Dairy MONTHLY

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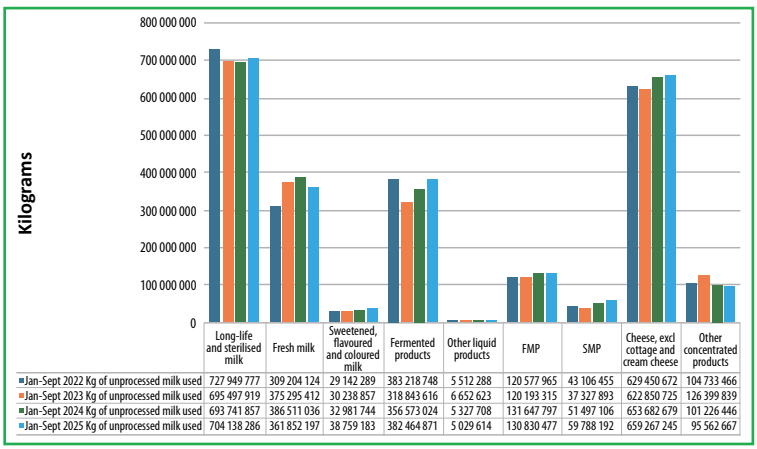
The use of unprocessed milk in dairy products

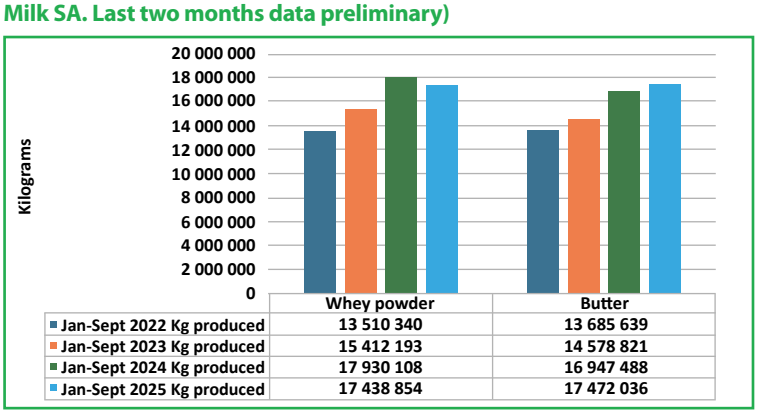
Figures 1 and *2* illustrate the application of unprocessed or raw milk in dairy products, including byproducts, for the first nine months of 2025 compared with the same period in 2022 to 2024. The data show that the bulk of unprocessed milk is used for long-life milk and cheese (excluding cottage and cream cheese), followed by fresh milk and fermented products as the next categories.

Figure 1: Unprocessed milk allocated to the different dairy products. (Source: Milk SA. Last two months data preliminary)



	Long-life and sterilised 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-Sept 2022 Kg of unprocessed milk used	727 949 777	309 204 124	29 142 289	383 218 748	5 512 288	120 577 965	43 106 455	629 450 672	104 733 466
Jan-Sept 2023 Kg of unprocessed milk used	695 497 919	375 295 412	30 238 857	318 843 616	6 652 623	120 193 315	37 327 893	622 850 725	126 399 839
Jan-Sept 2024 Kg of unprocessed milk used	693 741 857	386 511 036	32 981 744	356 573 024	5 327 708	131 647 797	51 497 106	653 682 679	101 226 446
Jan-Sept 2025 Kg of unprocessed milk used	704 138 286	361 852 197	38 759 183	382 464 871	5 029 614	130 830 477	59 788 192	659 267 245	95 562 667

Figure 2: Total whey powder and butter manufactured (kg). (Source: Milk SA. Last two months data preliminary)



	Whey powder	Butter
Jan-Sept 2022 Kg produced	13 510 340	13 685 639
Jan-Sept 2023 Kg produced	15 412 193	14 578 821
Jan-Sept 2024 Kg produced	17 930 108	16 947 488
Jan-Sept 2025 Kg produced	17 438 854	17 472 036

FMD: Update of activities

Currently, the only provinces free of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) are the Northern and Western Cape, and Limpopo. The Eastern Cape has reported no new outbreaks since January 2025. However, the situation in North West and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) has worsened significantly. In response, the ministerial task team has deployed an action group to these provinces for fact-finding and intervention. This has led to the establishment of a joint operations centre in North West.

Dr Mark Chimes, chairperson of the Milk SA FMD Working Group, delivered a presentation on 30 and 31 October at the FMD Indaba organised by the KZN State Veterinary Services in Umhlanga. His presentation, titled "A Radical Rethink of FMD Control Measures is Required", proposed several key interventions, including:

- Compartmentalisation of uninfected provinces.
- Widespread vaccination in infected provinces.
- Concentration of movement control resources along borders between infected and uninfected provinces.
- Authorisation of private laboratories to conduct FMD testing.
- Engagement of private veterinarians to assist with state veterinary responsibilities.
- Lifting quarantine restrictions on vaccinated-but-uninfected farms.

The Milk SA working group comprises representatives nominated by the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO) and South African Milk Processors' Organisation (Sampro), along with dairy cattle veterinarians and other milk producers.

Research project on FMD sampling and analysis

FMD poses an ongoing challenge due to the presence of multiple virus serotypes, requiring vaccines to be carefully matched to the strains circulating in each region. To support this effort, Milk SA has assisted in the collection of several hundred samples – including milk from infected individual cows and bulk tank milk, blood, swabs, and even slurry dams – gathered during peak outbreak periods in selected areas of South Africa. The Dairy Standard Agency has played a crucial role in facilitating this sampling initiative.

Milk SA is currently negotiating with the Pirbright Research Institute in England, as well as with local authorities, to secure the necessary permits for the shipment of these samples to Pirbright for analysis. This step is essential, as the OVI-TAD laboratory presently lacks the required analytical capacity.

Concerns have been raised regarding the effectiveness of some administered vaccines, as cases of reinfection within a few months post-vaccination have been reported. This underscores the importance of selecting the most appropriate vaccine strains – a process that will be guided by the analytical work conducted at the Pirbright Institute. The project is led by Dr Anthony Davis.