



**TRENDS OF THE RETAIL SALES OF NINE DAIRY AND EIGHT OTHER
GENERALLY USED FOOD PRODUCTS, BASED ON INFORMATION UP
TO SEPTEMBER 2021
(A report prepared for Milk SA)**

SYNOPSIS

- *This report covers the performance (sales quantities and average prices) in the retail market of 17 food products consisting of 9 dairy products and 8 other generally used food products;*
- *The performance (retail sales quantity and price) of any particular food product can, and typically does, change meaningfully during a period of even as short as a few months;*
- *The performance (retail sales quantity and price) of the different food products differs;*
- *In the year which ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 12 of the 17 food products were lower than in the previous year and 8 of the 12 products are dairy products;*
- *In the six-month period which ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 12 of the 17 food products were lower than in the same period of the previous year and 8 of the 12 products are dairy products;*
- *In September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 10 of the 17 food products were higher than in September 2020 and 3 of the 10 food products are dairy products;*
- *In September 2021, the retail prices of 13 of the 17 food products were higher than September 2020 (12 months ago) and 8 of the 13 food products are dairy products;*
- *In September 2021, the retail prices of 12 of the 17 food products were higher than March 2021 (6 months ago) and 9 of the 12 food products is a dairy product;*
- *From August 2021 to September 2021, the retail prices of 13 of the 17 food products decreased and 6 of the 13 products are dairy products and;*
- *The figures and analyses in this report are of macro nature and the position of the different role-players may differ meaningfully from the macro position.*

TRENDS OF THE RETAIL SALES OF NINE DAIRY PRODUCTS AND EIGHT OTHER GENERALLY USED FOOD PRODUCTS BASED ON INFORMATION UP TO **SEPTEMBER 2021** OBTAINED FROM THE NIELSENIQ COMPANY

(A report prepared for Milk SA)

This report was compiled by the Office of SAMPRO and forms part of the Industry Information Project of Milk SA. The purpose of the project is to make market signals available to members and other interested parties, which is a prerequisite for effective competition, as envisaged by the Competition Act.

All activities of the Industry Information Project of Milk SA are designed and implemented in accordance with the Competition Act and independently from any commercial interest.

Introduction

1. In the report attention is given to trends of retail sales (quantity and average price) of nine dairy products and eight other generally used food products which consist of four starch products, one fat product and three beverages. The products are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1: PRODUCTS COVERED BY THIS REPORT

DAIRY PRODUCTS	OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS
Fresh milk	Instant cereal
Long life milk (UHT)	Bread
Flavoured Milk	Rice
Yoghurt	Maize meal
Maas	Margarine
Pre-packaged cheese	Tea
Cream cheese	Coffee
Butter	Short life juice
Cream	

2. In the next sections of this report, separate attention is given to the performance in terms of quantity and price in the retail market of:
 - (a) Nine dairy products;
 - (b) Eight other food products; and
 - (c) A comparison between (a) and (b).

Dairy Products

3. The trends in the retail markets for the different dairy products in the recent past are important market signals to stimulate timeous adjustment of the supply of each of the different products to follow demand. Such adjustment is in the interests of the consumer, the dairy industry, the appropriate use of national resources and effective competition in the markets concerned.
4. “NielsenIQ” provides information based on monthly surveys of the retail sales of milk and other dairy products. Non-retail sales, such as sales to wholesalers and industrial buyers, which form significant parts of the total sales of dairy products, are not part of the Nielsen surveys.
5. In assessing the research results of Nielsen, the following should be taken into account:
 - *The research is based on surveys which do not cover all retail outlets in South Africa;*
 - *The research results show the performance of the retail outlets covered by the surveys and cannot in an unqualified way be described as the performance of the total South African consumer market;*
 - *In respect of UHT milk, flavoured milk, yoghurt, maas and pre-packed cheese, the surveys cover a significantly higher number of different types of retail shops than is the case in respect of fresh milk, cream, butter, cottage cheese and cream cheese;*
 - *The surveys do not cover non-retail sales of dairy products. Non-retail sales represent a meaningful part of the total sales of dairy products;*
 - *The surveys cover the retail sales of South African and imported products;*
 - *As market signals, it is important not to report on only the change in the quantity (mass or volume) of sales but also the changes of the average price due to the very obvious fact that there is significant interaction between the price and the quantity of sales;*
 - *The figures and analyses in this report are of macro nature and the position of the different role-players may differ meaningfully from the macro position;*
 - *The consumer market consists of different segments, like segments based on the income of consumers. The dairy products which are regarded by higher income consumers as necessities and which are used daily, are for lower income consumers’ luxuries purchased in smaller quantities or less frequently. This*

situation explains why change of the price of even the most basic dairy product, namely pasteurised milk, influences the quantity sold. Similarly, changes in the income of consumers impact on the quantity sold;

- In terms of the production orientated approach, the different dairy products are closely related but, in terms of a market orientated approach the differences between the different dairy products are significant. This is due to especially the differences in respect of the nature, use, price and image of the different dairy products; and
- The retail situation is much more complex than, for example, a few decades ago. Dairy products are not only competing with substitute products, but also with a host of other products and services which are offered by different industries to the consumer. For example, in some market segments, the consumer weighs up the benefits of purchasing dairy products versus the benefit of buying totally unrelated products and services.

6. In the case of fresh milk, cream, butter and cream cheese, the surveys of “NielsenIQ” cover only “major stores” as described in paragraph 5.
7. Although the surveys of “NielsenIQ” in respect of the products mentioned in the previous paragraph only cover “major stores”, the results of the surveys should be regarded as meaningful indicators of the trends in retail sales. In the table below, the “NielsenIQ” sample for 2020, is expressed as a percentage of the estimated total demand in the same period¹⁾.

NIELSEN SAMPLE AS PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL DEMAND

PRODUCT		A NIELSEN SAMPLE	B ESTIMATED TOTAL DEMAND ¹⁾	A AS PERCENTAGE OF B
Pasteurised milk and ESL milk	(Litre)	256 079 461	569 006 470	45.0
UHT and sterilised Milk	(Litre)	569 274 129	1 147 765 699	49.6
Flavoured milk	(Litre)	19 859 408	76 797 174	25.9
Yoghurt	(Litre)	227 718 939	274 999 697	82.2
Maas	(Litre)	222 700 937	293 769 066	75.8
Pre-Packaged cheese	(Kg)	41 683 043	130 483 541	31.9
Cream cheese	(Kg)	3 023 611	4 928 320	61.4
Butter	(Kg)	9 738 707	18 839 089	51.7
Cream	(Litre)	11 326 740	21 250 203	53.3

1. Retail sales plus non retail sales for the period January to December 2020.

2. Includes hard and semi-hard cheeses, pre-packaged and other.

3. Estimated figures calculated by the Office of SAMPRO based on the BMI figures of 2012 and 2013 and inflated by the growth rates as shown by “NielsenIQ” figures.

8. The performance of the dairy products concerned in the retail market, as measured by Nielsen, is set out in Tables 3 to 5.

TABLE 3:

CHANGES IN THE RETAIL SALES QUANTITIES FROM THE YEAR OCTOBER 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2020, TO THE YEAR OCTOBER 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 2021, AND CHANGES IN THE RETAIL PRICES FROM SEPTEMBER 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 2021 OF SPECIFIC DAIRY PRODUCTS

DAIRY PRODUCT	Change in Retail Sales Quantity	Change in Retail Prices
	Percent	Percent
Fresh milk	-7.4	8.1
Long life milk (Uht milk)	-5.2	3.8
Flavoured milk	-1.2	10.1
Yoghurt	-3.1	7.5
Maas	-3.7	5.4
Pre-packaged cheese	0.1	5.2
Cream cheese	-5.0	8.9
Butter	-2.8	-1.3
Cream	-0.7	4.4

9. According to Table 3:
- The average retail prices of 8 of the 9 products were higher in September 2021, than in September 2020;
 - In the year which ended in September 2021, the retail prices of 2 of the 9 dairy products of which the prices increased, increased with less than the inflation rate of 4.7 percent; and
 - In the year that ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 4 of the 9 dairy products were from 0.1 percent higher than in the previous year, but the sales quantities of 8 of the 9 dairy products were from 0.7 to 7.4 percent lower than in the previous year.

10. The percentage changes in *retail sale quantities* indicated in Table 3, do not mean that the sales quantities changed continuously at the same rate during the period concerned. This situation is illustrated in Table 4.

**TABLE 4:
CHANGES IN THE QUANTITIES OF RETAIL SALES OF SPECIFIC DAIRY PRODUCTS**

PRODUCT	Sales in the month of September 2021 versus the sales in the month of September 2020	Sales in the 3 months from July 2021 to September 2021 versus the sales in the 3 months from July 2020 to September 2020	Sales in the 6 months from April 2021 to September 2021 versus the sales in the 6 months from April 2020 to September 2020	Sales in the 9 months from January 2021 to September 2021 versus the sales in the 9 months from January 2020 to September 2020	Sales in the 12 months from October 2020 to September 2021 versus the sales in the 12 months from October 2019 to September 2020
	percent		percent		percent
Fresh Milk	-7.2	-7.7	-5.9	-6.7	-7.4
UHT milk	-5.4	0.4	-7.7	-7.1	-5.2
Flavoured milk	1.2	2.0	4.1	2.8	-1.2
Yoghurt	-10.0	-11.4	-9.7	-6.5	-3.1
Maas	-4.9	-8.0	-7.7	-6.1	-3.7
Pre-packaged cheese	1.0	-1.3	-3.9	-2.9	0.1
Cream cheese	-3.1	-5.3	-9.4	-6.5	-5.0
Butter	5.2	-2.0	-9.7	-4.2	-2.8
Cream	-6.2	-5.8	-9.7	-3.6	-0.7

11. Important observations in respect of Table 4, are as follows:

- a) In the six months which ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 8 of the 9 dairy products were lower than in the same six months of 2020;
- b) In the three months which ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 7 of the 9 dairy products were lower than in the same three months of 2020; and
- c) In September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 6 of the 9 dairy products were lower than in September 2020.

12. The percentage changes in the average *retail prices* indicated in Table 3, do not mean that the prices changed continuously at the same rate during the period concerned. This situation is illustrated in Table 5.

TABLE 5:

CHANGES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SPECIFIC DAIRY PRODUCTS

PRODUCT	September 2021 versus August 2021 (1 month ago)	September 2021 versus June 2021 (3 months ago)	September 2021 versus March 2021 (6 months ago)	September 2021 versus December 2020 (9 months ago)	September 2021 versus September 2020 (12 months ago)	September 2021 versus March 2019 (18 months ago)	September 2021 versus December 2019 (24 months ago)
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Fresh milk	0.4	1.1	3.6	6.6	8.1	8.4	10.6
Uht milk	0.3	-0.6	3.9	4.1	3.8	8.7	8.3
Flavoured milk	2.4	1.0	10.5	8.5	10.1	12.5	11.4
Yoghurt	-1.7	0.7	4.0	8.1	7.5	8.4	11.4
Maas	-2.4	-1.0	0.5	4.5	5.4	3.3	7.0
Pre-packaged cheese	-3.0	1.0	3.8	2.9	5.2	7.5	9.8
Cream cheese	-1.7	-0.5	1.1	4.9	8.9	13.8	18.4
Butter	-4.7	-1.9	0.8	-2.5	-1.3	-2.3	6.8
Cream	-1.0	0.5	3.3	1.6	4.4	4.6	6.9

13. Important observations in respect of Table 5, are as follows:

- a) In the six months which ended in September 2021, the retail prices of all 9 dairy products increased;
- b) In the three months which ended in September 2021, the retail prices of 5 of the 9 dairy products increased; and
- c) From August 2021 to September 2021, the retail prices of 3 of the 9 dairy products increased.

OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS

14. The performance of the eight food products concerned in the retail market, as measured by Nielsen, is set out in Tables 6 to 8.

TABLE 6:

CHANGES IN THE RETAIL SALES QUANTITIES FROM THE YEAR OCTOBER 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2020, TO THE YEAR OCTOBER 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 2021, AND CHANGES IN THE RETAIL PRICES FROM SEPTEMBER 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 2021 OF SPECIFIC FOOD PRODUCTS

Food products	Change in Retail sales quantity Percent	Change in Retail prices Percent
Instant cereals	-3.1	4.1
Bread	-2.9	-0.4
Rice	1.7	-6.6
Maize meal	0.5	4.8
Margarine	-3.8	16.1
Tea	9.3	-13.1
Coffee	0.004	2.7
Short life juice	-6.3	4.1

15. According to Table 6:
- The average retail prices of 5 of the 8 food products were higher in September 2021, than a year ago;
 - The price increases of 3 of the food products were lower than the increase of the consumer price index of 4.7 percent in the year which ended in September 2021; and
 - The sales quantities of 4 of the 8 food products were lower in the year which ended in September 2021, than in the previous year.

16. The percentage changes in *retail sale quantities* indicated in Table 6, do not mean that the sales quantities changed continuously at the same rate during the period concerned. This situation is illustrated in Table 7.

TABLE 7:

CHANGES IN THE QUANTITIES OF RETAIL SALES OF SPECIFIC FOOD PRODUCTS

PRODUCT	Sales in the month of September 2021 versus the sales in the month of September 2020	Sales in the 3 months from July 2021 to September 2021 versus the sales in the 3 months from July 2020 to September 2020	Sales in the 6 months from April 2021 to September 2021 versus the sales in the 6 months from April 2020 to September 2020	Sales in the 9 months from January 2021 to September 2021 versus the sales in the 9 months from January 2020 to September 2020	Sales in the 12 months from October 2020 to September 2021 versus the sales in the 12 months from October 2019 to September 2020
	percent		percent		percent
Instant Cereals	1.4	-0.6	-4.1	-5.2	-3.1
Bread	4.8	2.6	1.9	-2.1	-2.9
Rice	15.2	11.5	8.2	1.6	1.7
Maize Meal	4.9	3.9	5.2	0.6	0.5
Margarine	-1.2	-6.7	-8.9	-7.0	-3.8
Tea	16.0	14.0	11.0	8.8	9.3
Coffee	4.7	1.4	-4.4	-2.7	0.004
Short Life Juice	0.6	-3.3	-2.2	-4.0	-6.3

17. Important observations in respect of Table 7, are as follows:

- a) In the six months which ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 4 of the 8 food products were lower than in the same months of 2020;
- b) In the three months which ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 3 of the 8 food products, were lower; and
- c) In September 2021, the retail sales quantity of 1 of the 8 food products, was lower than in September 2020.

18. The percentage changes in *retail prices* indicated in Table 6, do not mean that the price changed continuously at the same rate during the period concerned. This situation is illustrated in Table 8.

TABLE 8:**CHANGES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SPECIFIC FOOD PRODUCTS**

PRODUCT	September 2021 versus August 2021 (1 month ago)	September 2021 versus June 2021 (3 months ago)	September 2021 versus March 2021 (6 months ago)	September 2021 versus December 2020 (9 months ago)	September 2021 versus September 2020 (12 months ago)	September 2021 versus March 2019 (18 months ago)	September 2021 versus December 2019 (24 months ago)
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Instant Cereals	-1.4	0.8	-1.7	-0.1	4.1	4.9	8.6
Bread	0.5	0.4	-1.2	-2.5	-0.4	5.4	3.7
Rice	-1.4	-1.5	-5.5	-6.8	-6.6	13.1	22.5
Maize Meal	-2.5	-2.8	-8.2	-3.5	4.8	2.6	10.1
Margarine	-0.9	4.5	11.0	13.6	16.1	22.0	22.1
Tea	-4.3	0.7	-3.0	-1.3	-13.1	-6.0	-0.8
Coffee	-1.7	0.4	0.7	-3.9	2.7	5.3	12.9
Short Life Juice	-1.9	1.2	5.0	8.0	4.1	11.4	12.6

19. Important observations in respect of Table 8, are as follows:

- a) In the six months which ended in September 2021, the retail prices of 5 of the 8 food products, decreased;
- b) In the three months which ended in September 2021, the retail prices of 2 of the 8 food products, decreased; and
- c) From August 2021 to September 2021, the retail prices of 7 of the 8 food products, decreased.

Comparison of the performance in the retail market of the dairy and the other food products concerned

20. In Table 9, the changes in the retail sales quantities of the dairy products and the other food products concerned are indicated and ranked from the highest to the lowest. The highest increase in the relevant period is ranked as 1 and the lowest as 17.

TABLE 9

CHANGES IN THE QUANTITIES OF RETAIL SALES OF SPECIFIC DAIRY PRODUCTS AND SPECIFIC OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS

PRODUCT	SALES IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021 VERSUS THE SALES IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020		SALES IN THE 6 MONTHS FROM APRIL 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 2021 VERSUS THE SALES IN THE 6 MONTHS FROM APRIL 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 2020		SALES IN THE 12 MONTHS FROM OCTOBER 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 2021 VERSUS THE SALES IN THE 12 MONTHS FROM OCTOBER 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 2020	
	<i>%</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Ranking</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Ranking</i>
Tea	16.0	1	11.0	1	9.3	1
Rice	15.2	2	8.2	2	1.7	2
Maize Meal	4.9	4	5.2	3	0.5	3
Pre-packaged cheese	1.0	9	-3.9	7	0.1	4
Coffee	4.7	6	-4.4	9	0.004	5
Cream	-6.2	15	-9.7	15	-0.7	6
Flavoured milk	1.2	8	4.1	4	-1.2	7
Butter	5.2	3	-9.7	16	-2.8	8
Bread	4.8	5	1.9	5	-2.9	9
Yoghurt	-10.0	17	-9.7	17	-3.1	10
Instant Cereals	1.4	7	-4.1	8	-3.1	11
Maas	-4.9	13	-7.7	12	-3.7	12
Margarine	-1.2	11	-8.9	13	-3.8	13
Cream cheese	-3.1	12	-9.4	14	-5.0	14
UHT milk	-5.4	14	-7.7	11	-5.2	15
Short Life Juice	0.6	10	-2.2	6	-6.3	16
Fresh Milk	-7.2	16	-5.9	10	-7.4	17

21. Important observations in respect of Table 9, are as follows:
- a) In the year which ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 12 of the 17 food products, were lower than in the same months of 2020, and 8 of the 17 food products are dairy products;
 - b) In the six-months which ended in September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 12 of the 17 food products, were lower than in the same months of 2020, and 8 of the 12 food products are dairy products; and
 - c) In September 2021, the retail sales quantities of 10 of the 17 food products, were higher than in September 2020, and 3 of the 10 food products are dairy products.
22. In Table 10, the increases and decreases in the average retail prices of the dairy products and the other food products in the different periods concerned, are indicated and ranked from the highest to the lowest.

TABLE 10:

INCREASES AND DECREASES IN THE AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SPECIFIC DAIRY PRODUCTS AND SPECIFIC OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS

Product	SEPTEMBER 2021 VERSUS AUGUST 2021 (1 MONTH AGO)		SEPTEMBER 2021 VERSUS MARCH 2021 (6 MONTHS AGO)		SEPTEMBER 2021 VERSUS SEPTEMBER 2020 (12 MONTHS AGO)	
	%	Ranking	%	Ranking	%	Ranking
Margarine	-0.9	5	11.0	1	16.1	1
Flavoured milk	2.4	1	10.5	2	10.1	2
Cream cheese	-1.7	12	1.1	9	8.9	3
Fresh milk	0.4	3	3.6	7	8.1	4
Yoghurt	-1.7	10	4.0	4	7.5	5
Maas	-2.4	13	0.5	12	5.4	6
Pre-packaged cheese	-3.0	15	3.8	6	5.2	7
Maize Meal	-2.5	14	-8.2	17	4.8	8
Cream	-1.0	6	3.3	8	4.4	9
Instant Cereals	-1.4	8	-1.7	14	4.1	10
Short Life Juice	-1.9	11	5.0	3	4.1	11
UHT milk	0.3	4	3.9	5	3.8	12
Coffee	-1.7	9	0.7	11	2.7	13
Bread	0.5	2	-1.2	13	-0.4	14
Butter	-4.7	17	0.8	10	-1.3	15
Rice	-1.4	7	-5.5	16	-6.6	16
Tea	-4.3	16	-3.0	15	-13.1	17

23. Important observations in respect of Table 10, are as follows:

- a) In September 2021, the retail prices of 13 of the 17 food products were higher than September 2020 (12 months ago) and 8 of the 13 food products are dairy products;
- b) In September 2021, the retail prices of 12 of the 17 food products were higher than March 2021 (6 months ago) and 9 of the 12 food products is a dairy product; and
- c) From August 2021 to September 2021, the retail prices of 13 of the 17 food products decreased and 6 of the 13 products are dairy products.

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