

## SA delegates lined up for World Dairy Summit

With the theme “Nourishing a sustainable world”, the 2025 summit in Santiago, Chile will feature a comprehensive programme addressing key innovations in the dairy industry, from sustainable practices, technological advancements and artificial intelligence to market trends and nutritional science. This is not only a platform for learning and networking, but also a celebration of the dairy community’s resilience and dedication.

The delegates nominated by Milk SA and the South African National Committee of the International Dairy Federation (SANCIDF) are Christine Leighton, Maretha Vermaak, Bertus van Heerden, Dr Mark Chimes, Melt Loubser, Dr Colin Ohlhoff, and Anneke van Niekerk. Dr Ndumiso Mazibuko was nominated as a delegate from the South African Milk Processors’ Organisation (Sampro). These experts are involved in Milk SA’s projects and will participate in the preceding standing committees of the IDF as well as the summit sessions. Loubser was elected an IDF director in November last year.

The full report of last year’s summit held in France is available at [www.milksa.co.za/node/3339](http://www.milksa.co.za/node/3339).

## Unprocessed milk flow, from farm to factory

Milk production/intake in South Africa grew for 17 consecutive months up to March 2025, before dipping with 1,88% in April 2025. Year-on-year (YoY), milk flowed in a positive direction by 3,56% during 2024 – the highest since 2018. The first four months of 2025 registered growth of 0,75% YoY. The average growth in milk production for the ten years up to 2024 was 1,17%, while it was only 0,16% for the past five years. Total milk produced in 2024 (3,46 billion kg) is almost 16% more than in 2014.

Although the YoY retail sale volumes for the first quarter of 2025 was positive for all dairy product categories except for butter (-17,4%), retail prices disappointed with eight out of the nine products performing lower than the inflation rate. The economy and consumers remain under immense pressure.

Retail sales trends can be accessed at [www.milksa.co.za/taxonomy/term/196](http://www.milksa.co.za/taxonomy/term/196).

## Exports to the BeLN countries

Typically, 75% of combined sales to Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Namibia (BeLN), together with exports, manifest as sales to these countries every year. They, together with South Africa, form the Southern African Customs Union (Sacu).

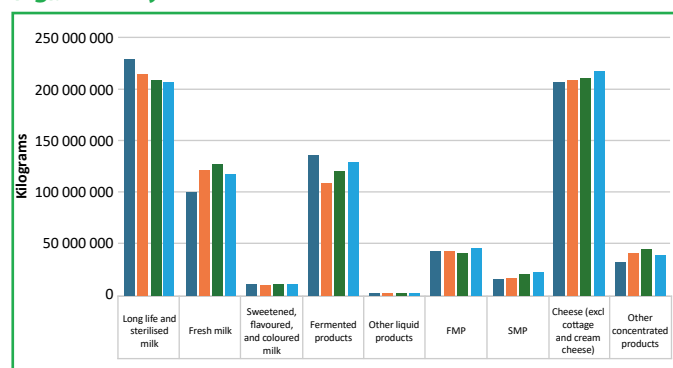
- On a **mass** basis, intra dairy exports to the BeLN were 10,09% higher in the first quarter of 2025, YoY.
- The average free on board (FOB) price for intra concentrated milk (04,02) exports to the BeLN during the first quarter increased significantly by 390,44%.
- The total **value** of intra trade exports for the first quarter of 2025 increased by 14,26%, with the **value** of milk and cream increasing the most (33,47%), while the intra dairy **mass** exports increased by 59,71%.

The full report will be available on Milk SA’s website in due course.

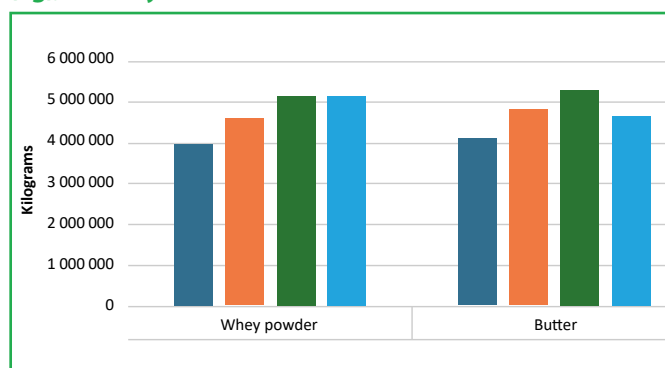
## Processing/manufacturing trends of unprocessed milk

The current statutory measures (regulations) enable industry to measure and follow trends regarding the different products that are processed/manufactured from unprocessed (raw) milk intake. In our fourth year of collating this data, these trends are becoming increasingly interesting and insightful. *Figures 1 and 2* show the performance of quarter one for each of the four years, 2022 to 2025.

**Figure 1: Total unprocessed milk used in dairy products (kg), January to March 2022-25.**



**Figure 2: Total whey powder and butter manufactured (kg), January to March 2022-25.**



Reports are available at [www.milksa.co.za/taxonomy/term/1611](http://www.milksa.co.za/taxonomy/term/1611).