



Costs of infant milks marketed in the UK

October 2017

FIRST STEPS NUTRITION TRUST



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We have calculated the cost of those infant milks currently marketed over the counter in the UK that are featured in the *Infant Milks in the UK* report, July 2017. We have calculated this based on the cost of 100ml of made-up powdered product, or 100ml of the ready to feed (RTF) equivalent.

How did we calculate prices?

We have taken prices from the Boots the Chemist website, and where products are not sold there from Ocado or online supermarket sites, from manufacturer retail price or for some organic products from the organic supermarkets Planet Organic and Wholefoods. Prices may vary between retailers, and some products which are not covered by specific regulations that prohibit it, can be price reduced, but these represent typical prices at the time the calculations were made.

When we first did the costing report we used scoop weights from our own analysis work (where they were measured in duplicate in a chemistry laboratory). Over time products have changed and new products have entered the market and calculations became based on a mix of our measurements and manufacturer provided information.

For this report we have moved to using manufacturer scoop weight data only for consistency. There will be some small changes in pricing per 100ml as scoop weights provided are rounded figures compared to the analytical scoop weight data we previously used. We calculated costs based on the volume of formula that would be achieved by reconstituting the powder based on the scoop weights and the standard of 1 scoop to 30ml of water (or 1 scoop to 60ml of water for Similac products) and recalculating to the cost of powder that would then be present in 100ml of made up formula.

Where we have calculated costs per day or per week, these have been based on the rounded cost per 100ml recalculated to the daily or weekly volume of milk based on average intakes.

The costs are our estimates based on the best information we have available, but are given as a guide. Prices vary over time, scoop weight estimates and rounding and calculation methods may differ and others may come up with slightly different product costs.

1.0 Starter packs of first infant formula

These 70ml or 90ml bottles are marketed in packs primarily for use in the first days after birth, and are sold as bottles with teats to attach directly to the bottle. This means that any feed not consumed from the bottle must be discarded at the end of the feed. We have calculated the cost per day based on guidance that approximately 8 feeds are given in 24 hours in the first week of life. This is an extremely expensive way of buying infant formula: using Aptamil Profutura 1 First Infant Milk RTF starter pack bottles based on 8 bottles a day, would cost a family £102.57 a week; using Aptamil 1 First Infant Milk starter pack bottles would cost £74.67, using SMA Pro First Infant Milk RTF or Hipp Organic Combiotic First Infant Milk would cost £65.33 a week and using Cow & Gate 1 First Infant Milk RTF starter packs would cost £60.67 a week.

Hipp Organic Combiotic First Infant Milk comes in bottles of 90ml and is therefore the cheapest milk on a per 100ml basis, but as this also has an integral teat attachment and milk left at the end of a feed should be discarded we have still based calculations on 8 bottles a day. Using these milks is likely to lead to considerable waste in the first week of life as infants require small, regular feeds.

Table 1. Cost of starter packs of first infant formula

Milk name	Volume	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml	Cost per day birth – 2weeks (8 bottles per day)
Aptamil Profutura 1 First Milk RTF	6 x70 ml starter pack	£10.99	Boots	£2.62	£14.65
Aptamil 1 First Infant Milk	6 x 70ml starter pack	£8.00	Boots	£1.90	£10.67
Hipp Organic Combiotic First Infant Milk	6 x 90ml starter pack	£8.00	Boots	£1.48	£10.67
SMA Pro First Milk RTF	6 x 70ml Starter pack	£7.00	Boots	£1.67	£9.33
Cow & Gate 1 First Milk RTF	6 x 70ml starter pack	£6.50	Boots	£1.55	£8.67

2.0 First Infant milks – Ready to feed (RTF)

Table 2 shows infant formula marketed as first milk suitable from birth sold as ready to feed milks in tetrapak cartons or plastic bottles. We have compared costs as cost per 100ml milk, and to put this in perspective of the weekly family shopping bill, we have costed a week's intake based on an average intake at 2-3 months of 920ml/day. RTF infant formula may be a useful option when facilities to make up powdered infant milk safely are lacking, or when travelling, but are considerably more expensive than powdered infant formula.

Table 2: Cost of first infant formula: RTF formulations

Milk name	Volume	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml	Cost per day (920ml/day)	Cost per week (6440ml/week)
Aptamil Profutura 1 First Infant Milk RTF	200ml	£1.00	Boots	50p	£4.60	£32.20
Aptamil 1 First Infant Milk RTF	200ml	85p	Boots	43p	£3.96	£27.69
Aptamil Hungry Milk RTF	200ml	85p	Boots	43p	£3.96	£27.69
SMA Pro First Infant Milk RTF	200ml	80p	Boots	40p	£3.68	£25.76
SMA Extra Hungry RTF	200ml	80p	Boots	40p	£3.68	£25.76
Cow & Gate 1 First Infant Milk RTF	200ml	75p	Boots	38p	£3.50	£24.47
Cow & Gate Infant Milk for hungrier babies RTF	200ml	75p	Boots	38p	£3.50	£24.47
Hipp Organic Combiotic First Infant Milk	200ml	75p	Boots	38p	£3.50	£24.47
Aptamil 1 First Infant Milk RTF	1000ml	£3.70	Boots	37p	£3.40	£23.83
Aptamil Hungry Milk	1000ml	£3.70	Boots	37p	£3.40	£23.83
SMA Pro First Infant Milk	1000ml	£3.50	Boots	35p	£3.22	£22.54
SMA Extra Hungry from birth RTF	1000ml	£3.50	Boots	35p	£3.22	£22.54
Cow & Gate 1 First Infant Milk RTF	1000ml	£3.19	Boots	32p	£2.94	£20.61
Cow & Gate Infant Milk for hungrier babies RTF	1000ml	£3.19	Boots	32p	£2.94	£20.61

3.0 First Infant milks – powdered formulations (PIF)

Infant formula or infant milks marketed as foods for special medical purposes suitable for use from birth can be made from cows' or goats' milk, soya protein or protein hydrolysates. The first milks detailed here include first infant formula, hungry baby milks and specialised milks classified as foods for special medical purposes but sold over the counter in the UK. We have given costs for all these milks, but do not endorse claims made for these milks. Information about the composition of all infant milks marketed in the UK, and a review of claims made, can be found in the report *Infant Milks in the UK* available at www.firststepsnutrition.org.

We have compared costs per 100ml of made up infant milk, and to put this in perspective of the weekly family shopping bill, we have costed a week's intake based on an average intake at 2-3 months of 920ml/day.

Powdered infant milks are highly variable in cost. The most expensive, Holle Organic Infant Goats Milk Formula 1, costs 35p per 100ml. All three goats' milk based formula on the market are the most expensive powdered milks, with Kabrita Gold 1 costing 33p per 100ml, and NANNYCare First Infant Milk costing 32p per 100ml. For powdered cows' milk based infant formula there are considerable cost differences: Holle Organic infant formula 1 at 28p per 100ml and Aptamil Profutura 1 First Infant Milk at 21p per 100ml are the most expensive – compared to the cheapest powdered first infant formulas - Bebivita First Infant Milk costing 9p per 100ml and Mamia First Infant Milk costing 10p per 100ml. As all first infant milks must meet current EU regulations for infant formula composition, there is no need for families to buy more expensive formula. Many of the more expensive brands make health claims for ingredients that are not needed through extensive advertising of their brand. The cheaper milks do not currently make claims through marketing and advertising and therefore families benefit when companies produce a product which meets regulations without significant marketing.

The cost of feeding a 2-3 month baby over a month (30 days) can therefore vary in cost from £96.60 to £24.90. Considering the most available brands in supermarkets, a family choosing Aptamil 1 Profutura First Infant Milk would spend £57.90 a month compared to £36.00 if Cow & Gate 1 First Infant Milk was chosen, or £24.90 if a family has access to Bebivita from a LIDL supermarket.

Table 3: Cost of first infant milks: powdered formulations (PIF)

Milk name	Weight	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml made up milk	Cost per day (920ml/day)	Cost per week (6440ml/week)
Holle Organic Infant Goat Milk Formula 1	400g	£10.95	Organic supplier	35p	£3.22	£22.54
Kabrita Gold 1 (goats' milk based)	800g	£19.95	Boots	33p	£3.04	£21.25
NANNYCare First Infant Milk (goats' milk based)	900g	£22.98	Boots	32p	£2.94	£20.61
Holle Organic Infant Formula 1	400g	£8.85	Organic supplier	28p	£2.58	£18.03
Aptamil Profutura 1 First Infant Milk	800g	£12.99	Boots	21p	£1.93	£13.52
Hipp Combiotic Comfort	800g	£12.30	Ocado	20p	£1.84	£12.88
Hipp Organic Combiotic Anti-reflux	800g	£12.30	Ocado	20p	£1.84	£12.88
Kendamil Mehadrin First Infant Milk	800g	£12.99	Manufacturer Information	20p	£1.84	£12.88
Aptamil Comfort	900g	£12.99	Boots	19p	£1.75	£12.24
Aptamil Lactose Free	400g	£5.99	Boots	19p	£1.75	£12.24
SMA HA	800g	£12.00	Boots	19p	£1.75	£12.24
SMA Comfort	800g	£12.00	Boots	19p	£1.75	£12.24
Aptamil Anti-reflux	900g	£12.99	Boots	18p	£1.66	£11.59
SMA Wysoy	860g	£12.00	Boots	18p	£1.66	£11.59
Aptamil Hungry Milk	900g	£11.00	Boots	17p	£1.56	£10.95
Cow & Gate Comfort	900g	£11.50	Boots	17p	£1.56	£10.95
SMA LF (lactose free)	430g	£6.00	Boots	17p	£1.56	£10.95

Milk name	Weight	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml made up milk	Cost per day (920ml/day)	Cost per week (6440ml/week)
Aptamil 1 First Milk	900g	£11.00	Boots	16p	£1.47	£10.30
Cow & Gate Anti-reflux	900g	£11.50	Boots	16p	£1.47	£10.30
Similac First Infant Milk	850g	£10.95	Boots	16p	£1.47	£10.30
SMA Pro First Infant Milk	800g	£10.00	Boots	16p	£1.47	£10.30
SMA Pro Anti-Reflux	800g	£10.00	Boots	16p	£1.47	£10.30
SMA Extra Hungry	800g	£10.00	Boots	16p	£1.47	£10.30
HiPP Organic Combiotic First Infant Milk	800g	£9.50	Boots	15p	£1.38	£9.66
Castlemil Infant Milk	800g	£9.00	Manufacturer information	14p	£1.29	£9.02
Cow & Gate Infant Milk for hungrier babies	900g	£9.00	Boots	14p	£1.29	£9.02
HiPP Organic Combiotic Hungry Infant Milk	800g	£8.50	Boots	14p	£1.29	£9.02
Kendamil 1 First Milk	900g	£9.89	Manufacturer information	14p	£1.29	£9.02
Cow & Gate 1 First Infant Milk	900g	£9.00	Boots	13p	£1.20	£8.37
Mamia First Infant Milk	900g	£6.99	ALDI (only available at ALDI)	10p	92p	£6.44
Bebivita First Infant Milk	500g	£3.49	LIDL (only available at LIDL)	9p	83p	£5.80

4.0 Follow-on Formula

Follow-on formula are not recommended, but are marketed for infants from 6 months of age, both as powdered and RTF milks. Table 4 summarises the cost of these milks, and considers both a daily cost of 600ml formula per day and a weekly cost of 4200ml of formula used at 7-12 months of age. RTF and goats' milk based products remain the most expensive, and there are some small differences in cost between first and follow-on formula dependent on scoop weight differences. The cost of the follow on milk packs however are generally the same as those for first milks and it is recommended that a first infant milk is used throughout the first year if infant formula is used.

Table 4: Cost of follow-on formula marketed in the UK

Milk name	Volume/ Weight	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml made-up milk	Cost per day at 7-12 months (600ml)	Cost per week at 7- 12 months (4200ml)
Ready to feed follow-on formula						
Aptamil Profutura 2 Follow-on Milk	200ml	£1.10	Boots	55p	£3.30	£23.10
Aptamil 2 Follow-on Milk	200ml	85p	Boots	43p	£2.55	£17.85
Hipp Organic Combiotic Follow-on Milk	250ml*	£1.00	Ocado	40p	£2.40	£16.80
SMA Pro Follow on Milk	200ml	80p	Boots	40p	£2.40	£16.80
Cow & Gate 2 Follow on Milk	200ml	75p	Tesco	38p	£2.25	£15.75
Aptamil 2 Follow-on Milk	1000ml	£3.70	Boots	37p	£2.22	£15.54
SMA Pro Follow-on Milk	1000ml	£3.50	Boots	35p	£2.10	£14.70
Cow & Gate Follow-on Milk	1000ml	£3.19	Boots	32p	£1.92	£13.44
Powdered follow-on formula						
Kabrita Gold 2	800g	£19.95	Boots	34p	£2.04	£14.28
NANNYCare Follow on Milk	900g	£22.98	Boots	32p	£1.92	£13.44
Holle Organic Goat milk Follow on	400g	£9.10**	Organic supplier	30p	£1.80	£12.60
Holle Organic Infant Follow on Formula 2	600g	£12.75**	Organic supplier	29p	£1.74	£12.18
Aptamil Profutura 2 Follow on Milk	800g	£12.99	Boots	23p	£1.38	£9.66

Milk name	Weight	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml made-up milk	Cost per day at 7-12 months (600ml)	Cost per week at 7-12 months (4200ml)
Aptamil Follow on Milk	900g	£11.00	Boots	17p	£1.02	£7.14
SMA Pro Follow on Milk	800g	£10.00	Boots	17p	£1.02	£7.14
Similac Follow on Formula	850g	£10.95	Boots	16p	96p	£6.72
Castlemil Follow-on Milk	800g	£9.00	Manufacturer information	15p	90p	£6.30
Kendamil 2 Follow-on Milk	900g	£9.89	Manufacturer information	15p	90p	£6.30
Cow & Gate 2 Follow on Formula	900g	£9.00	Boots	14p	84p	£5.88
HiPP Organic Combiotic Follow on Milk 2	800g	£8.50	Boots	14p	84p	£5.88
Mamia Follow on Milk	900g	£6.99	ALDI (only available at ALDI)	10p	60p	£4.20
Bebivita Follow on Formula	500g	£3.49	LIDL (only available at LIDL)	9p	54p	£3.78

**Prices from February 2017 as currently not found by us for offline sale.

5.0. Other infant milks: 'Growing up' and toddler milks

These milks are not recommended. The cost of these have been compared to a whole cows' milk equivalent, which is suitable for most children from 1 year of age who are eating well. Using the more expensive of these milks would cost a family over £13 per week, and there may be disadvantages to using these products as they are typically sweeter than whole animal milk, may be flavoured, and may be lower in many important nutrients. A summary of the composition of these milks can be found in the report *Infant Milks in the UK* at www.firststepsnutrition.org.

Table 5: Cost of growing up and toddler milks

Milk name	Volume/Weight	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml made up milk	Cost per day 1 year + (400ml)	Cost per week 1 year + (2800ml)
Full fat cows' milk	1136ml (2 pints)	75p	Tesco	7p	28p	£1.96
Ready to feed growing up and toddler milks						
Hipp Organic Combiotic Growing up Milk 3	250ml	£1.20	Sainsburys	48p	£1.92	£13.44
Aptamil 3 Growing up Milk 1-2 years	200ml	85p	Boots	43p	£1.70	£11.90
Aptamil 4 Growing up Milk 2-3 years	200ml	85p	Boots	43p	£1.70	£11.90
SMA Pro Toddler Milk	200ml	75p	Boots	38p	£1.50	£10.50
Cow & Gate 3 Growing up Milk 1-2 years	200ml	65p	Boots	33p	£1.30	£9.10
Cow & Gate 4 Growing up Milk 2-3 years	200ml	65p	Boots	33p	£1.30	£9.10
Aptamil 3 Growing up Milk 1-2 years	1000ml	£2.75	Boots	28p	£1.10	£7.70
Aptamil 4 Growing up Milk 2-3 years	1000ml	£2.75	Boots	28p	£1.10	£7.70

Milk name	Volume/Weight	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml made up milk	Cost per day 1 year + (400ml)	Cost per week 1 year + (2800ml)
SMA Pro Toddler Milk	1000ml	£2.50	Boots	25p	£1.00	£7.00
Cow & Gate 3 Growing up Milk 1-2 years	1000ml	£2.39	Boots	24p	96p	£6.72
Cow & Gate 4 Growing up Milk 2-3 years	1000ml	£2.39	Boots	24p	96p	£6.72
Powdered growing up and toddler milks						
PediaSure Shake	400g	£10.00	Boots	51p	£2.04	£14.28
Kabrita Gold 3	800g	£19.95	Boots	34p	£1.36	£9.52
NANNYCare Growing-up Milk	900g	£22.98	Boots	33p	£1.32	£9.24
Aptamil Profutura 3 Growing up Milk	800g	£12.99	Boots	23p	92p	£6.44
Kendamil Mehadrin Toddler Milk	800g	£12.99	Manufacturer Information	22p	88p	£6.16
Aptamil 3 Growing up Milk 1-2 years	900g	£10.00	Boots	16p	64p	£4.48
Aptamil 4 Growing up Milk 2-3 years	900g	£10.00	Boots	15p	60p	£4.20
Castlemil Toddler Milk	800g	£9.00	Manufacturer information	15p	60p	£4.20
Kendamil 3 Toddler Milk	900g	£9.90	Manufacturer information	15p	60p	£4.20
Similac Growing Up Milk	850g	£9.95	Boots	15p	60p	£4.20
SMA Pro Toddler Milk	800g	£9.49	Boots	15p	60p	£4.20
Cow & Gate 4 Growing up Milk 2-3 years	800g	£8.50	Boots	14p	56p	£3.92
HiPP Organic Combiotic Growing Up Milk 3	600g	£6.45	Boots	14p	56p	£3.92

Milk name	Volume/Weight	Cost (October 2017)	Where costed	Cost per 100ml made up milk	Cost per day 1 year + (400ml)	Cost per week 1 year + (2800ml)
Cow & Gate 3 Growing up Milk 1-2 years	900g	£8.50	Tesco	13p	52p	£3.64
HiPP Combiotic Growing Up Milk 4	600g	£6.50	Sainsbury	13p	52p	£3.64
Bebivita Growing up Milk	500g	£2.99	LIDL (only available at LIDL)	8p	32p	£2.24