient milk-supply expansion to support PDO-compliant output.

The upside case rests on faster modern-retail listings in East Asia, successful reduced-salt reformulation and strong foodservice use as a vegetarian protein. The downside case is driven by livestock disease, constrained sheep- and goat-milk supply, prolonged input inflation or retail substitution toward lower-priced generic grilling cheeses.

Winning suppliers will combine secure farm-level milk relationships with automated plants, disciplined private-label participation and branded formats that command a provenance or convenience premium. International growth will favour partners capable of local demand creation rather than relying solely on ethnic retail channels.

Opportunities

- Premium Cypriot PDO positioning in underdeveloped Asian markets
- Pre-sliced and ready-to-cook products for air fryers and barbecue occasions
- Reduced-salt and portion-controlled halloumi for health-conscious shoppers
- Foodservice partnerships with burger, salad and Mediterranean chains
- Whey valorisation, renewable energy and water-recovery investments
- Halal-certified formats for Gulf, Southeast Asian and European consumers

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