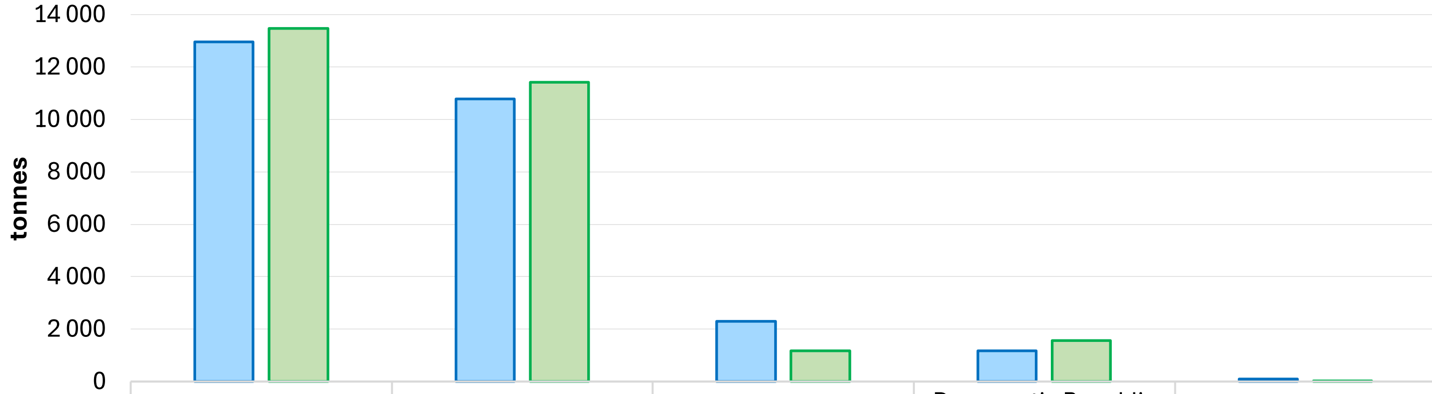
MPO Pointer 7 **26 August 2026**

Dairy exports and sales* on a mass (tonnes) basis to countries that introduced non-tariff barriers due to the changed FMD status of South Africa. Periods covered January to June (2025 vs. 2026).

The following four countries (Namibia, Swaziland, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council) are the countries/group that implemented non-tariff barriers/SPS measures on imported dairy products from South Africa because of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in the country. The figure below illustrates the South African dairy exports to the four countries during the first six months of 2026 as compared to the same period in 2025.

Figure 1: South African dairy exports and sales* to specific countries from January to June of 2025 vs. 2026.



	Namibia	Eswatini	Saudi Arabia	Democratic Republic of the Congo	United Arab Emirates
2025	12 963	10 775	2 310	1 180	96
2026	13 485	11 428	1 182	1 569	32

Source: SARS as supplied by Agri Inspec.

Namibia: Since January 2025 veterinary import permits were required for any livestock or livestock products (including milk and milk products) entering the country. Additionally, no products originating from a farm located within a FMD-quarantined area, or a 10km radius around the area, would be permitted. Despite this, dairy exports to Namibia have increased for the first six months of 2026 compared to the same period in 2025 (+4.0%).

Eswatini: As a result of FMD, the country refused any dairy products from KwaZulu-Natal, since the province was the most heavily infected with the virus. The restriction has since been lifted, allowing some processed dairy products from FMD free zones in KwaZulu-Natal. Regardless of this temporary ban on one of South Africa's largest dairy producing areas, exports to Eswatini increased with 6.1%.

DRC: Data indicates that dairy exports to the DRC for the first six months of this year amounted to 1 569 483 kg, a 33.0% increase from the same period in 2025. It is unclear whether the restriction that was introduced applies to processed dairy products as well.

UAE and Saudi Arabia: Since the end of 2025, exported dairy products had to comply with GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) maximum residue limits and be approved by official health certification confirming appropriate veterinary/chemical controls. The UAE and Saudi Arabia are members of the GCC and were the only two of the six countries to record declines in their dairy imports (on a mass basis) from South Africa, -66.7% and -48.8%, respectively.

Despite lower exports to the UAE and Saudi Arabia, total South African dairy exports and sales* on a mass basis to all countries for the first six months of 2026 were 2.1% higher than during the same period in 2025.

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*** Sale to the BeLN countries**