Milk South Africa
Melk Suid-Afrika

Quarterly overview of the use of unprocessed milk in dairy products for the years 2024, 2023 and 2022.

April 2025

This report is compiled from information provided to Milk SA by manufacturers of dairy products, as required by the relevant statutory measures. The report was compiled by the Economic Desk of the MPO as part of the Economies and Markets project of MilkSA. A market economy is dependent on available information, evenly distributed between role players that enables the “invisible hand” to optimally distribute production factors. Better and timeous information enables the market to more optimally. The objective of MilkSA and the Economic Desk of the MPO is to provide market signals and market trends to the dairy industry, organised agriculture, and policymakers, to enhance the functioning of the value chain.

The Economic Desk of the MPO produces several reports some as part of the Economies and Markets project of MilkSA and others as an independent market contributor focusing on supply and demand variables and dynamics, both within an international and domestic ambit. These reports embody the Industry Information Project of the MPO. The Desk follows an approach where the market analysis is objective with a strong scientific foundation.

The outputs and deliberations of the Desk should assist role players in the value chain to better prepare for market developments and empower role players to engage at a higher level. While the Milk Producers’ Organisation cannot and will not try to predict the future in any detail, the possible general impact and/or possible outcomes of specific changes or trends will be discussed in this document. This information should not be regarded as financial advice. While this report is compiled from sources that are deemed reliable, the MilkSA and the MPO cannot take responsibility for any decisions based on the information in this report.

Synopsis of the application of unprocessed milk in dairy products and the production of byproducts

- The application of unprocessed milk used in dairy products for the years 2022 to 2024 is compared and thereafter, unprocessed milk used in dairy products and the production of byproducts *(whey powder and butter)* for 2024 is compared over the same periods in 2022 and 2023.

- Comparing 2024 to 2023, the main shifts in the use of unprocessed milk in dairy products occurred in skimmed milk powder (SMP) up by 25.99%, and fermented products up by 12.29%. Whey powder manufacturing increased with 14.43% and butter by 16.87%. Both other liquid and other concentrate dairy products reflect a negative allocation growth of 18.40%.

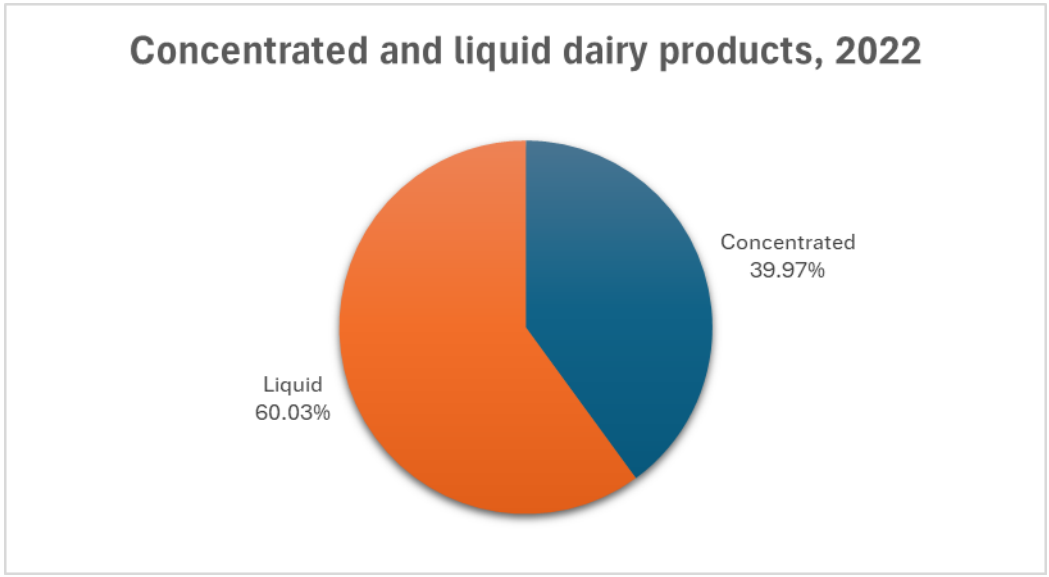
- Overall, the total cumulative use of unprocessed milk in dairy products increased with 3.74% in 2024 compared to 2023.

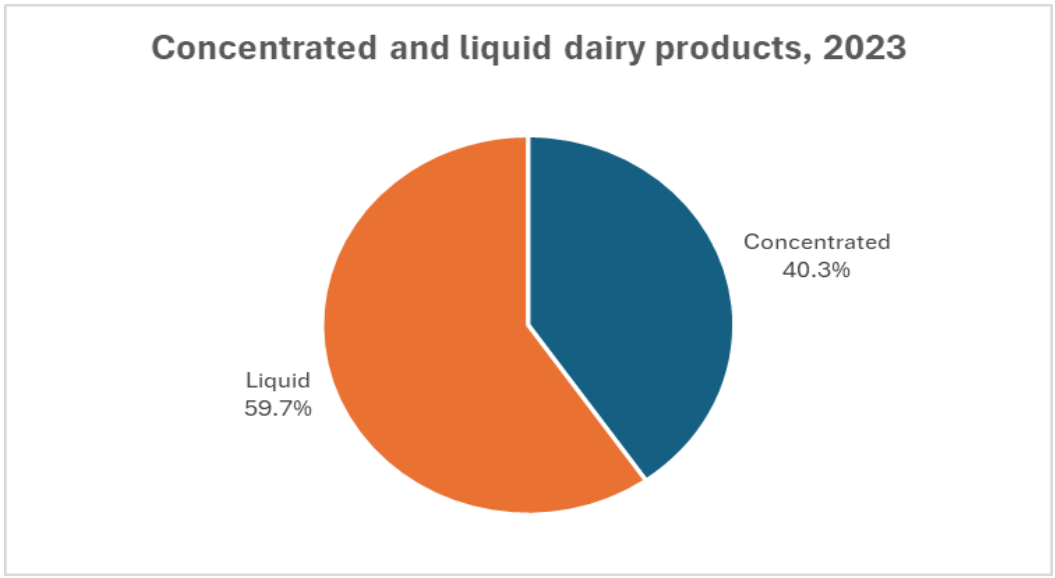
- Figures 1 and 2 illustrates the total unprocessed milk used in dairy products and the production of byproducts. Long life milk and cheese (excluding cottage and cream cheese) represents the bulk usage of unprocessed milk, followed by fresh milk and fermented products. The manufacturing of both whey powder and butter has consistently grown from 2022 to 2024. From 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024 growth for whey powder respectively was 12.33% and 14.43% and for butter respectively 7.24% and 16.87%.

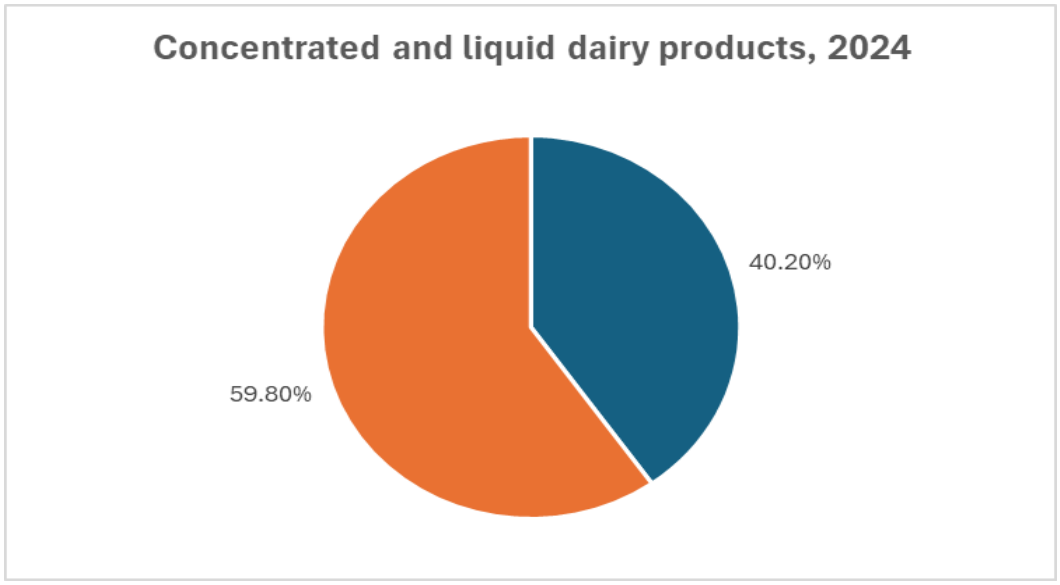
- Figures 4 to 12 graphically displays the amount of unprocessed milk used for each dairy product. Steady volumes of unprocessed milk used in cheese excluding cottage and cream cheese during 2022, 2023 and 2024, are notably different from the more volatile volumes of unprocessed milk allocated towards the other dairy products.

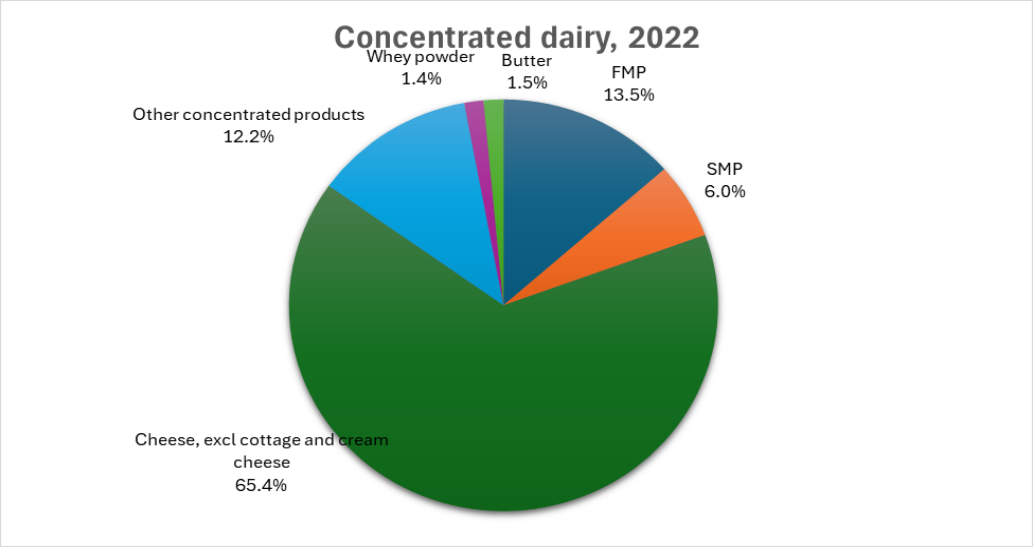
- Figures 13 and 14 display the production of byproducts. During 2024 a higher level can be observed for the manufacturing of whey powder, compared to the same period in 2022 and 2023 with the exception of March 2023, when production was marginally lower than in 2023. Higher manufactured volumes of butter can also be observed for 2024 compared to 2022 and 2023, bar March 2023.

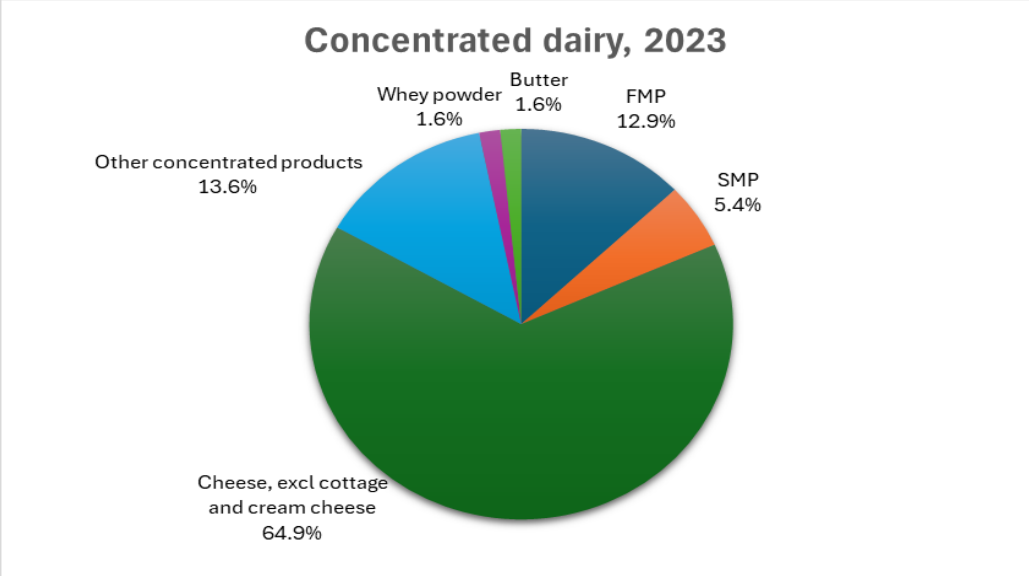
The pie-graphs below reflect a slight change in favour of unprocessed milk allocated to concentrated dairy products from 2022 to 2024 and product specific allocations.

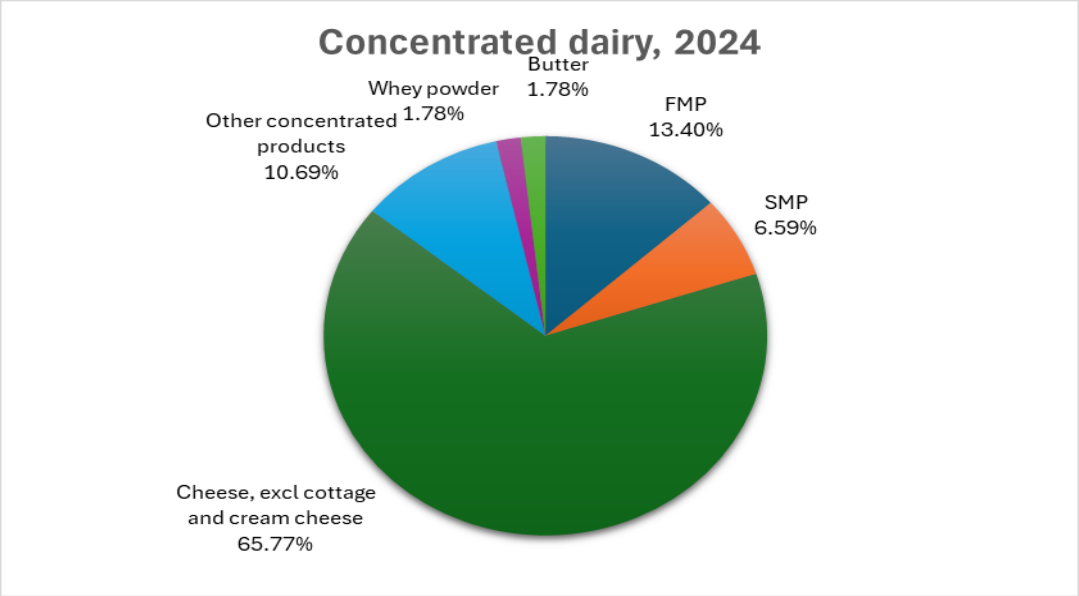

Concentrated and liquid dairy products, 2022
Concentrated
39.97%
Liquid
60.03%

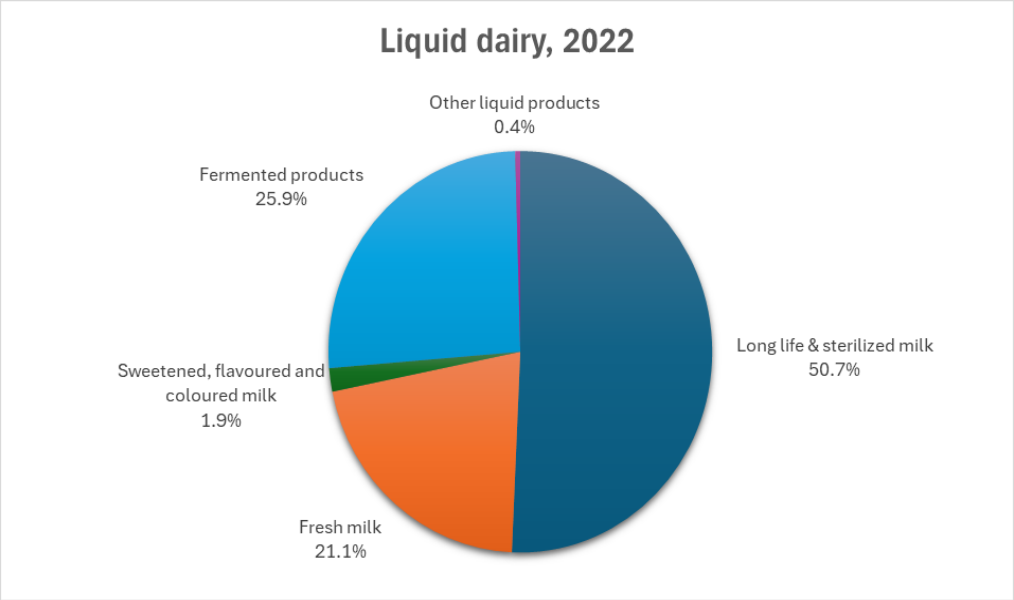

Concentrated and liquid dairy products, 2023
Concentrated
40.3%
Liquid
59.7%

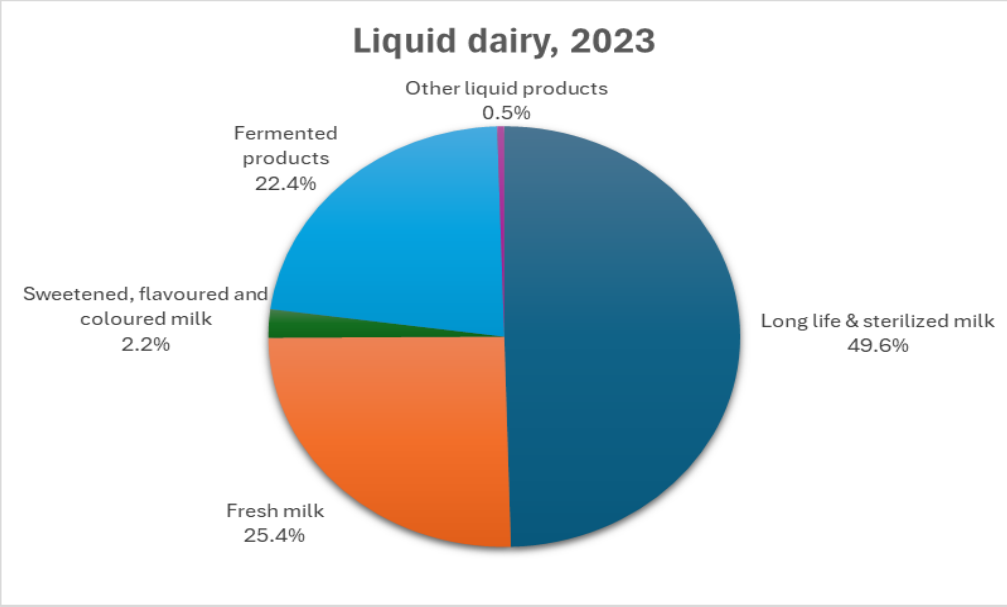

Concentrated and liquid dairy products, 2024
40.20%
59.80%


Concentrated dairy, 2022
Whey powder 1.4%
Butter 1.5%
FMP 13.5%
Other concentrated products 12.2%
SMP 6.0%
Cheese, excl cottage and cream cheese 65.4%


Concentrated dairy, 2023
Whey powder 1.6%
Butter 1.6%
FMP 12.9%
Other concentrated products 13.6%
SMP 5.4%
Cheese, excl cottage and cream cheese 64.9%


Concentrated dairy, 2024
Butter 1.78%
Whey powder 1.78%
FMP 13.40%
Other concentrated products 10.69%
SMP 6.59%
Cheese, excl cottage and cream cheese 65.77%


Liquid dairy, 2022
Other liquid products
0.4%
Fermented products
25.9%
Long life & sterilized milk
50.7%
Sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk
1.9%
Fresh milk
21.1%


Liquid dairy, 2023
Other liquid products
0.5%
Fermented products
22.4%
Sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk
2.2%
Long life & sterilized milk
49.6%
Fresh milk
25.4%

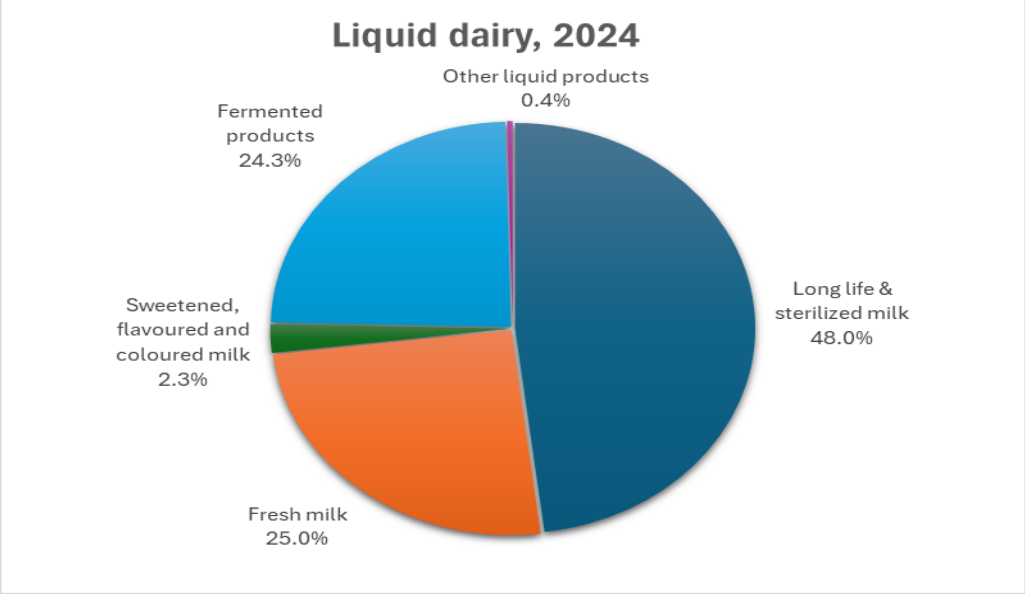
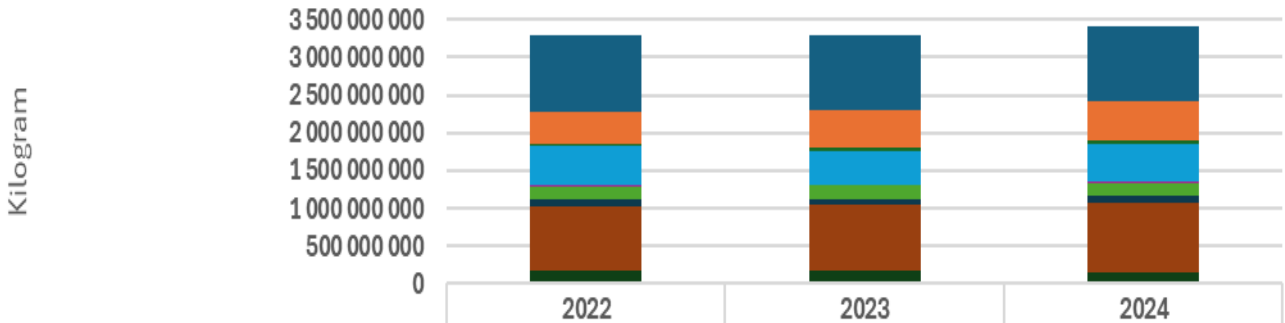

Liquid dairy, 2024
Other liquid products
0.4%
Fermented products
24.3%
Sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk
2.3%
Long life & sterilized milk
48.0%
Fresh milk
25.0%

Figure 1 reflects the allocation of unprocessed milk to the different dairy products for the years 2022 to 2024.



	2022	2023	2024
Long life & sterilized milk	1 013 678 785	985 010 029	994 276 763
Fresh milk	422 049 352	504 029 990	518 388 520
Sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk	37 718 108	43 187 176	46 812 279
Fermented products	517 248 828	445 895 059	502 147 357
Other liquid products	8 551 549	9 587 304	7 823 192
FMP	179 643 232	173 479 691	186 342 563
SMP	79 326 937	72 701 106	91 595 286
Cheese, excl cottage and cream cheese	870 438 999	871 850 292	914 784 595
Other concentrated products	162 479 428	182 158 772	148 640 643

In Table 1 the application of unprocessed milk towards dairy products in 2024 is reflected to the previous two years. Comparing 2024 to 2023, the main shifts in the use of unprocessed milk in dairy products occurred in skimmed milk powder (SMP) up by 25.99%, and fermented products also up by 12.29%. Whey powder manufacturing increased with 13.73% and butter by 16.95%. Both other liquid and other concentrate dairy products reflect a negative allocation growth of 18.46%.

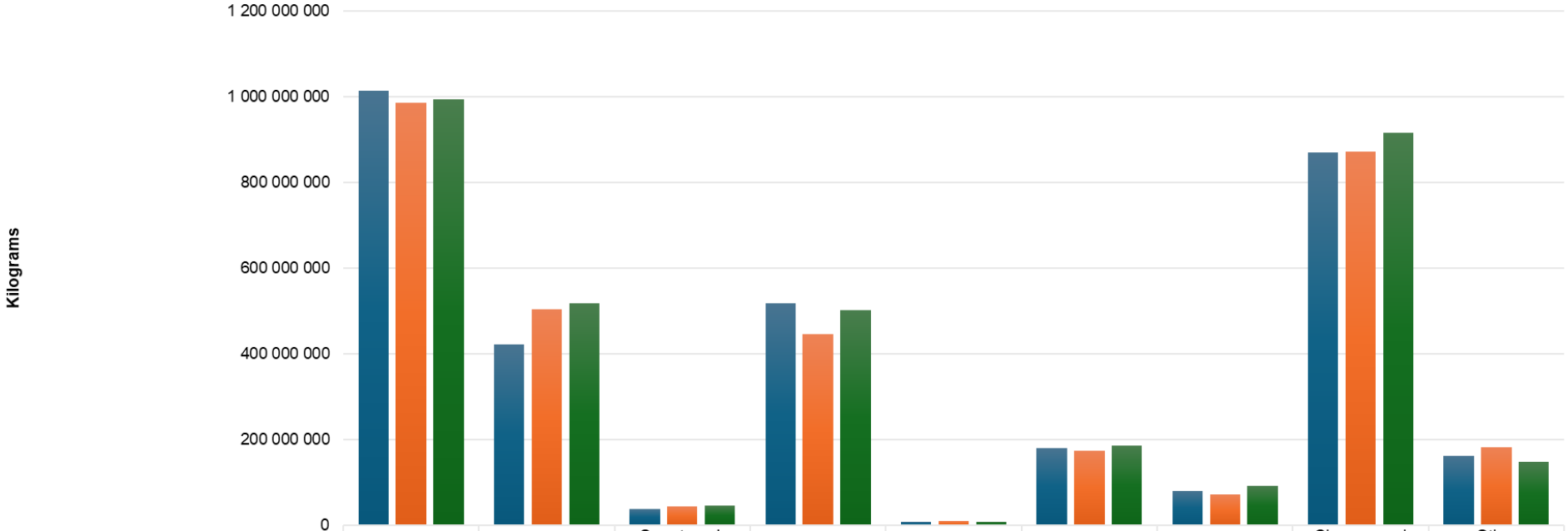
Table 1: Cumulative use of unprocessed milk in dairy products

Product/Period	Jan-Dec 2022 Kg of unprocessed milk used	Jan-Dec 2023 Kg of unprocessed milk used	Jan-Dec 2024 Kg of unprocessed milk used	% Change 2024 to 2023	Change in milk allocation in mass. 2024 to 2023
Long life & sterilized milk	1 013 678 785	985 010 029	994 276 763	0.94%	9 266 734
Fresh milk	422 049 352	504 029 990	518 388 520	2.85%	14 358 530
Sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk	37 718 108	43 187 176	46 812 279	8.39%	3 625 103
Fermented products	517 248 828	445 895 059	502 147 357	12.62%	56 252 298
Other liquid products	8 551 549	9 587 304	7 823 192	-18.40%	-1 764 112
FMP	179 643 232	173 479 691	186 342 563	7.41%	12 862 873
SMP	79 326 937	72 701 106	91 595 286	25.99%	18 894 181
Cheese, excl cottage and cream cheese	870 438 999	871 850 292	914 784 595	4.92%	42 934 303
Other concentrated products	162 479 428	182 158 772	148 640 643	-18.40%	-33 518 129
Total kg unprocessed milk used in dairy products	3 291 135 217	3 287 899 418	3 410 811 199	3.74%	122 911 781
Whey powder	19 234 215	21 606 293	24 723 970	14.43%	
Butter	19 786 048	21 218 952	24 798 407	16.87%	

(Source: Milk SA)

Figures 2 and 3 are a graphical display of the unprocessed milk application to dairy products inclusive of the byproducts manufactured from dairy products. The graphical display illustrates that the bulk of the unprocessed milk is used in long life milk and cheese (excluding cottage and cream cheese) with the next two products being fresh milk and fermented products coming in as second tier. Both byproducts exhibit healthy growth moving from 21 606 tonnes whey powder in 2023 to 24 724 tonnes in 2024. Butter increased from 21 219 tonnes in 2023 to 24 798 tonnes in 2024.

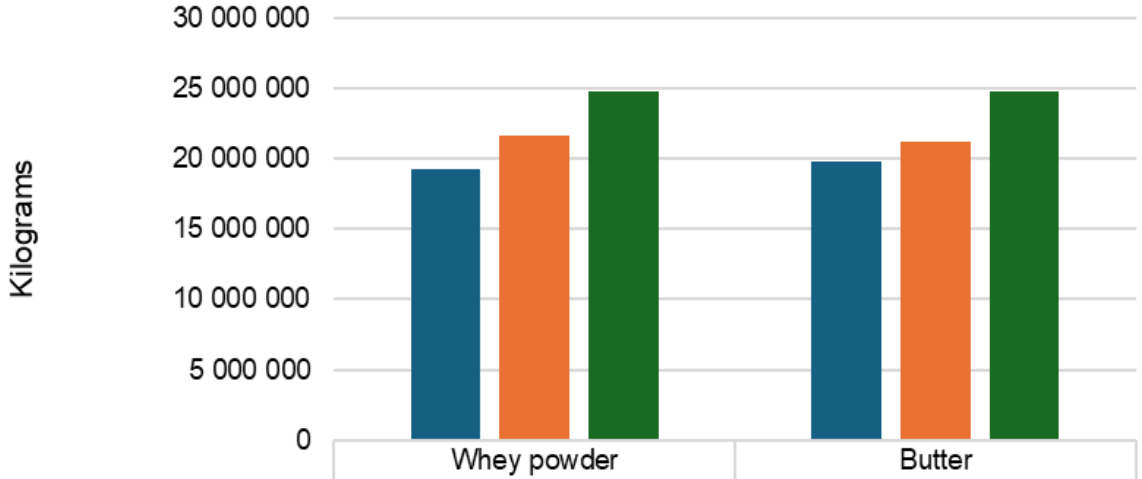
Figure 2: Total unprocessed milk used in dairy products (Kg)



	Long life & sterilized milk	Fresh milk	Sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk	Fermented products	Other liquid products	FMP	SMP	Cheese, excl cottage and cream cheese	Other concentrated products
Jan-Dec 2022 Kg of unprocessed milk used	1 013 678 785	422 049 352	37 718 108	517 248 828	8 551 549	179 643 232	79 326 937	870 438 999	162 479 428
Jan-Dec 2023 Kg of unprocessed milk used	985 010 029	504 029 990	43 187 176	445 895 059	9 587 304	173 479 691	72 701 106	871 850 292	182 158 772
Jan-Dec 2024 Kg of unprocessed milk used	994 276 763	518 388 520	46 812 279	502 147 357	7 823 192	186 342 563	91 595 286	914 784 595	148 640 643

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 3: Total whey powder and butter manufactured (Kg)

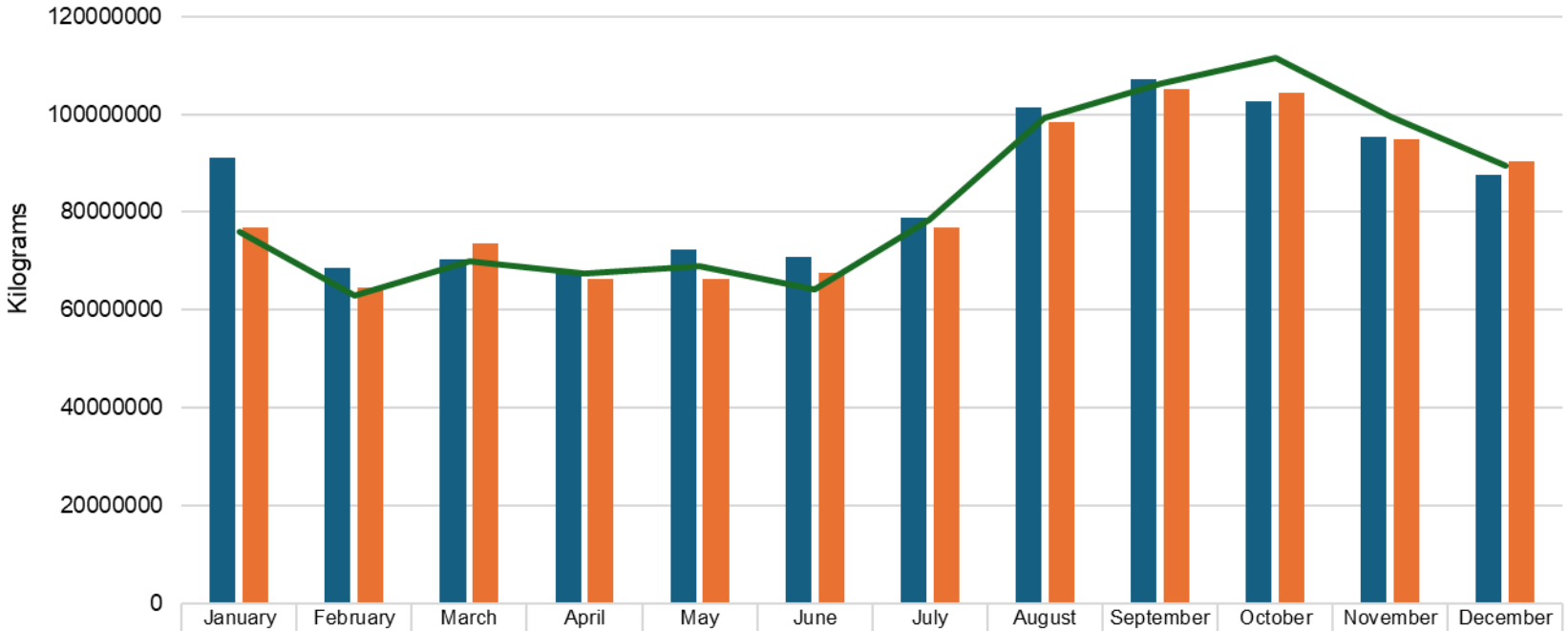


	Whey powder	Butter
Jan-Dec 2022 Kg of unprocessed milk used	19 234 215	19 786 048
Jan-Dec 2023 Kg of unprocessed milk used	21 606 293	21 218 952
Jan-Dec 2024 Kg of unprocessed milk used	24 723 970	24 798 407

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 4 shows the amount of unprocessed milk used in long life and sterilized milk. In 2024, more unprocessed milk was used in long life and sterilized milk for seven months if compared to 2023. In October 2024, 7.72% more unprocessed milk was used compared to October 2023, registering a new monthly record for the period under review.

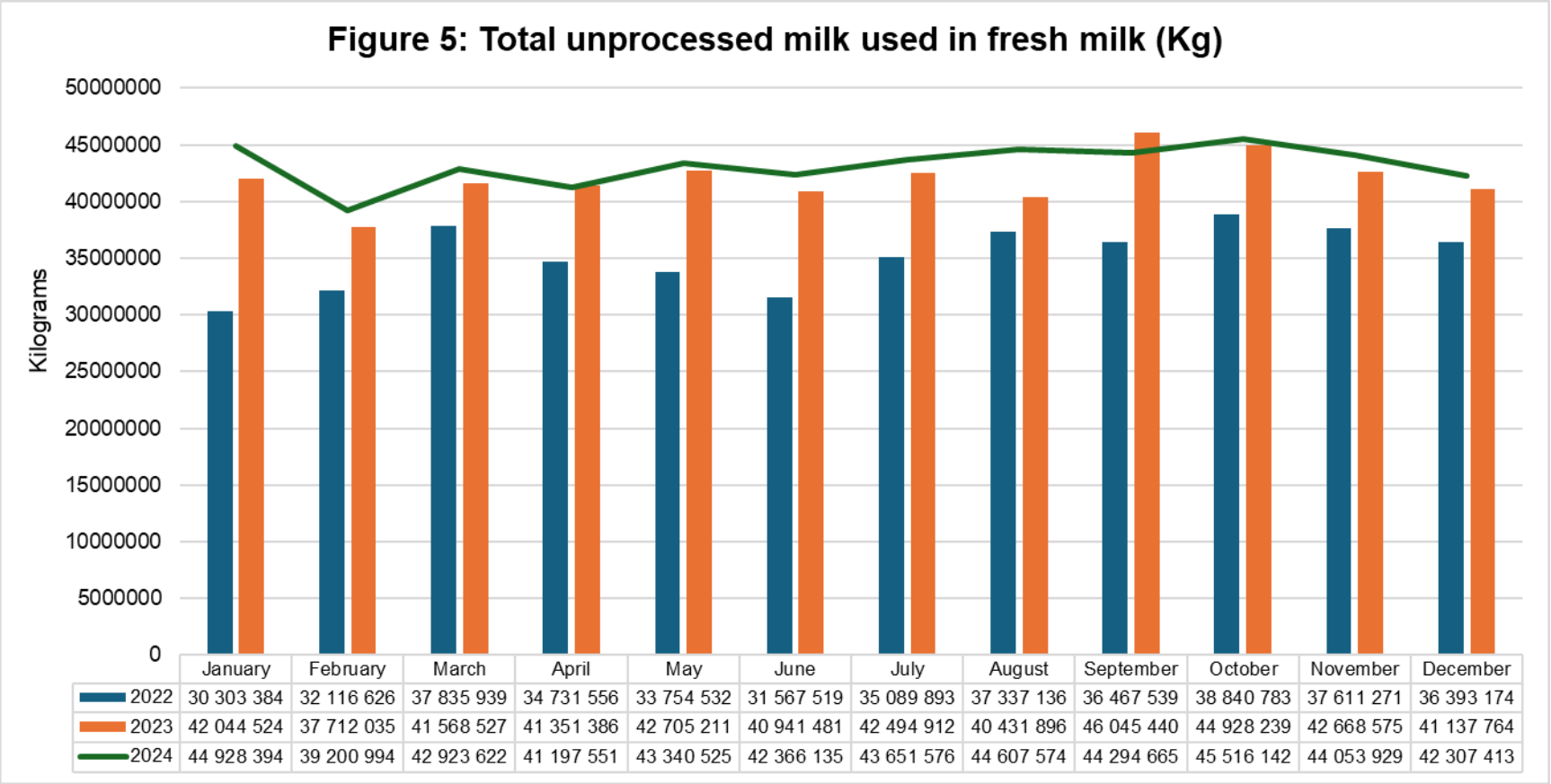
Figure 4: Total unprocessed milk used in long life & sterilized milk (Kg)



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	91 029 677	68 514 405	70 257 178	67 454 450	72 350 820	70 768 226	78 937 206	101 502 72	107 135 09	102 664 90	95 453 428	87 610 672
2023	76 876 167	64 631 237	73 588 690	66 200 917	66 328 644	67 535 968	76 830 449	98 263 859	105 241 98	104 425 35	94 749 489	90 337 265
2024	75 912 605	63 031 628	69 985 873	67 541 593	68 975 226	64 266 813	78 456 748	99 316 571	106 254 80	111 440 69	99 601 117	89 493 098

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 5 contains the data of unprocessed milk used in fresh milk for the period 2022 to 2024. For all the months in 2023 more unprocessed milk was used in fresh milk if compared to 2022. This trend continued in 2024, where for 10 months more unprocessed milk was used compared to 2023.

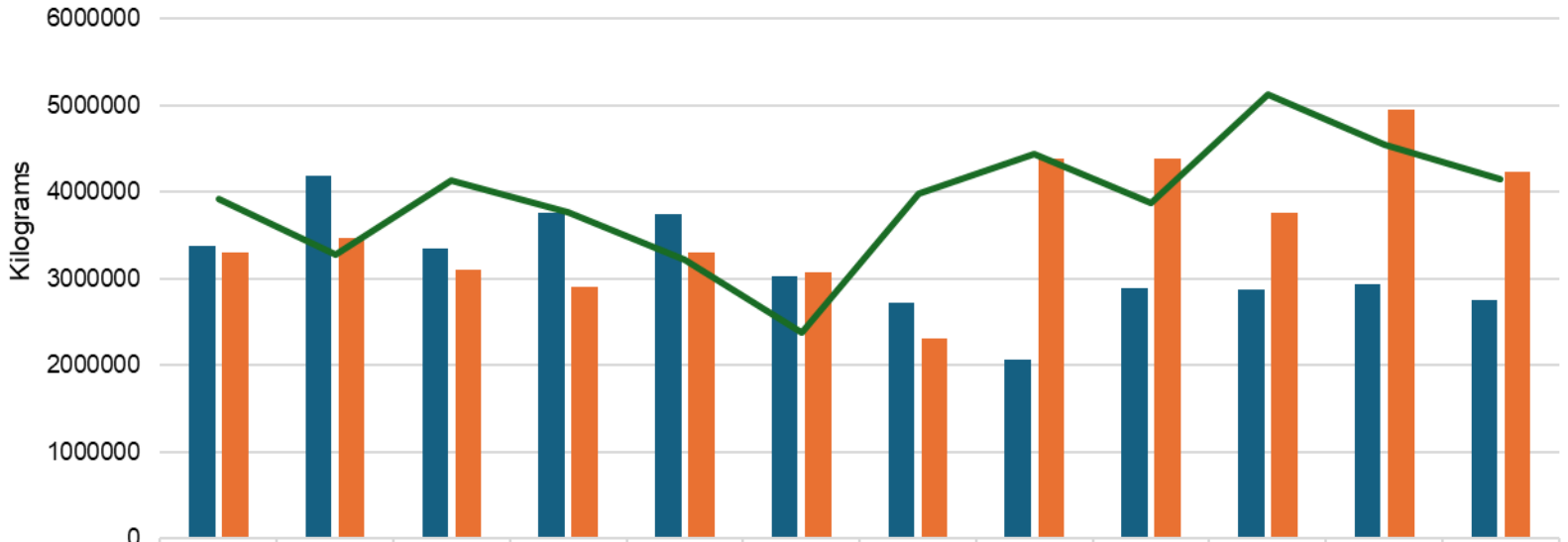


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	30 303 384	32 116 626	37 835 939	34 731 556	33 754 532	31 567 519	35 089 893	37 337 136	36 467 539	38 840 783	37 611 271	36 393 174
2023	42 044 524	37 712 035	41 568 527	41 351 386	42 705 211	40 941 481	42 494 912	40 431 896	46 045 440	44 928 239	42 668 575	41 137 764
2024	44 928 394	39 200 994	42 923 622	41 197 551	43 340 525	42 366 135	43 651 576	44 607 574	44 294 665	45 516 142	44 053 929	42 307 413

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 6 shows the amount of unprocessed milk used in sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk. In 2023 for the last five months notably higher volumes of unprocessed milk were channel towards these products if compared to 2022. During 2024 the allocation of unprocessed milk towards these products are a mixed bag of increases and decreases compared to the previous year. However, the allocation for October 2024 sets a new record level for the period under review.

Figure 6: Total unprocessed milk used in sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk (Kg)

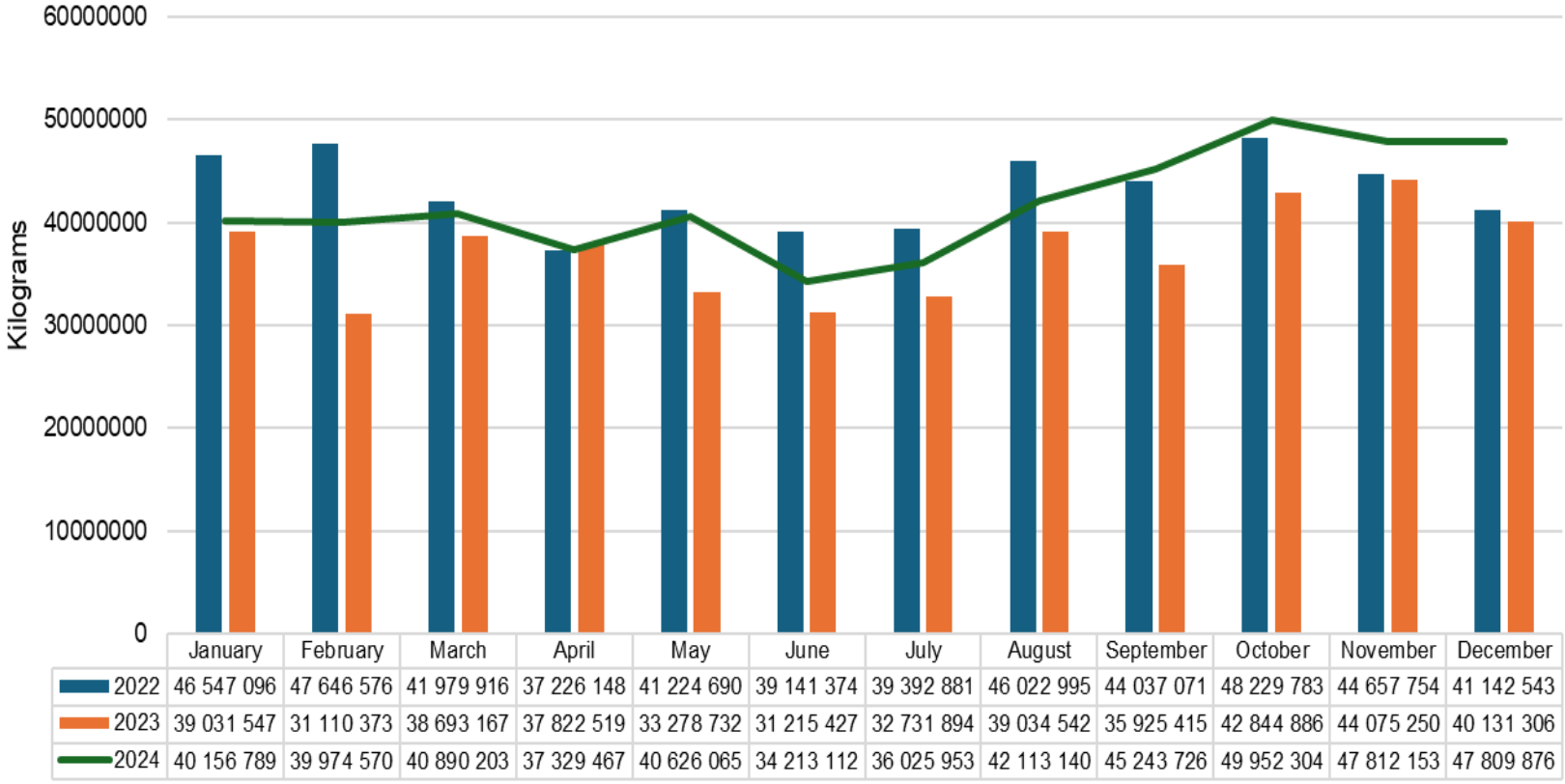


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	3 380 346	4 188 116	3 352 832	3 754 413	3 739 868	3 032 852	2 726 453	2 072 343	2 895 062	2 882 346	2 934 390	2 759 082
2023	3 307 676	3 469 161	3 107 234	2 903 665	3 303 613	3 067 463	2 312 040	4 384 190	4 383 811	3 758 424	4 955 471	4 234 422
2024	3 916 156	3 273 445	4 130 418	3 776 106	3 215 277	2 373 469	3 983 509	4 441 335	3 872 025	5 126 144	4 548 359	4 156 030

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 7 contains the data of unprocessed milk used in fermented products for the period 2022 to 2024. For all the months in 2023 less unprocessed milk was used in fermented products if compared to 2022, except for April 2023. This trend reversed in 2024, where for eleven months more unprocessed milk was channelled to fermented products if compared to 2023, except for April 2024. October registered a new high for the period under review.

Figure 7: Total unprocessed milk used in fermented products (Kg)

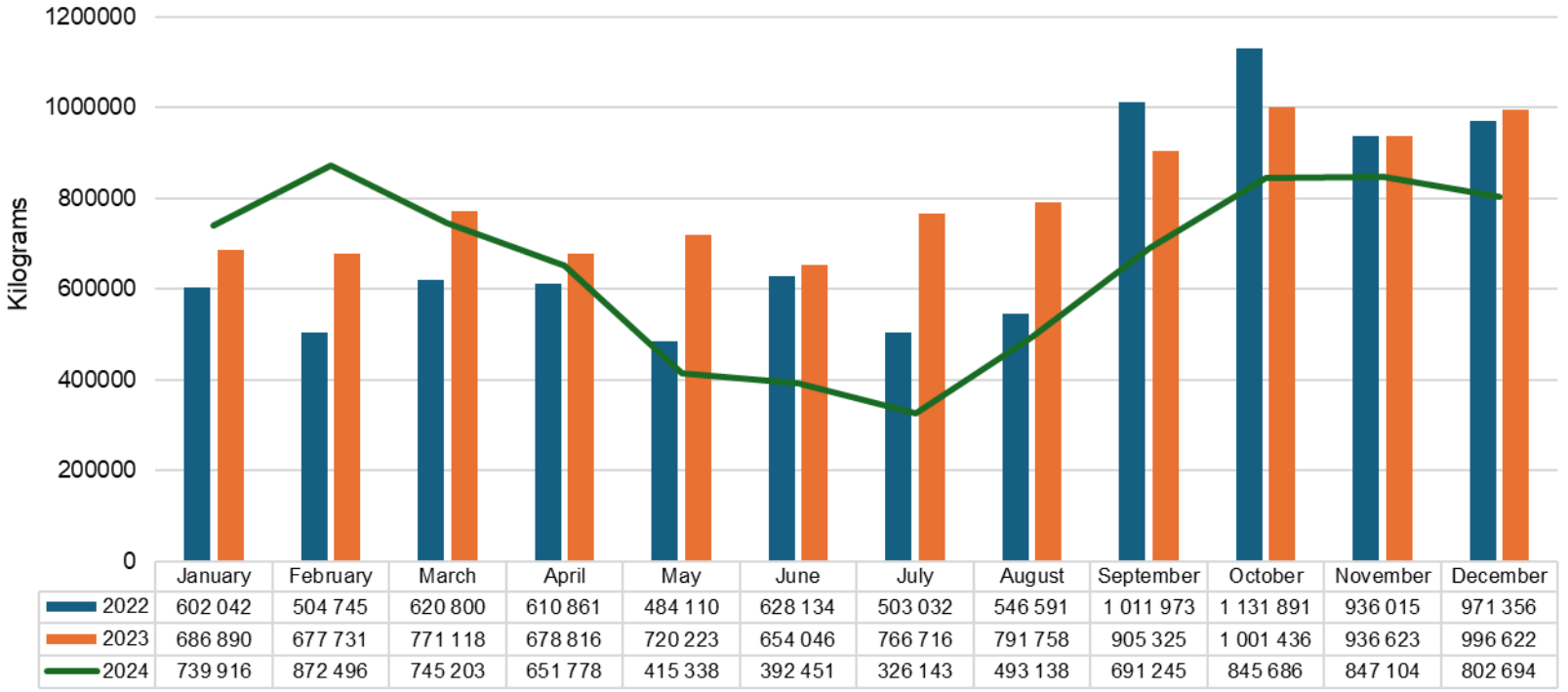


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	46 547 096	47 646 576	41 979 916	37 226 148	41 224 690	39 141 374	39 392 881	46 022 995	44 037 071	48 229 783	44 657 754	41 142 543
2023	39 031 547	31 110 373	38 693 167	37 822 519	33 278 732	31 215 427	32 731 894	39 034 542	35 925 415	42 844 886	44 075 250	40 131 306
2024	40 156 789	39 974 570	40 890 203	37 329 467	40 626 065	34 213 112	36 025 953	42 113 140	45 243 726	49 952 304	47 812 153	47 809 876

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 8 shows the amount of unprocessed milk used in other liquid products. In 2024 the allocation of unprocessed milk towards other liquid dairy products started at a notably higher level than the previous two years but dropped to levels lower than in 2023 in May 2024. These lower levels continued for the rest of 2024.

Figure 8: Total unprocessed milk used in other liquid products (Kg)

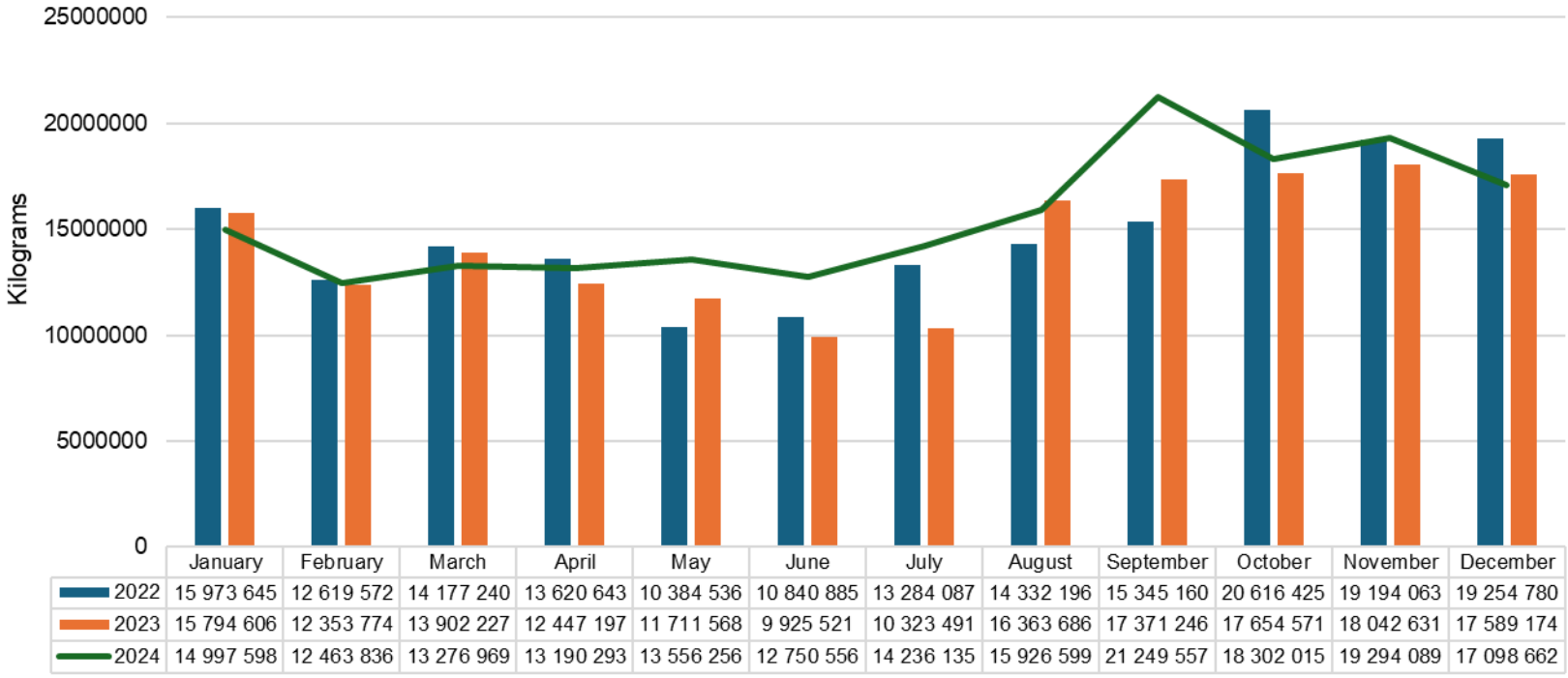


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	602 042	504 745	620 800	610 861	484 110	628 134	503 032	546 591	1 011 973	1 131 891	936 015	971 356
2023	686 890	677 731	771 118	678 816	720 223	654 046	766 716	791 758	905 325	1 001 436	936 623	996 622
2024	739 916	872 496	745 203	651 778	415 338	392 451	326 143	493 138	691 245	845 686	847 104	802 694

(Source: Milk SA)

Figures 9 and 10 shows the amount of unprocessed milk used in full cream milk (FMP) powder and skimmed milk powder (SMP). Comparing the volumes of unprocessed milk channelled to these products between 2022 and 2024, a zig zag pattern is observed for most of the inter play between the different months for both FMP and SMP.

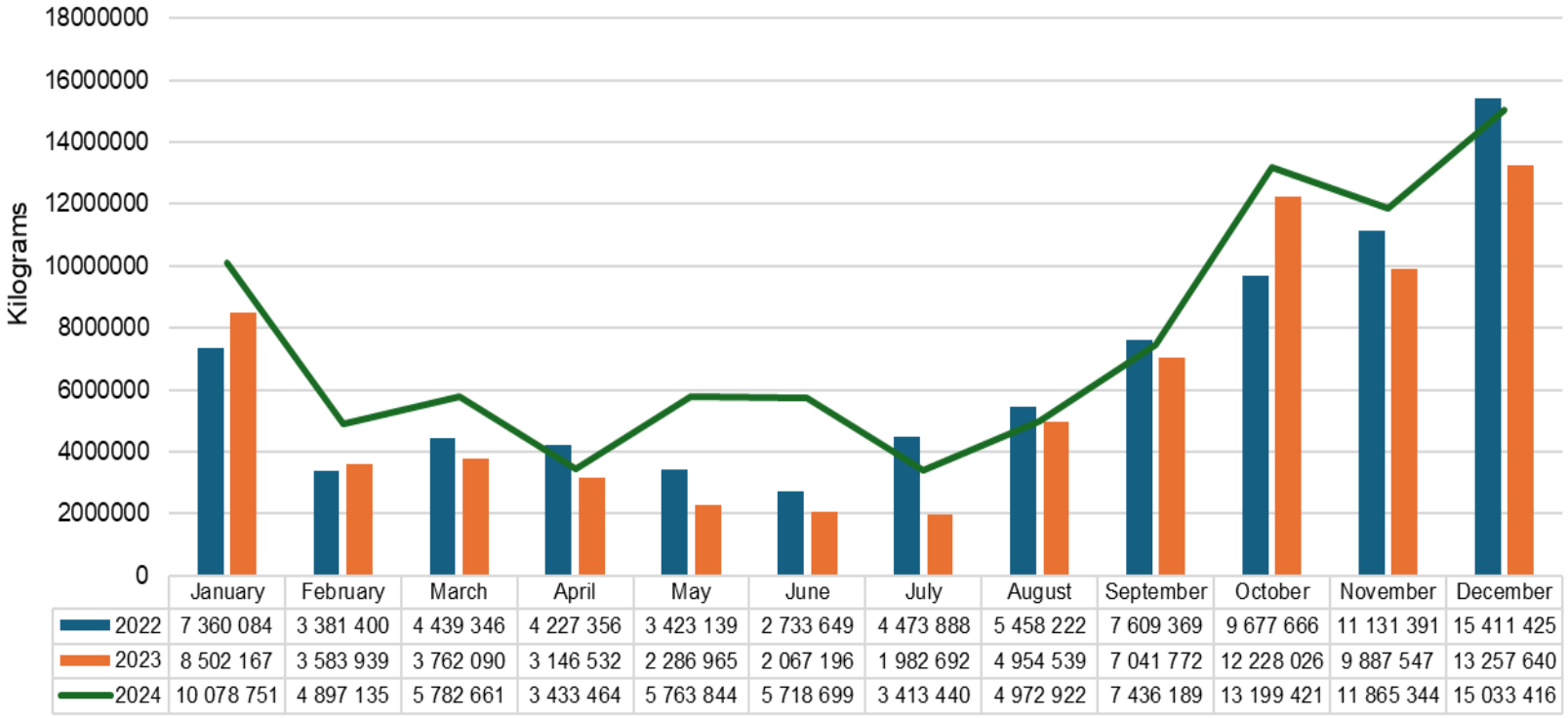
Figure 9: Total unprocessed milk used in FMP (Kg)



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	15 973 645	12 619 572	14 177 240	13 620 643	10 384 536	10 840 885	13 284 087	14 332 196	15 345 160	20 616 425	19 194 063	19 254 780
2023	15 794 606	12 353 774	13 902 227	12 447 197	11 711 568	9 925 521	10 323 491	16 363 686	17 371 246	17 654 571	18 042 631	17 589 174
2024	14 997 598	12 463 836	13 276 969	13 190 293	13 556 256	12 750 556	14 236 135	15 926 599	21 249 557	18 302 015	19 294 089	17 098 662

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 10: Total unprocessed milk used in SMP (Kg)

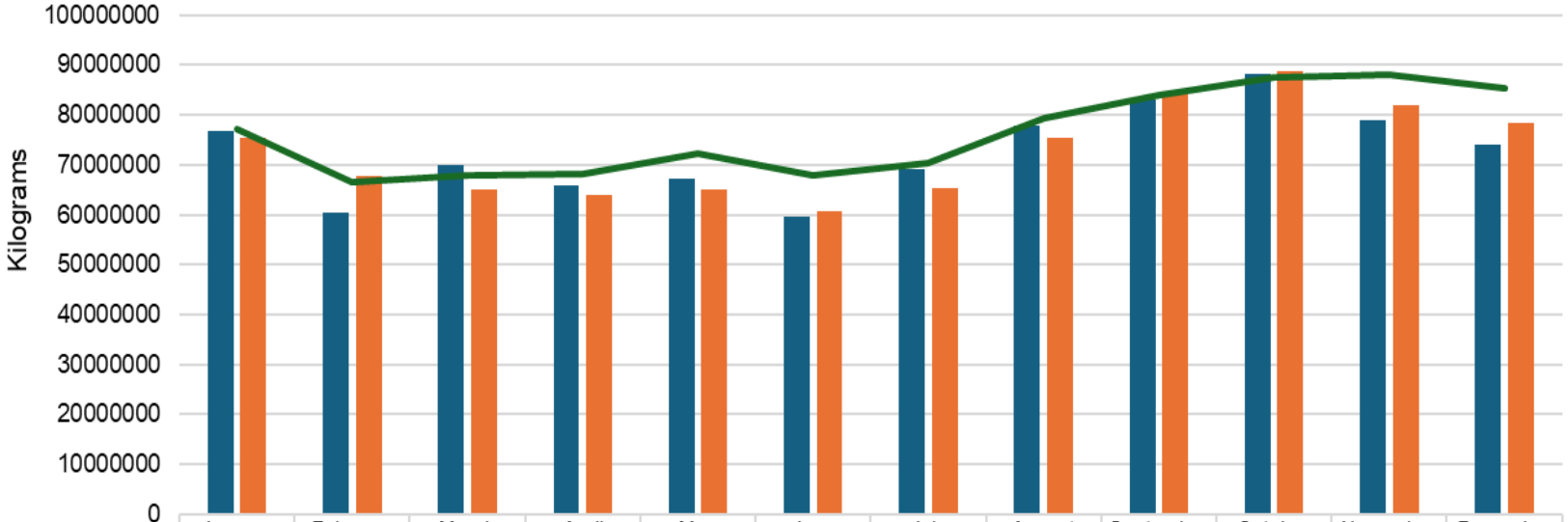


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	7 360 084	3 381 400	4 439 346	4 227 356	3 423 139	2 733 649	4 473 888	5 458 222	7 609 369	9 677 666	11 131 391	15 411 425
2023	8 502 167	3 583 939	3 762 090	3 146 532	2 286 965	2 067 196	1 982 692	4 954 539	7 041 772	12 228 026	9 887 547	13 257 640
2024	10 078 751	4 897 135	5 782 661	3 433 464	5 763 844	5 718 699	3 413 440	4 972 922	7 436 189	13 199 421	11 865 344	15 033 416

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 11 contains the data of unprocessed milk used in cheese for the period 2022 to 2024. The steady flow of the volume of unprocessed milk towards cheese is strikingly evident over the total period observed and are in stark difference to the volatility in volumes of unprocessed milk allocated towards most of the other dairy products. Eight months in 2024 received more unprocessed milk if compared to 2023.

Figure 11: Total unprocessed milk used in cheese, excl. cottage and cream (Kg)

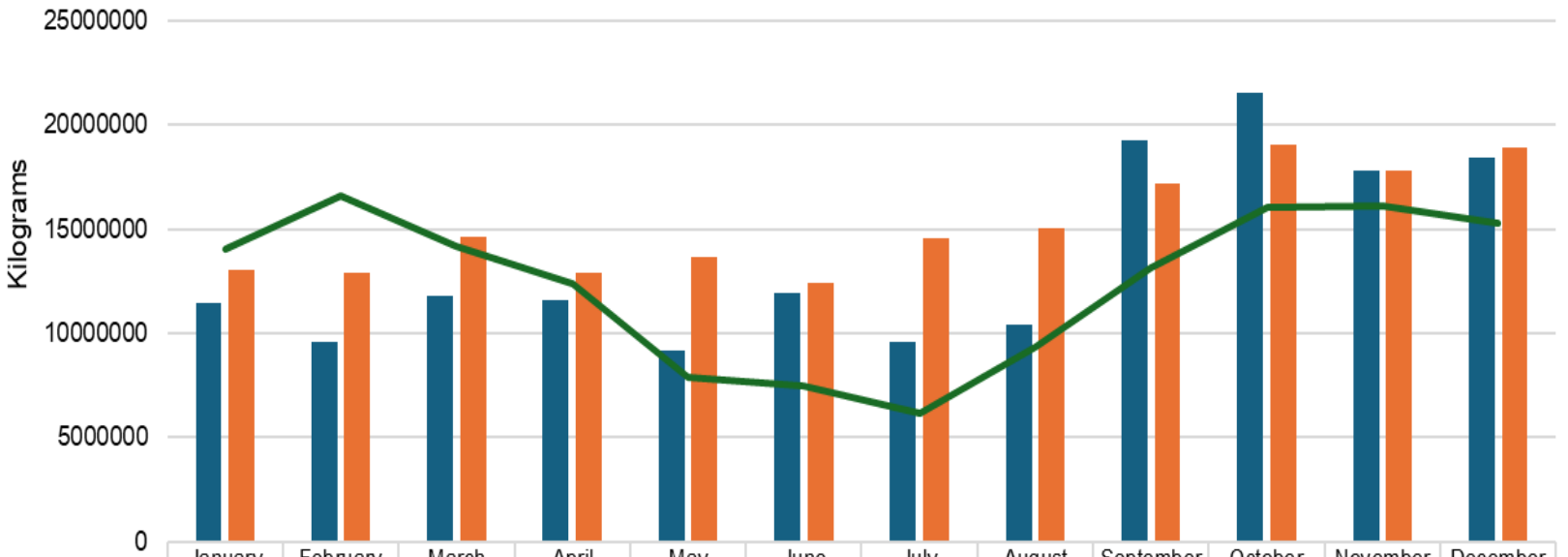


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	76 671 534	60 320 504	69 852 527	65 914 870	67 165 339	59 507 753	69 085 087	77 773 983	83 159 074	88 155 526	78 857 796	73 975 005
2023	75 345 918	67 852 223	65 007 408	63 850 042	65 104 699	60 653 502	65 407 163	75 295 157	84 334 613	88 849 054	81 862 435	78 288 078
2024	77 302 075	66 517 947	67 894 334	68 285 176	72 153 578	67 926 903	70 300 927	79 295 520	84 006 220	87 486 393	88 180 051	85 435 472

(Source: Milk SA)

Figure 12 illustrates the amount of unprocessed milk used in other concentrated products. In 2024, the allocation of unprocessed milk towards other concentrated products started at a notably higher level and continued to move upwards in February, compared to the previous two years. However, since March these levels dropped to levels lower than in 2023 and 2022.

Figure 12: Total unprocessed milk used in other concentrated products (Kg)

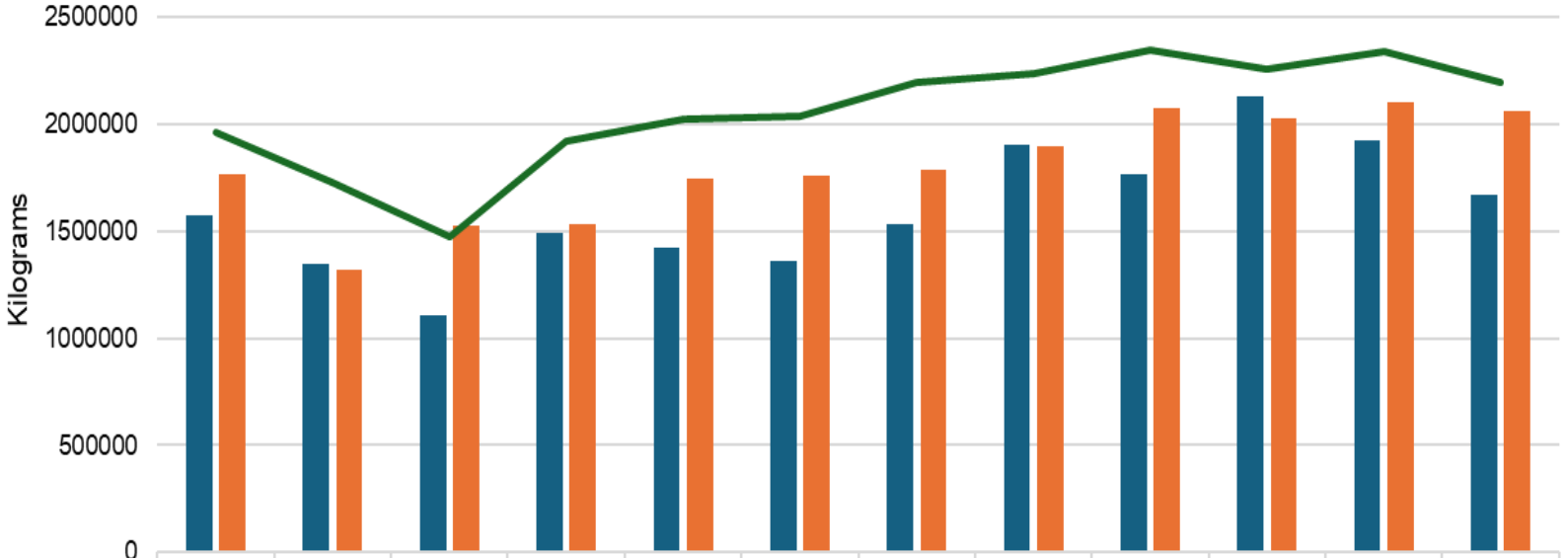


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	11 438 800	9 590 161	11 795 205	11 606 350	9 198 088	11 934 542	9 557 610	10 385 229	19 227 483	21 505 926	17 784 282	18 455 755
2023	13 050 919	12 876 880	14 651 249	12 897 511	13 684 242	12 426 866	14 567 603	15 043 402	17 201 168	19 027 277	17 795 841	18 935 816
2024	14 058 398	16 577 417	14 158 848	12 383 785	7 891 421	7 456 577	6 196 722	9 369 629	13 133 649	16 068 030	16 094 978	15 251 190

(Source: Milk SA)

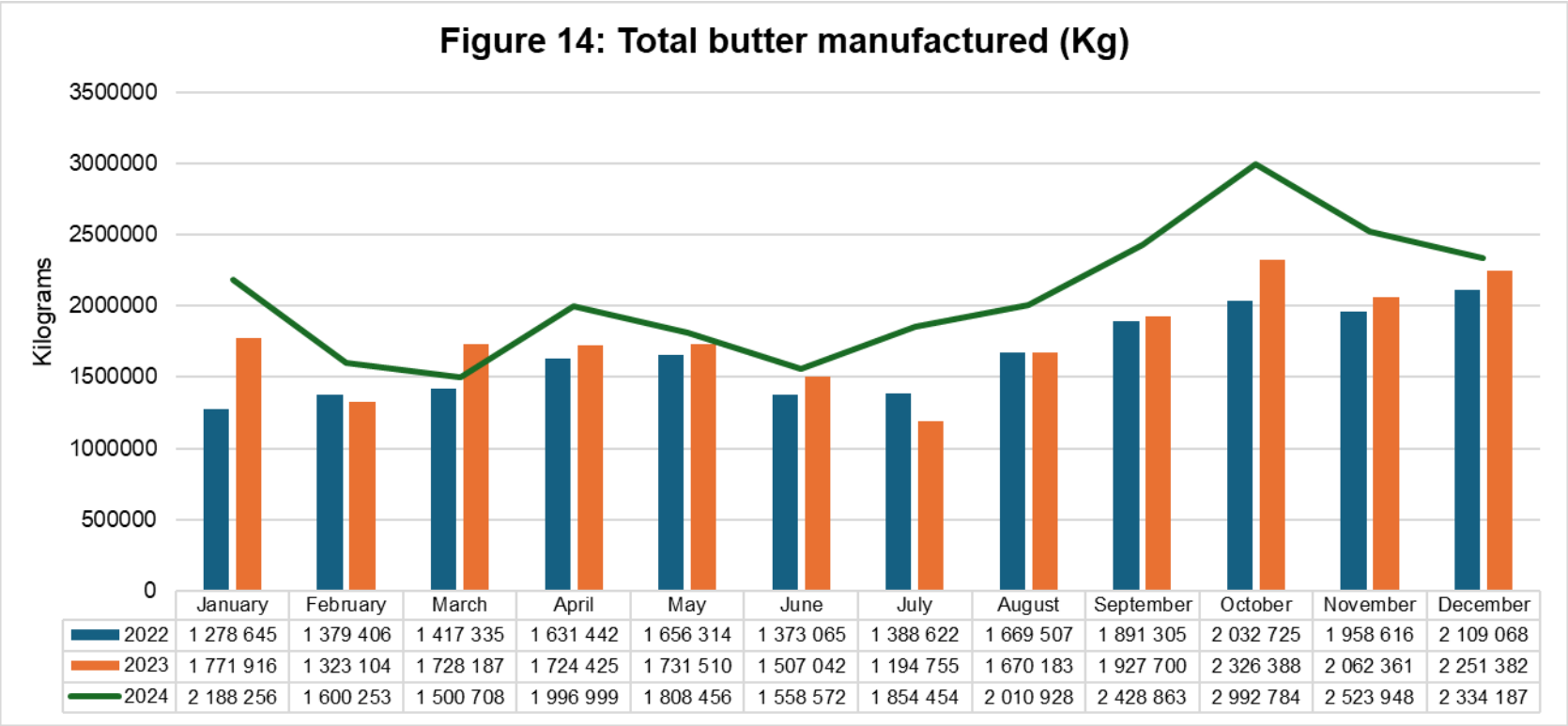
Figures 13 and 14 indicates the manufacturing of whey powder and butter. During 2024 a higher level can be observed for the manufacturing of whey powder, compared to the same period in 2022 and 2023 with the exception of March 2023, when production was marginally lower than in 2023. Higher manufactured volumes of butter can also be observed for 2024 compared to 2022 and 2023, bar March 2023.

Figure 13: Total whey powder manufactured (Kg)



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	1 573 634	1 349 850	1 108 706	1 489 150	1 422 075	1 359 650	1 533 600	1 904 425	1 769 250	2 130 925	1 922 425	1 670 525
2023	1 764 625	1 320 700	1 528 225	1 531 675	1 748 041	1 761 975	1 784 677	1 897 675	2 074 600	2 027 400	2 103 600	2 063 100
2024	1 963 383	1 727 975	1 474 200	1 921 350	2 023 875	2 036 150	2 198 600	2 235 250	2 349 325	2 259 375	2 336 650	2 197 837

(Source: Milk SA)



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	1 278 645	1 379 406	1 417 335	1 631 442	1 656 314	1 373 065	1 388 622	1 669 507	1 891 305	2 032 725	1 958 616	2 109 068
2023	1 771 916	1 323 104	1 728 187	1 724 425	1 731 510	1 507 042	1 194 755	1 670 183	1 927 700	2 326 388	2 062 361	2 251 382
2024	2 188 256	1 600 253	1 500 708	1 996 999	1 808 456	1 558 572	1 854 454	2 010 928	2 428 863	2 992 784	2 523 948	2 334 187

(Source: Milk SA)

Author	**Bertus van Heerden**	**Project Manager: Milk SA Project – Economies and Markets**