MPO Pointer 10 **3 November 2026**

Total Supply of Milk – An annual comparison over 24 months

Inside the farmgate: Local milk production in South Africa for the 12 months from September 2025 to August 2026 increased with 40,4 million litres when compared to the 12 months prior, a 1,2% increase. This is equivalent to the milk production of 4.4 days.

Outside the farmgate: Considering the international trade environment over the same period, imports of dairy products increased with 117 million litres (milk equivalent), up 81.1%. South African exports decreased with 1,1% over the same period. The increased milk supply from outside the farmgate equates to 13.4 milk production days.

Total milk supply in milk equivalent terms increased with 165 million litres over the time period under review. This is a 5,6% increase, equivalent to 17.7 milk production days.

The year-on-year decline in unprocessed milk production during the first two months of 2026 created uncertainty within the industry regarding the adequacy of domestic milk supply. The substantial volumes of dairy products subsequently imported have undoubtedly contributed to the market imbalance currently being experienced. This event illuminates the importance of stability within the animal health sector.

Figure 1: Total supply of milk for consecutive 12-month periods from September 2024 to August 2026

	September 2024 to August 2025	September 2025 to August 2026	Increased Production	% Increase	
12-Months Total Production (million litres)	3 367	3 408	+40,4	+ 1,2%	Inside the farmgate
Daily Production (million litres)	9,2	9,3	+0,11	+ 1,2%	
Increased milk in production days				**4.4**	
			Increase in ME	**% Increase**	Outside the farmgate
Plus Imports (million litres)	145	263	+117	+ 81,1%	
Total *(Production + Imports)* (million litres)	3 512	3 671	+159	+ 4,5%	
Minus Exports and Intra trade (million litres)	550	544	-6	-1,1%	
Milk available in ME (million litres)	2 962	3 127	+165	+5,6%	
Increased milk in production days				**13.4**	
Total Days				**17.7**	

Source: SARS as supplied by Agri Inspec; Milk SA; Trade expressed in Milk Equivalent (ME)

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