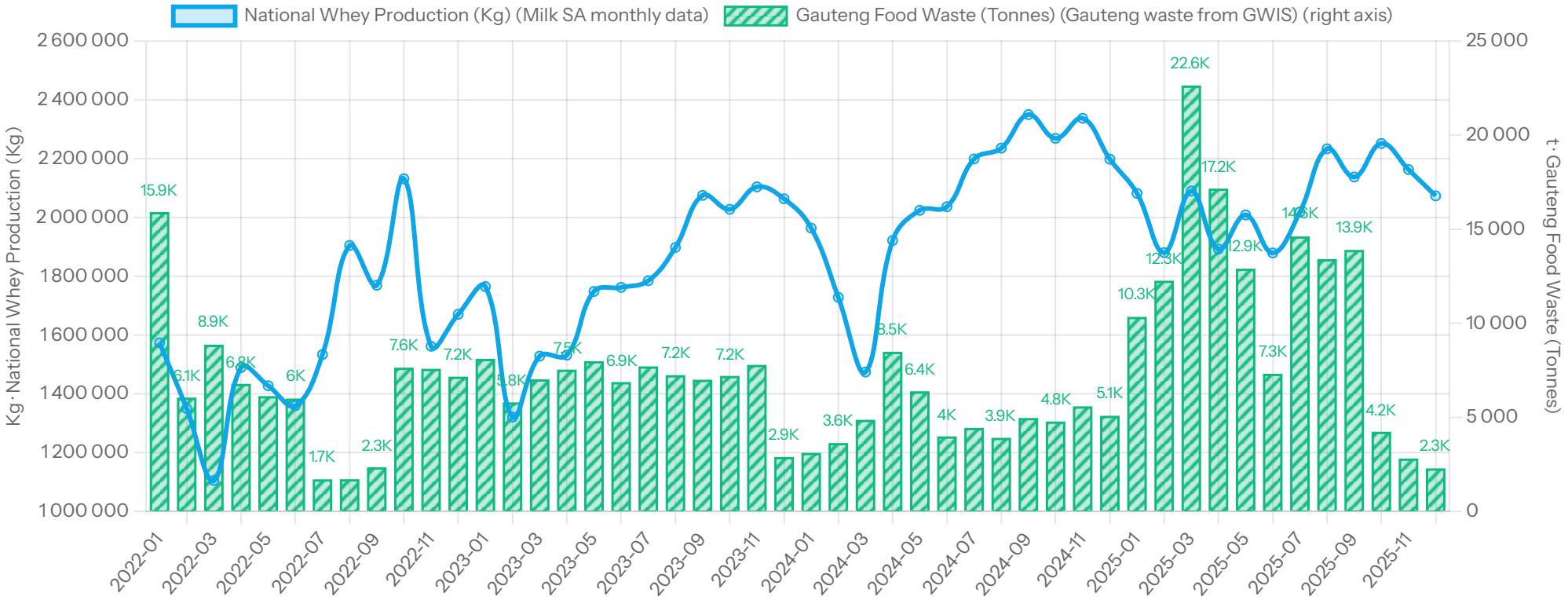
South Africa Whey Production vs. Gauteng Food Waste (2022-2025)

Milk SA monthly data, Gauateng Waste · saved 2026-09-17



AI insights

Charts and figures are calculated directly from the data. The commentary below is written by AI: it can misread the data or miss context, and is not a professional or official interpretation. Check important conclusions against the figures.

2026-09-17 21:47 · Diederik de Roos

Analysis of Dairy By-Products and the Gauteng Organic Waste Economy (2022–2025)

This chart compares national dairy-specific organic by-products (**Whey**) against the broader organic and **Food Waste (GW2002)** economy in Gauteng.

1. Milk Production & The Primary Dairy By-Product: Whey

In the dairy sector, the manufacturing of cheese and other curdled milk products produces **Whey** as the main liquid co-product. Historically regarded as a waste stream, whey contains significant organic content.

- **Growing Trend:** National Whey production has increased by over **30.8%** between 2022 and 2025.
  - **2022:** 18,875,940 kg (approx. 18.8k Tonnes)
  - **2023:** 21,606,293 kg (approx. 21.6k Tonnes)
  - **2024:** 24,732,970 kg (approx. 24.7k Tonnes)
  - **2025:** 24,705,471 kg (approx. 24.7k Tonnes)
- **Seasonality:** Whey production shows clear annual cycles. It typically troughs in the dry winter months (Feb–March) and peaks significantly during spring/early summer (September–November), aligned with peak pasture-based milk production cycles across South Africa.

2. Gauteng's Organic Waste Economy

Within Gauteng, organic and food wastes (**GW2002**) represent a major component of the general waste stream:

- **2022:** 77,883 Tonnes
- **2023:** 83,162 Tonnes
- **2024:** 59,259 Tonnes
- **2025:** 133,849 Tonnes (a dramatic **125.9%** year-on-year increase from 2024)

3. Destination of Dairy and Food Waste in Gauteng

Major dairy processing facilities in Gauteng (such as **Clover Clayville** in Ekurhuleni and **Danone** in Johannesburg) report small hazardous waste footprints (mostly clinical testing wastes like infectious waste `HW1902`). However, their high-volume organic liquid waste is diverted directly to organic recovery facilities:

- **Bronkhorstspruit Biogas Plant (GPF-03-182):** The top recipient of Gauteng food waste, receiving **309,526 Tonnes** in total. Highly energetic liquid wastes like whey and spoiled dairy are premium feedstocks for biogas digesters.

- **The Friendly Cow CC (GPF-09-957):** An approved waste treatment facility in Alberton that handled **8,331 Tonnes** of food waste in 2025.
- Other major circular economy players include **Eco Energy Trading (GPR-04-589)** and **Viewpoint Farming (GPF-01-459)**, which process organic waste into compost and feed.

These trends highlight a shifting waste economy where dairy and food processing by-products are increasingly funneled away from landfills and into high-value bio-energy and composting loops.

Source: AfriStatsXchange · https://asx.octoplus.co.za/analysis/chart/f8d64428-5aa1-4d45-8524-24c94a2fc700