Milk South Africa
Melk Suid-Afrika

Quarterly overview of the use of unprocessed milk in dairy products

in the second quarter of 2025

This 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. The better the information the more optimally the invisible hand can function. 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. 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 and the production of byproducts *(whey and butter)* for the first six months of 2025 is compared over the same period for 2022 to 2024 as shown in Table 1.

- Comparing the first six months of 2025 to the same period in 2024, the percentage shift in the application of unprocessed milk in dairy products was most notable in sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk, which is up by 16.88%. If the mass of the allocation shifts is considered most of the shift was increased allocation to fermented products (15 296 tonnes) and reduced allocation to fresh milk (21 556 tonnes).

- Both manufactured byproduct volumes are slightly down over the six months of 2025 if compared to the same period in 2024.

- Overall, the total cumulative use of unprocessed milk in dairy products decreased with 0.25% in the first six of 2025 when compared to the same period in 2024.

- 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 as a second tier.

- Figures 3 to 11 graphically display 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, 2024 and for the first six months of 2025, are notably different from the more volatile volumes of unprocessed milk allocated towards the other dairy products.

- Figures 12 and 13 display the production of byproducts.

In Table 1 the application of unprocessed milk towards dairy products is reflected in comparison to the same periods in the previous three years. Comparing the first six months of 2025 to the same period in 2024, the percentage shifts in the application of unprocessed milk in dairy products was the most notable in sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk, which is up by 16.88%, skimmed milk powder up by 10.07% while the allocation to fresh milk reduced with 8.49%. If the mass of the allocation shifts is considered most of the shift was increased allocation to fermented products (15 296 tonnes) and reduced allocation to fresh milk (21 556 tonnes).

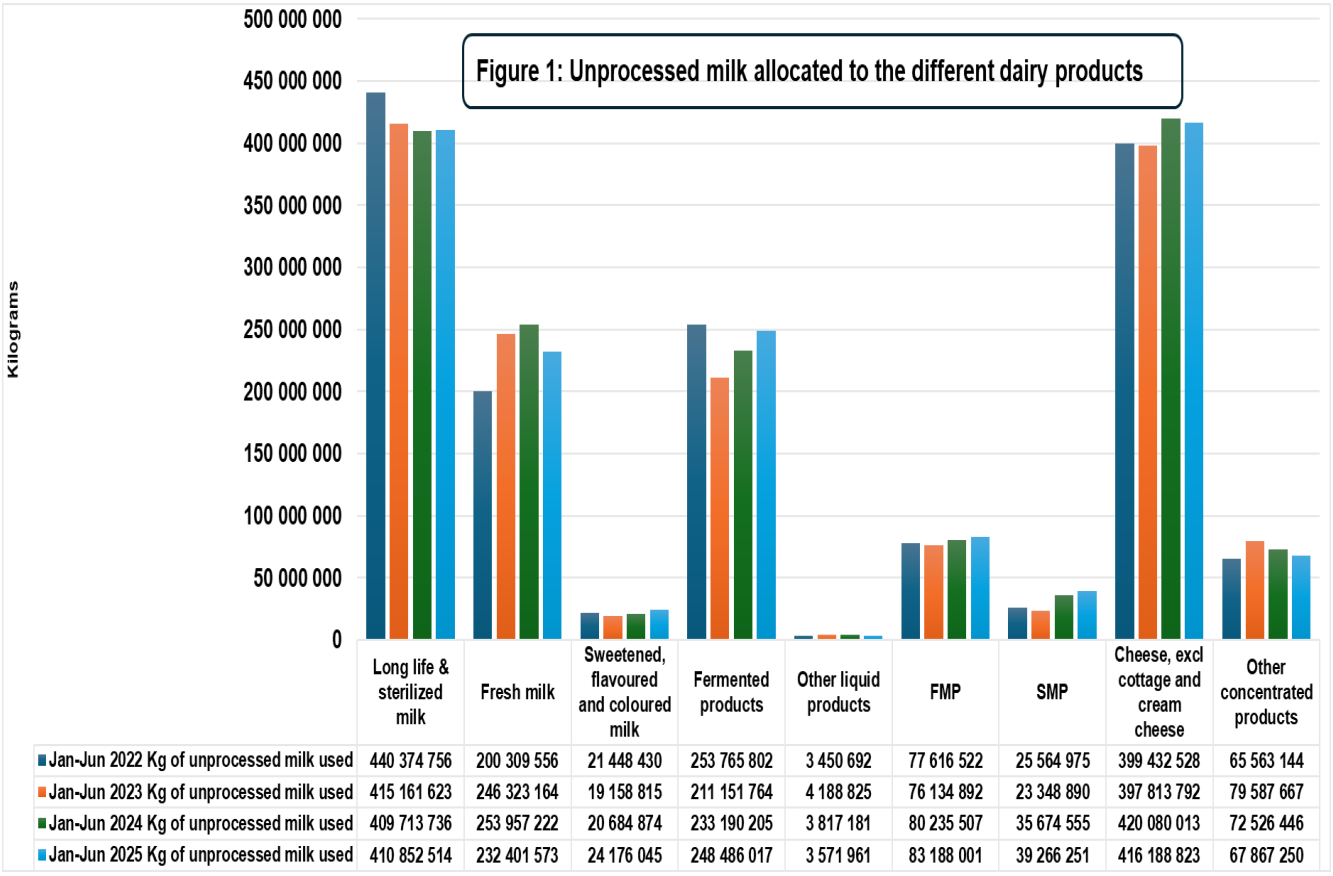
Both butter and whey powder manufacturing reduced respectively with 1.94% and 1.81%.

Table 1: Cumulative use of unprocessed milk in dairy products

Product/Period	Jan-Jun 2022 Kg of unprocessed milk used	Jan-Jun 2023 Kg of unprocessed milk used	Jan-Jun 2024 Kg of unprocessed milk used	Jan-Jun 2025 Kg of unprocessed milk used	% Change 2025 to 2024	Change in milk allocation in mass. 2024 to 2025
Long life & sterilized milk	440 374 756	415 161 623	409 713 736	410 852 514	0.28%	1 138 778
Fresh milk	200 309 556	246 323 164	253 957 222	232 401 573	-8.49%	-21 555 649
Sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk	21 448 430	19 158 815	20 684 874	24 176 045	16.88%	3 491 171
Fermented products	253 765 802	211 151 764	233 190 205	248 486 017	6.56%	15 295 812
Other liquid products	3 450 692	4 188 825	3 817 181	3 571 961	-6.42%	-245 221
FMP	77 616 522	76 134 892	80 235 507	83 188 001	3.68%	2 952 494
SMP	25 564 975	23 348 890	35 674 555	39 266 251	10.07%	3 591 696
Cheese, excl cottage and cream cheese	399 432 528	397 813 792	420 080 013	416 188 823	-0.93%	-3 891 190
Other concentrated products	65 563 144	79 587 667	72 526 446	67 867 250	-6.42%	-4 659 195
Total kg unprocessed milk used in dairy products	1 487 526 405	1 472 869 431	1 529 879 739	1 525 998 435	-0.25%	-3 881 304
Whey powder	8 303 065	9 655 241	11 146 933	10 944 704	-1.81%	-202 229
Butter	8 736 206	9 786 183	10 653 244	10 447 000	-1.94%	-206 244

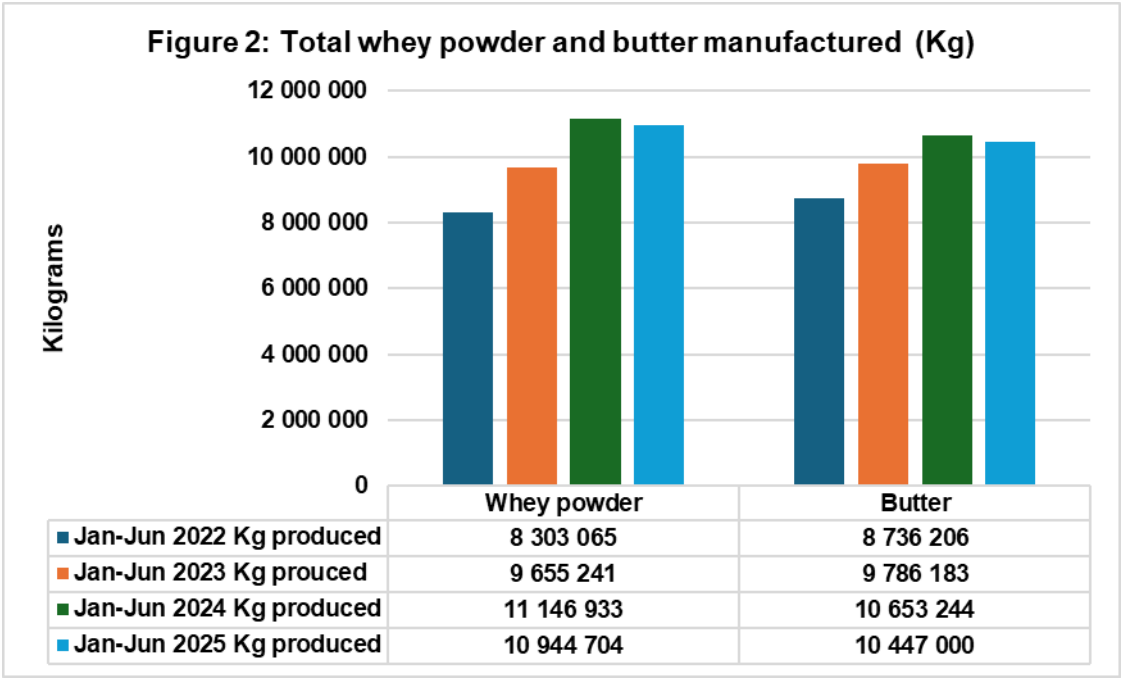
(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figures 1 and 2 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.



	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-Jun 2022 Kg of unprocessed milk used	440 374 756	200 309 556	21 448 430	253 765 802	3 450 692	77 616 522	25 564 975	399 432 528	65 563 144
Jan-Jun 2023 Kg of unprocessed milk used	415 161 623	246 323 164	19 158 815	211 151 764	4 188 825	76 134 892	23 348 890	397 813 792	79 587 667
Jan-Jun 2024 Kg of unprocessed milk used	409 713 736	253 957 222	20 684 874	233 190 205	3 817 181	80 235 507	35 674 555	420 080 013	72 526 446
Jan-Jun 2025 Kg of unprocessed milk used	410 852 514	232 401 573	24 176 045	248 486 017	3 571 961	83 188 001	39 266 251	416 188 823	67 867 250

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

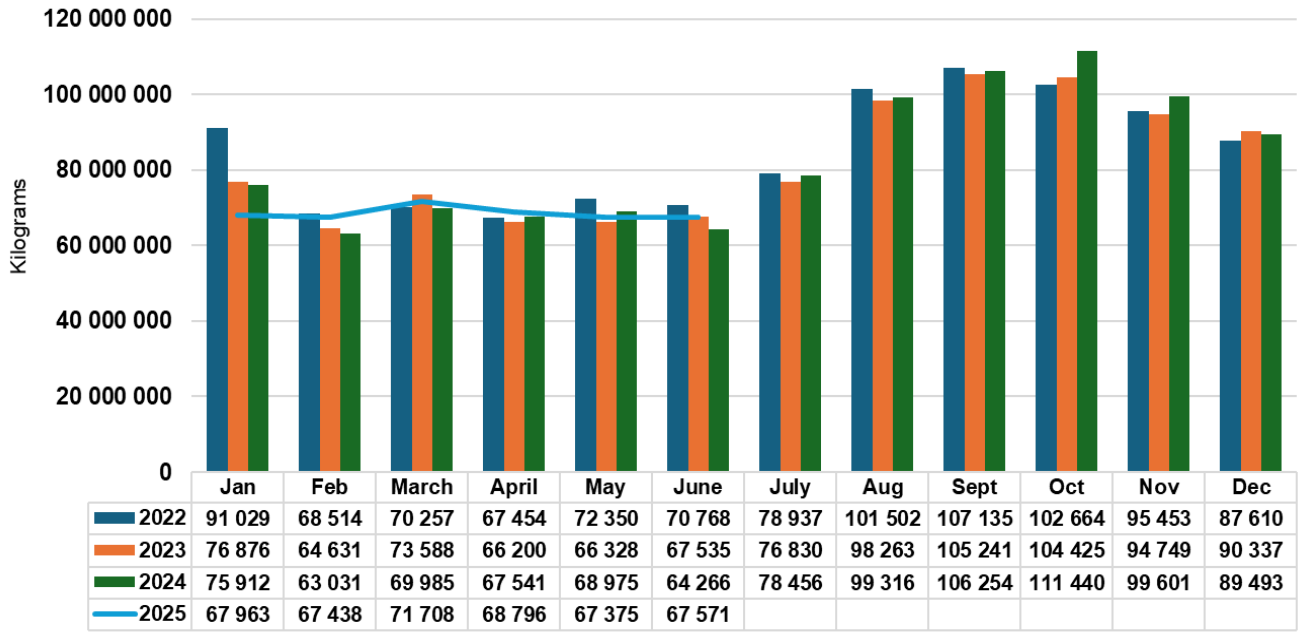


	Whey powder	Butter
Jan-Jun 2022 Kg produced	8 303 065	8 736 206
Jan-Jun 2023 Kg prouced	9 655 241	9 786 183
Jan-Jun 2024 Kg produced	11 146 933	10 653 244
Jan-Jun 2025 Kg produced	10 944 704	10 447 000

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figure 3 shows the amount of unprocessed milk used in long life and sterilized milk. In 2024 less unprocessed milk was used in long life and sterilized milk in 5 of the 12 months if compared to 2023. In the first six months of 2025, less unprocessed milk was used in long life and sterilized milk for two months if compared to 2024.

Figure 3: Total unprocessed milk used in long life & sterilized milk (Kg)

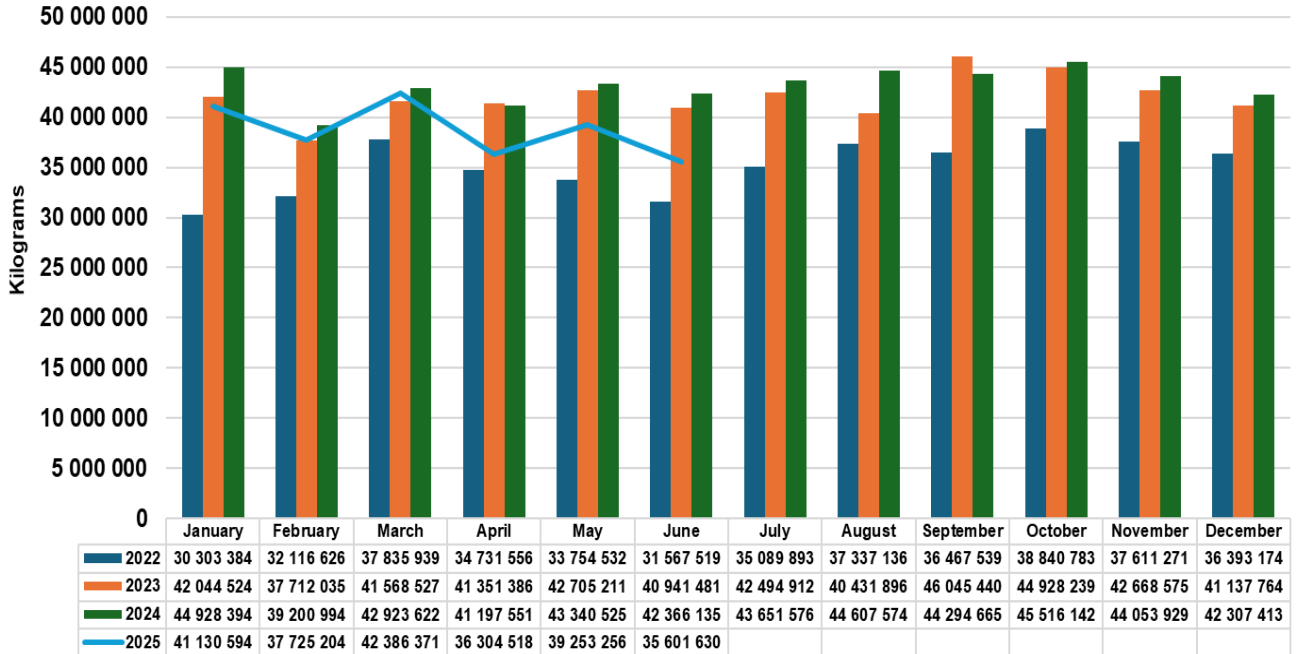


	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2022	91 029	68 514	70 257	67 454	72 350	70 768	78 937	101 502	107 135	102 664	95 453	87 610
2023	76 876	64 631	73 588	66 200	66 328	67 535	76 830	98 263	105 241	104 425	94 749	90 337
2024	75 912	63 031	69 985	67 541	68 975	64 266	78 456	99 316	106 254	111 440	99 601	89 493
2025	67 963	67 438	71 708	68 796	67 375	67 571						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figure 4 contains the data of unprocessed milk used in fresh milk for the period 2022 to 2024 inclusive of the first six months of 2025. For all the months in 2023 more unprocessed milk was used in fresh milk if compared to 2022. In 2024 more unprocessed milk was used in 10 months if compared to 2023, while for the first six months of 2025, all six months utilised less unprocessed milk if compared to same months in 2024.

Figure 4: Total unprocessed milk used in fresh milk (Kg)

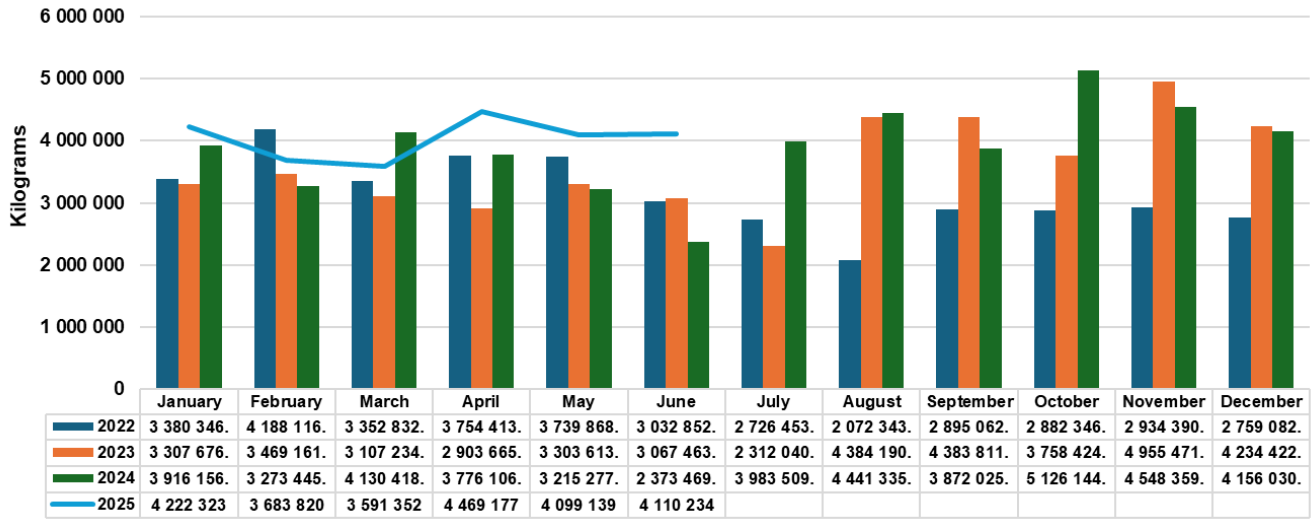


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	30 303 384	32 116 626	37 835 939	34 731 556	33 754 532	31 567 519	35 089 893	37 337 136	36 467 539	38 840 783	37 611 271	36 393 174
2023	42 044 524	37 712 035	41 568 527	41 351 386	42 705 211	40 941 481	42 494 912	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
2025	41 130 594	37 725 204	42 386 371	36 304 518	39 253 256	35 601 630						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figure 5 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. In 2024 unprocessed milk channelled to sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk spiked in January, March, July and October. Over the first six months of 2025 the allocation of unprocessed milk towards these products are higher for four months compared to 2024. January, April, May and June in 2025 registered new record levels for the period under review.

Figure 5: Total unprocessed milk used in sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk (Kg)

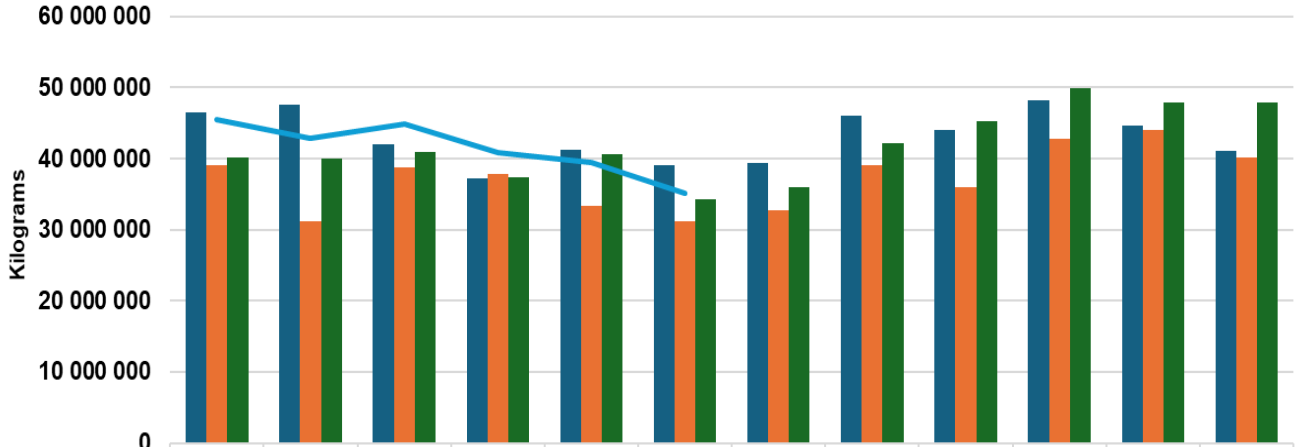


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	3 380 346.	4 188 116.	3 352 832.	3 754 413.	3 739 868.	3 032 852.	2 726 453.	2 072 343.	2 895 062.	2 882 346.	2 934 390.	2 759 082.
2023	3 307 676.	3 469 161.	3 107 234.	2 903 665.	3 303 613.	3 067 463.	2 312 040.	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.
2025	4 222 323	3 683 820	3 591 352	4 469 177	4 099 139	4 110 234						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figure 6 contains the data of unprocessed milk used in fermented products for the period 2022 to 2024 inclusive of the first six months of 2025. 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, again except for April if compared to 2023. In 2025 for all six months except for May, more unprocessed milk was used for fermented products if compared to 2024 and that is on the back of higher volumes already allocated during 2024.

Figure 6: Total unprocessed milk used in fermented products (Kg)

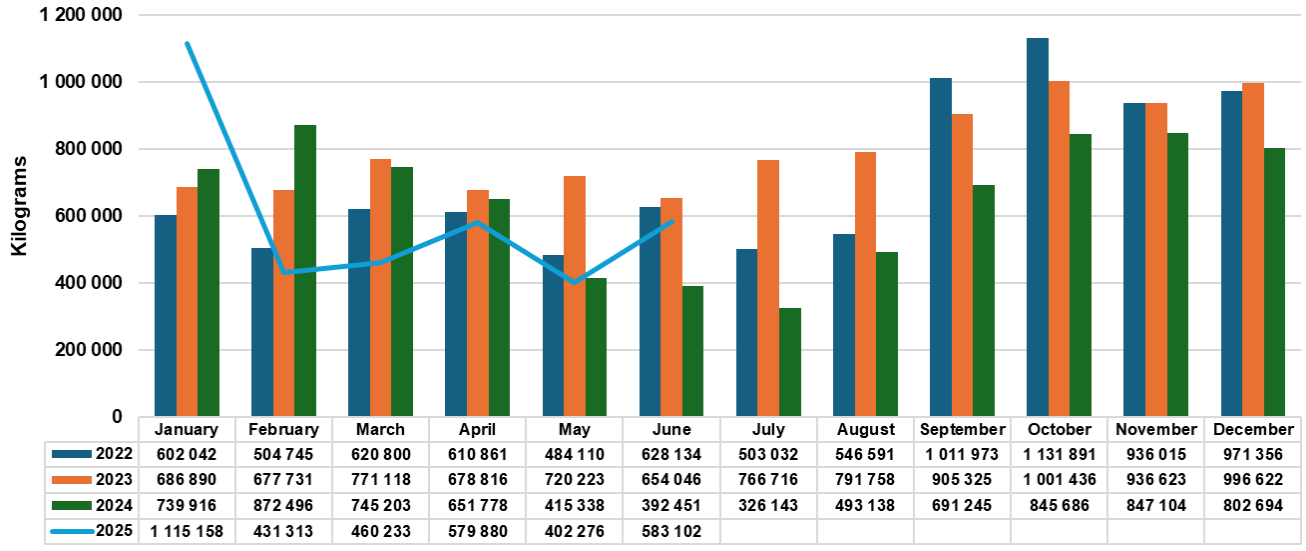


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	46 547 096	47 646 576	41 979 916	37 226 148	41 224 690	39 141 374	39 392 881	46 022 995	44 037 071	48 229 783	44 657 754	41 142 543
2023	39 031 547	31 110 373	38 693 167	37 822 519	33 278 732	31 215 427	32 731 894	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
2025	45 440 046	42 777 705	44 865 893	40 794 991	39 489 073	35 118 309						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figure 7 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 July through December 2024. In 2025 unprocessed milk used for other liquid products spiked in January but dropped drastically in the next four months, registering lower volumes for all the months except June 2025.

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

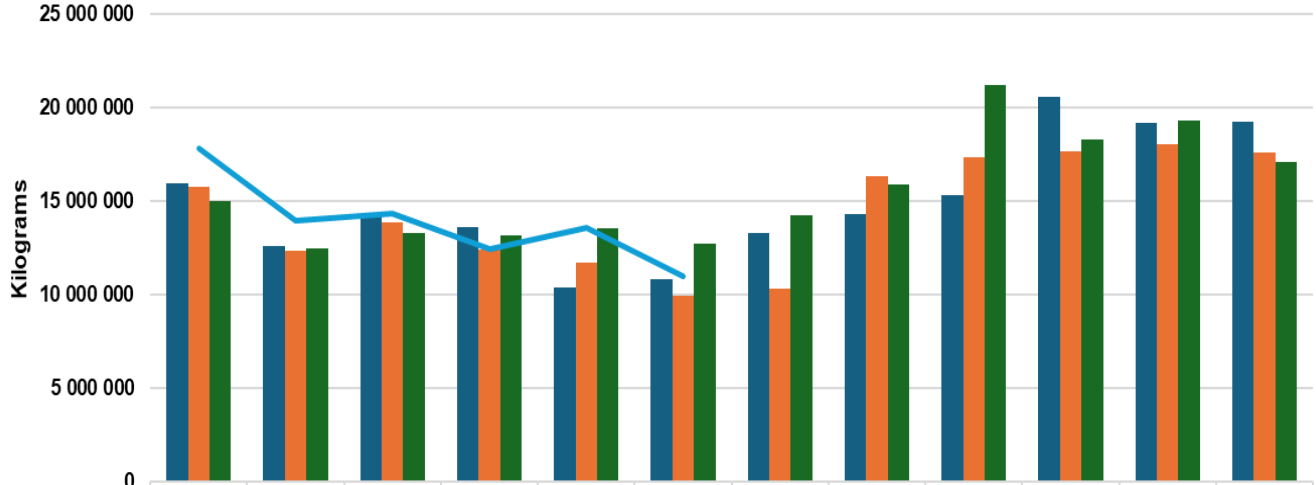


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	602 042	504 745	620 800	610 861	484 110	628 134	503 032	546 591	1 011 973	1 131 891	936 015	971 356
2023	686 890	677 731	771 118	678 816	720 223	654 046	766 716	791 758	905 325	1 001 436	936 623	996 622
2024	739 916	872 496	745 203	651 778	415 338	392 451	326 143	493 138	691 245	845 686	847 104	802 694
2025	1 115 158	431 313	460 233	579 880	402 276	583 102						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figures 8 and 9 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. However, for most of the first seven months of 2024, outright more volumes of unprocessed milk were pushed towards SMP. In 2025 more unprocessed milk was used for FMP in the first quarter of 2025 but allocations reversed in the second quarter of 2025 with less unprocessed milk used for FMP if compared to 2024.

Figure 8: Total unprocessed milk used in FMP (Kg)

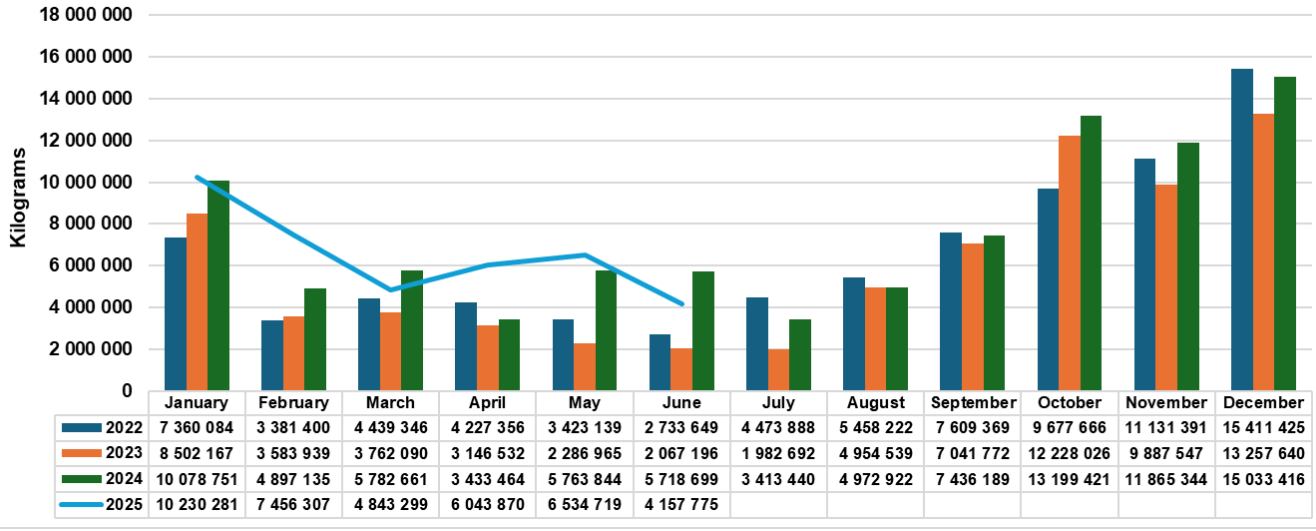


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	15 973 645	12 619 572	14 177 240	13 620 643	10 384 536	10 840 885	13 284 087	14 332 196	15 345 160	20 616 425	19 194 063	19 254 780
2023	15 794 606	12 353 774	13 902 227	12 447 197	11 711 568	9 925 521	10 323 491	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
2025	17 835 259	13 991 365	14 354 365	12 454 600	13 581 717	10 970 695						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

In the first six months of 2025, less unprocessed milk was channelled to SMP in March and June if compared to 2024.

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

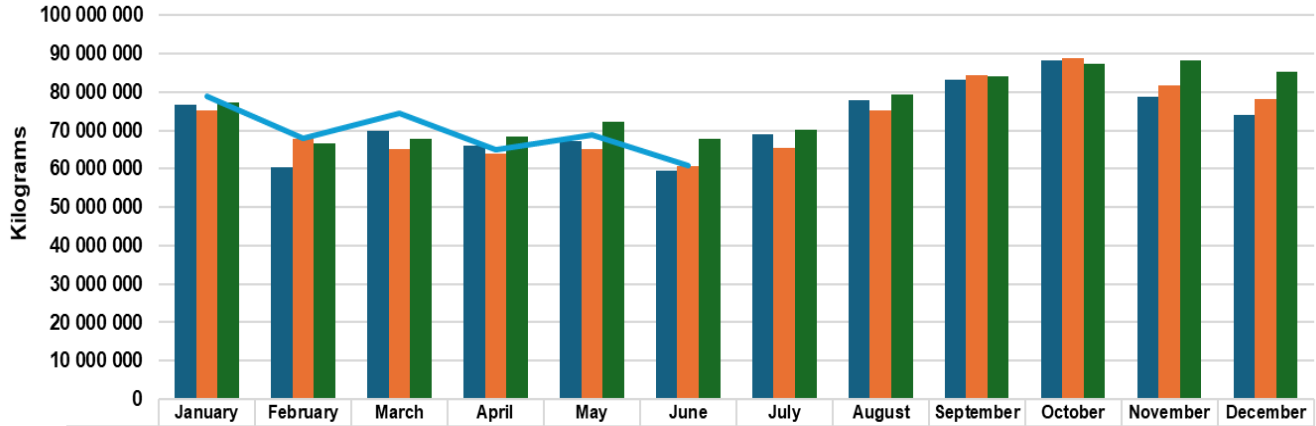


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	7 360 084	3 381 400	4 439 346	4 227 356	3 423 139	2 733 649	4 473 888	5 458 222	7 609 369	9 677 666	11 131 391	15 411 425
2023	8 502 167	3 583 939	3 762 090	3 146 532	2 286 965	2 067 196	1 982 692	4 954 539	7 041 772	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
2025	10 230 281	7 456 307	4 843 299	6 043 870	6 534 719	4 157 775						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figure 10 contains the data of unprocessed milk used in cheese for the period 2022 to 2024 inclusive of the first six months of 2025. In 2025 more unprocessed milk was channelled to cheese in all three months of the first quarter while the opposite occurred in the three months of the second quarter of 2025 if compared 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 the other dairy products.

Figure 10: Total unprocessed milk used in cheese, excl. cottage and cream (Kg)



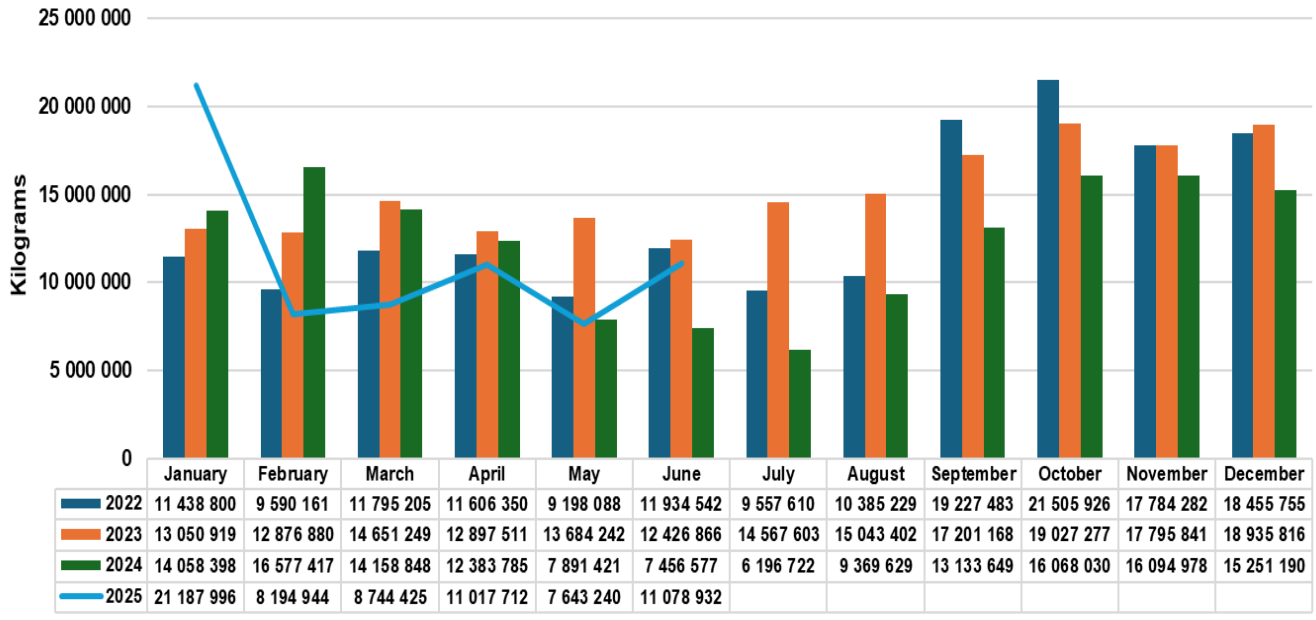
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	76 671 534	60 320 504	69 852 527	65 914 870	67 165 339	59 507 753	69 085 087	77 773 983	83 159 074	88 155 526	78 857 796	73 975 005
2023	75 345 918	67 852 223	65 007 408	63 850 042	65 104 699	60 653 502	65 407 163	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
2025	79 015 481	67 835 611	74 391 842	65 022 661	68 976 370	60 946 858						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figure 11 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 started to drop and in July through December 2024, it dropped to levels lower than the same months in 2023. In the first quarter of 2025, the volume of unprocessed milk

spiked in January but dropped to much lower levels in the next four months except for June where the allocation is higher when compared to 2024.

Figure 11: Total unprocessed milk used in other concentrated products (Kg)

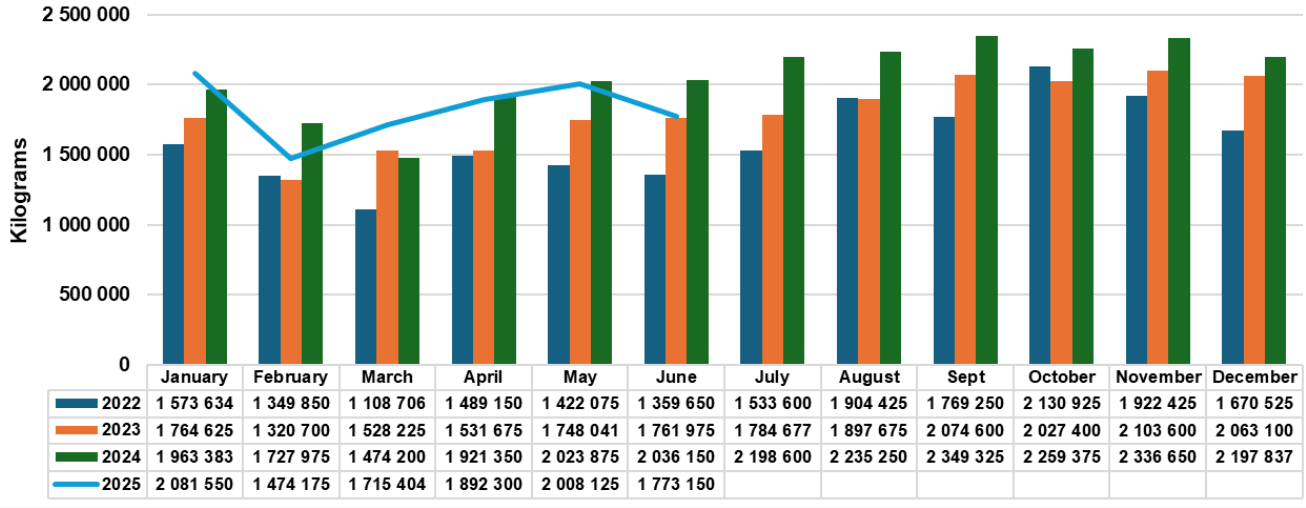


	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
2022	11 438 800	9 590 161	11 795 205	11 606 350	9 198 088	11 934 542	9 557 610	10 385 229	19 227 483	21 505 926	17 784 282	18 455 755
2023	13 050 919	12 876 880	14 651 249	12 897 511	13 684 242	12 426 866	14 567 603	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
2025	21 187 996	8 194 944	8 744 425	11 017 712	7 643 240	11 078 932						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Figures 12 and 13 indicates the manufacturing of whey and butter. In 2024, a higher trend can be observed for the manufacturing of whey, compared to 2023 except for March when manufactured volumes declined. During the first six months of 2025 higher manufacturing volumes for whey are evident for only two of the six months if compared to 2024.

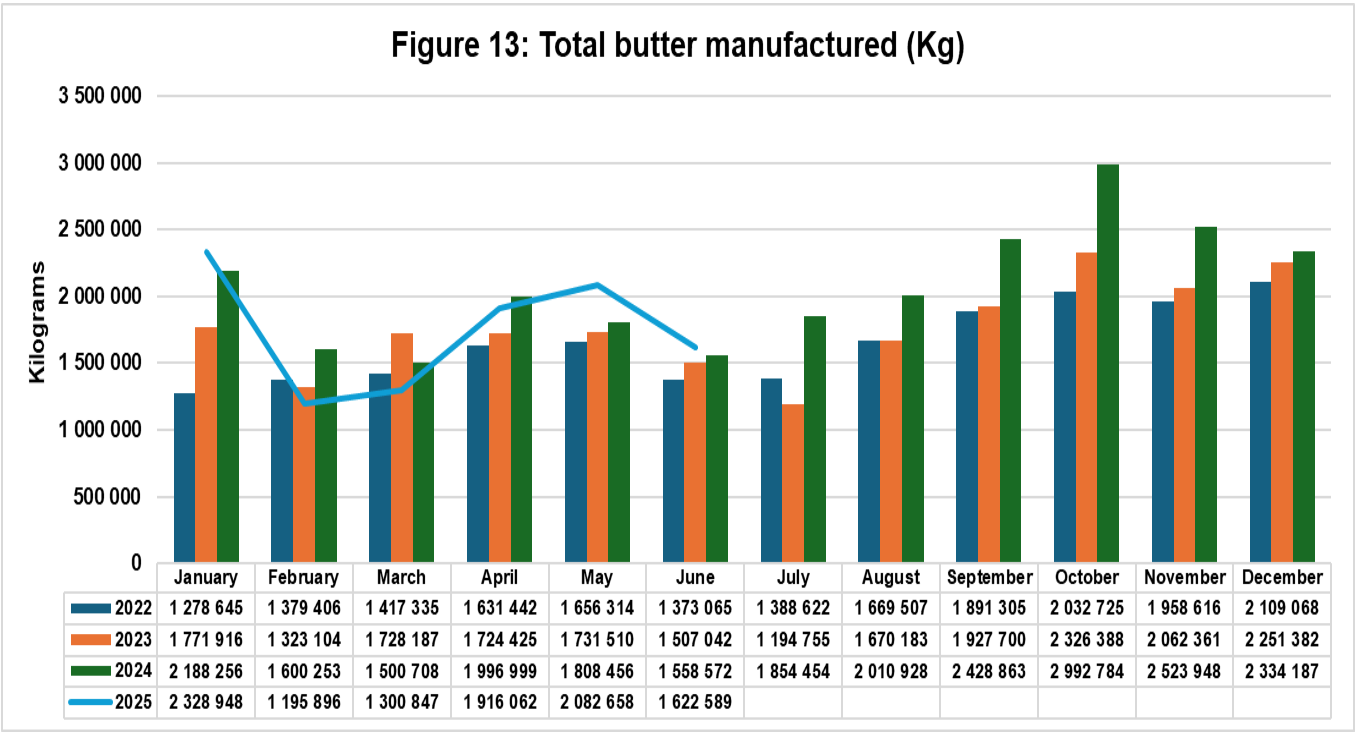
Figure 12: Total whey powder manufactured (Kg)



	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	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
2025	2 081 550	1 474 175	1 715 404	1 892 300	2 008 125	1 773 150						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

In 2024, a higher trend can be observed for the manufacturing of butter, compared to 2023 except for March when manufactured volumes declined. During the first six months of 2025 higher manufacturing volumes are evident for three months if compared to 2024.



	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
2025	2 328 948	1 195 896	1 300 847	1 916 062	2 082 658	1 622 589						

(Source: Milk SA, last two months data preliminary)

Table 2: Total liquid and concentrated dairy products produced (Kg)

Product/Period	Jan-Mch 2022 Kg produced	Jan-Mch 2023 Kg produced	Jan-Mch 2024 Kg produced	Jan-Mch 2025 Kg produced	% Change 2025 to 2024
Long life & sterilized milk	229 801 260	215 096 095	208 930 106	207 109 549	-0.87%
Fresh milk	100 255 949	121 325 086	127 053 011	121 242 169	-4.57%
Sweetened, flavoured and coloured milk	10 921 296	9 884 072	11 320 021	11 497 495	1.57%
Fermented products	136 173 589	108 835 086	121 021 561	133 083 644	9.97%
Other liquid products	1 727 588	2 135 739	2 357 614	2 006 703	-14.88%
Total Liquid Dairy products produced (Kg)	478 879 681	457 276 077	470 682 312	474 939 560	0.90%
FMP	4 749 177	4 669 245	4 523 540	5 127 878	13.36%
SMP	1 254 545	1 309 696	1 715 488	1 861 871	8.53%
Cheese, excl cottage and cream cheese	21 061 817	21 200 398	21 557 680	22 527 922	4.50%
Other concentrated products	17 199 294	21 262 718	23 471 628	19 978 079	-14.88%
Whey powder	4032190	4613550	5165557.6	5271129	2.04%
Butter	4075385	4 823 207	5 289 217	4825691	-8.76%
Total Concentrated Dairy Products Produced Kg	1 010 131 769	972 430 969	1 003 087 735	1 009 471 691	0.64%
Total Dairy Products produced (Kg)	1 489 011 450	1 429 707 046	1 473 770 047	1 484 411 251	0.72%
Percentage liquid dairy products produced	32.16%	31.98%	31.94%	32.00%	
Percentage concentrated dairy products produced	67.84%	68.02%	68.06%	68.00%	

Author	**Bertus van Heerden**	**Project Manager: Milk SA Project – Economies and Markets and Chief Economist MPO**
Contributors:	**Nico Fouché**	**CEO Milk SA**
	De Wet Jonker	**Office Manager and Business Economist: SAMPRO**