

10.0 Livestock Production and Productivity

As the human population continues to increase on earth, there is an ever increasing demand for the finite natural resources such as land, water and food. This increase in food demand means that the scale at which food is produced and the efficiency with which it is produced (biologically and economically) has to be intensified. Concomitantly, the costs of agricultural inputs such as fuel, seeds, fertilisers, electricity and animal feed are continually on the increase (in turn increasing the cost of agricultural produce); however the incomes of consumers are not increasing proportionately. Animal products in the form of meat, milk and eggs have increasingly become a significant part of the human diet in our society, both locally and internationally. In today's health and quality conscious consumer society, consumers demand good quality food products at an affordable cost.

The industrialisation of farming and inevitable globalisation of trade has meant that the industrialised countries are able to more efficiently produce agricultural products in large quantities and at a lower cost than in most developing nations. This phenomenon places a huge strain on farmers in developing countries to produce at similarly efficient levels in order to remain competitive, since the food products imported from the industrialised countries are retailed to consumers at prices at or below the cost at which it costs farmers in the developing countries to produce a unit of agricultural produce. This corporate approach to farming in addition to the intense competitive demand of land for alternative land uses in Swaziland is systematically side-lining smallholder livestock farmers since their production costs are inevitably higher than those of large scale commercial farms. Smallholder livestock production is a significant source of food and income for a lot of households in the country, especially in the rural areas.

It would be prudent for Swaziland to emulate countries like Brazil who have intensified national investment into agricultural production and as such have reduced their agricultural trade deficits while positively impacting their local economy. Care should however be taken to ensure that these types of investment interventions are tailored towards meeting the best interests of Swaziland and her people. Admittedly, Swaziland has invested heavily in irrigation systems and commercial sugar cane production, in the process empowering its citizens and positively contributing to the local economy. These benefits have regrettably not been translated into the livestock sub-sector of the local agricultural industry. Sadly, there is also a pervasive, non-factual and extremely prejudicial attitude towards livestock farming being perpetrated by proponents of irrigated cane growing as non-profitable, destructive to the environment and an inefficient form of agricultural land use. To be realistic, Swaziland cannot nor should it be expected to be self-sustaining regarding livestock and animal products (will to some degree remain a net importer of livestock inputs and products), owing to the limited landmass, human population, size and structure of its economy. That however doesn't mean that livestock and animal production cannot be intensified to economically efficient levels that would positively impact the economy and the people of Swaziland.

The Ministry of Agriculture is charged with a dual mandate of poverty alleviation and the commercialisation of agriculture in the country; a mandate which at face value presents the Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services with a dichotomy. On closer inspection however, poverty alleviation and commercialisation of the livestock sub-sector do not necessarily have to be mutually exclusive. A prudent approach would be for all stake holders in the sub-sector to help advise the farmers (especially the smallholders) to practise livestock farming at an economically efficient and sustainable level: meaning that their scale of operation should be at a level above which they break even and make profit. In addition to that, there is a real need for the smallholder farmers to be taught ways in which they can minimise or possibly eliminate production inefficiencies, which at present compromise the profitability of their livestock farming projects. In order for such a paradigm shift to occur, there has to be a uniform approach and close collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rural Development Fund, Government parastatals and Non-Governmental Organisations involved on the livestock sub-sector. This would ensure that the effort and finances being invested into the livestock sub-sector actually empower the Swazi Nation by ensuring that the livestock production projects are economically viable (profitable and generate income), sustainable and alleviate poverty in the country.

10.1 Cattle Slaughters and Beef Production



Municipal Abattoir and Butchery Slaughters of Cattle

Year	No. Cattle Slaughtered	Estimated Carcass Yield (kg)	Total Carcass Beef Value (E)
2011	11,749	2,114,820	41,238,990.00
2012	20,233	3,641,940	71,017,830.00

Table 54: Number of Cattle Slaughtered, Estimated Beef Production and Values in 2011 and 2012

Table 54 illustrates a comparison of the numbers of cattle slaughtered in butcheries and municipal abattoirs in the country between the years 2011 and 2012. In both cases, the numbers of animals slaughtered exclude the cattle slaughtered at Swaziland Meat Industries. An average carcass mass of 180kg at the lowest carcass grade (GAQ) priced at E 19.50/kg were used to produce a calculated estimate of the monetary value of the beef produced.

2011	Regions	Bulls	Oxen	Steers	Young Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Total Cattle
	Hhohho	366	1,777	59	0	747	38	2,987
Lubombo	839	1,471	426	77	1,171	133	4,117	
Manzini	2,508	3,517	1,939	55	1,994	178	10,191	
Shiselweni	53	428	3	0	220	7	711	
Totals	3,766	7,193	2,427	132	4,132	356	18,006	
2012	Region	Bulls	Oxen	Steers	Young Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Total Cattle
	Hhohho	282	1,418	34	99	622	269	2,724
Lubombo	1,025	2,274	296	0	1,615	134	5,344	
Manzini	2,862	4,500	1,929	21	1,963	81	11,356	
Shiselweni	85	502	6	0	211	5	809	
Totals	4,254	8,694	2,265	120	4,411	489	20,233	

Table 55: Classes of Cattle Slaughtered for beef in Butcheries and Municipal Abattoirs in 2011 - 2012

In spite of the increase in the number of animals slaughtered in butcheries and municipal abattoirs in 2012, there remains a trend implying that Swazi cattle farmers are still less inclined to sell the younger animals that would produce the leaner, tender and tastier beef. This is emphasised by the comparatively higher numbers of bulls, oxen and cows slaughtered (Table 55). The number of steers slaughtered in both years is however perhaps an indication that the concept of cattle farming, strictly as a business is gradually taking hold in Swazi society. The lower numbers of both heifers and young bulls suggests that the farmers could be practicing a form of breeding selection by maintaining the younger animals to replace the older animals that have less growth and reproductively efficiency.

10.1.1 Cattle Slaughtered for Home consumption

Region	Bull Calves	Heifer Calves	Young Bulls (1-2Yrs)	Heifers	Cows	Bulls	Oxen	Totals
Hhohho	25	43	527	215	2913	689	3020	7432
Lubombo	0	0	711	197	1724	356	1476	4464
Manzini	15	16	589	254	2,565	560	2,578	6,577
Shiselweni	0	0	531	295	2,852	655	3,179	7,512
Totals	40	59	2,358	961	10,054	2,260	10,253	25,985

Table 56: Classes of Cattle Slaughtered for Home Consumption in 2012

Cattle categorised as “slaughtered for home consumption”, shown in table 56 include those slaughtered for traditional ceremonies, parties and funerals. The total 25,985 cattle slaughtered produced an estimated 4,677.30 tonnes of beef, valued at an estimated E 91,207,350.00 (considered at the GAQ price of E19.50/kg). It should be noted that most of these animals were from smallholder farmers on Swazi Nation Land (SNL), highlighting the significant contribution of smallholder beef farming to the country’s economy and in feeding the nation. Despite the increase in the numbers of animals slaughtered for home consumption from that in 2011, there is still a high tendency of slaughtering the older animals in the herd and keeping the younger stock. The oxen and cows were the classes with the highest numbers, respectively; similar to 2011 where there were 9815 oxen, 9089 cows, 2463 young bulls, 2392 bulls, 991 heifers, 29 heifer calves and 16 bull calves.

Cattle Slaughtered at Matsapha Export Abattoir (SG1)

Animal Class	Bulls	Oxen	Steers	Young Bulls	Cows	Heifers	Total
Annual Totals	2,368	2,330	905	917	1,141	35	7,696

Table 57: Classes of Cattle Slaughtered at Swaziland Meat Industries in 2012

Table 57 shows a trend almost similar to that observed in the cattle slaughtered in municipal abattoirs and butcheries as well as those slaughtered for home consumption. While at SG1, the number of steers is high, the bulk of cattle slaughtered at this abattoir are the older groups like bulls, oxen and cows.

Cattle Origin	Oxen	Bulls	Heifers	Cows	Steers	Young Bulls (1-2Yrs)	Totals
Swazi Nation Land	2172	1231	5	956	385	518	5267
% SNL slaughters by category	41.24	23.37	0.09	18.15	7.31	9.83	
Title Deed Land Farms	158	1137	30	185	520	399	2429
% TDL slaughters by category	6.50	46.81	1.24	7.62	21.41	16.43	
Total Slaughtered	2330	2368	35	1141	905	917	7696
% Total slaughters by category	30.28	30.77	0.45	14.83	11.76	11.92	

Table 58: Classes and origin of Cattle Slaughtered at Swaziland Meat Industries in 2012

Table 58 shows that there were 7696 cattle slaughtered at the export abattoir (SG1) in 2012, an increase of 1428 (22.78%) from 2011 which stood at 6268. The animal class composition of slaughter cattle from SNL was dominated by oxen (41.24%) followed by bulls (23.37%), cows at 18.15%, young bulls at 9.83% and finally heifers at 0.09%. The animal class composition of slaughter cattle from TDL consisted primarily of bulls at 46.81%, steers at 21.41%, young bulls (16.43%), cows (7.62%), oxen (6.5%) and finally heifers (1.24%). Overall the dominant category is the bulls (30.77%) followed by oxen (30.28%) then cows, young bulls, steers and finally, heifers (0.45%).

10.1.2 Beef Production and Demand

The amount of beef produced from cattle slaughtered in municipal abattoirs and butcheries in the country increased from approximately 2,114.82 tonnes in 2011 to approximately 3,641.94 tonnes in 2012. A further 4, 677.30 tonnes of beef was produced from cattle slaughtered at home for home consumption and approximately 19,380.68 tonnes of beef produced from cattle slaughtered at Swaziland Meat Industries. In 2012 the amount of unprocessed beef imported solely for domestic consumption was 3,001.75 tonnes; a marked decline from the 3,365.87 tonnes imported in 2011. This decline could in part be due to the increase in both the numbers of cattle slaughtered for the domestic market as well as the beef produced (see municipal and butchery slaughters table above).

The amount of locally produced primal beef cuts exported to European countries increased from 519.28 tonnes in 2011 to 692.220 tonnes in 2012. In total the domestic consumption or demand for beef for Swaziland in the year 2012 was approximately 25,409.22 tonnes, a marked increase from the approximately 10 550.8 tonnes in 2011. Considered at the lowest local beef carcass grade (GAQ) price of E 19.50/kg, the carcass value of domestic demand for beef was at least E 495,479.79. It should be noted that these figures only refer to beef and not the other processed meats produced from bovine carcasses.

Beef Imports

Chilled Beef (E)	Frozen Beef (E)	Bovine Liver (E)	Bovine Tongue (E)	Bovine Offal (E)	Processed Beef (E)
98,395,370.81	8,368,097.13	2,287,305.17	386,963.97	4,078,620.98	1,088,469.12

Table 59: Classes of Beef Imported into Swaziland in 2012

The countries from which Swaziland imported beef in the year 2012 included South Africa, Botswana, Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay.

10.1.3 Animal Hides and Skins

In the year 2012 there were a total number of 218,768 wet salted cattle hides were exported from Swaziland. Of these approximately 202,494 were exported from Swaziland Meat Industries and the 16,274 from other businesses mainly to South Africa and the United Kingdom. The reason that these figures are approximated is that some exporters use number of pieces while others use tonnage when exporting. The total monetary value of the export was reported by the Swaziland Revenue Authority to be at E 3,623,839.90 (Table 60).

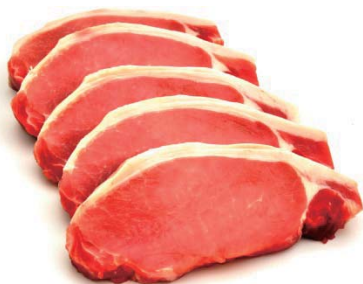
SRA Code	Product Description	Exports (E)
41012010	Fresh splits having gone reversible tanning process of a unit area exceeding 2.6 metres	1,481,825.00
41012090	Other hides & skins of bovine animals fresh or wet salted	3,623,839.90
41021000	Raw skins of sheep or lambs, with wool on	0.00
41022190	Other pickled skins of sheep/lamb without wool on not elsewhere specified	0.00
41032000	Hides and skins of reptiles, fresh or preserved, not tanned	0.00
41039090	Other	0.00
41044990	Other	0.00
41139010	Leather further prepared after tanning or casting of ostriches	0.00
41139090	Other leather further prepared after tanning or crusting	0.00
Total Monetary Value		5,105,664.90

* Source: Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA)

Table 60: Animal hides and skins traded in 2012



10.2 Pig Slaughters and Pork Production



Month	No. Pigs Slaughtered				Monthly Totals
	Hhohho	Lubombo	Manzini	Shiselweni	
January	208	840	568	51	1,667
February	78	880	580	130	1,668
March	9	560	677	48	1,294
April	18	700	550	69	1,337
May	38	670	633	94	1,435
June	32	560	800	58	1,450
July	34	700	640	44	1,418
August	35	560	527	48	1,170
September	26	572	582	49	1,229
October	63	539	348	52	1,002
November	41	595	762	33	1,431
December	51	564	602	48	1,265
Totals	633	7,740	7,269	724	16,366

Table 61: Monthly abattoir and butchery slaughters of pigs in 2012

Total Slaughters	Estimated Pork carcass Yield (kg)	Estimate Pork Value (E)
16,366	900,130.00	20,702,990.00

*Excludes numbers of pigs slaughtered in farms/homes and sold either directly to supermarkets and butcheries or to individual customers.

Table 62: Estimated Local pork production in 2012

Tables 61 and 62 show the estimated value and amounts of pork produced in Swaziland in the year 2012. An average carcass mass of 55kg, obtained from a previous analysis was used to estimate the total pork production. The base price of E23.00/kg was used in computing the value of the pork produced. The number of pigs slaughtered for pork in municipal abattoirs and butcheries increased from 14 838 in the year 2011 to 16 366 in 2012. Similarly the estimated pork production from these slaughters increased from 816.06 tonnes (valued at E 18,770,070.00) to 900.13 tonnes valued (E 20,702,990.00) in 2012. The pork imported into Swaziland in 2012 was 605,696.99 Kg or 605.70 tonnes (MOA, 2012) and valued at (E 13,395,886.66). Pork exported to Mozambique in 2012 was valued at E 4,089,909.49 (Source: SRA).

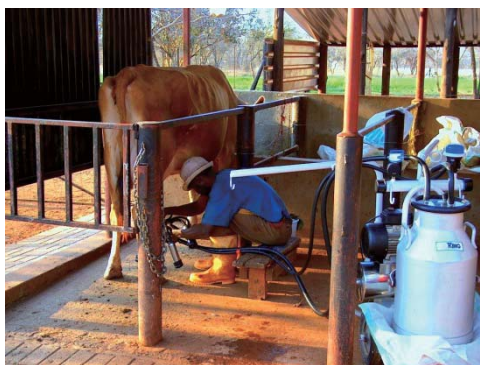
Region	Tenure	Indigenous Pigs	No. Farmers	Exotic Pigs	No. Farmers	Total Pigs
Hhohho	SNL	6,626	1,886	5,273	408	11,899
	TDL	120	1	0	0	120
Lubombo	SNL	3,820	995	6,072	205	9,892
	TDL	121	7	183	12	304
Manzini	SNL	3,779	1,009	4,243	496	8,022
	TDL	222	27	833	21	1,055
Shiselweni	SNL	8,127	3,125	3,439	444	11,566
	TDL	267	95	423	13	690
		23,082	7,145	20,466	1,599	43,548

Table 63: Numbers and Distribution of Pigs and Pig Producers in 2012

Table 63 above, illustrates the numbers of both farmers and pigs; categories and geographic distribution of pig producing farmers in the country as at August 2012 (MOA Livestock census). Over the years, there has been a gradual transition to the PIC® and Camborough™ lines by commercial pig farmers in Swaziland. These are a product of the Pig Improvement Company, originally an American company that is now represented on all continents. Most commercial pig breeds in the world are based on the Landrace X Large White hybrid cross. Similarly PIC pigs are composite commercial crosses of Landrace X Large White X Duroc breeds. Upon this superior genetic base, further work was and is still being done on intensive selection for highly desirable and productively efficient traits (qualitative and quantitative genetic traits) resulting in the multiple boar and sow lines of Camborough and PIC pigs.

In addition to the company's claims, independent scientific literature has affirmed that these pigs have a higher reproductive efficiency, higher weaning percentages and weaning weights of piglets, improved feed conversion efficiency, body conformation, low back-fat thickness, higher growth efficiencies as well as produce good quality pork (composition and taste). Swazi farmers have now joined the rest of the international commercial pig growing industry in switching to these lines and are reaping the benefits, especially since feed costs are constantly on the increase. Swazi farmers, producing PIC/Camborough pigs have reported fast growth and higher feed conversion efficiency such that their grower pigs reach the target market weights about 4 weeks earlier than before. Increasing amounts of breeding gilts and boars are being imported privately from neighbouring South Africa, since there is no local supplier of PIC stock. In the year 2012, of the 246 live pigs imported into the country; 26 were for immediate slaughter and 185 were Camborough gilts/sows imported for breeding.

10.3 Dairy Farming and Products



Dairy Products	Imports (E)	Exports (E)
Liquid Milk and Milk Creams	62,372,293.61	3,473,251.26
Milk Powders and Cream	57,438,126.06	9,387,431.97
Concentrated Milk & Creams	26,199,909.84	505,228.81
Yoghurts	26,852,717.33	57,576.32
Whey Powders	3,521,043.44	0.00
Milk Containing Products	2,349,604.87	39,042.60
Butter and Spreads	6,608,001.89	538,707.59
Cheeses	28,865,876.25	3,946,722.60
Totals	214,207,573.29	17,947,961.15

* Source: Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA)

Table 64: Dairy Product imports and exports for the year 2012

Table 64 shows the different dairy products imported into and exported out of Swaziland within the year. Some of the exported products are produced locally whereas others are imported and transit through Swaziland to the client countries. Milk producing farmers in Swaziland are multifaceted in relation to their production systems, scale of operation, production capacities, production efficiency as well as their target market for the milk produced. Most small and medium holder dairy farmers sell their milk in the informal market, making it almost impossible to quantify the volumes of milk they contribute to the sector.



The amount of milk produced and processed by the medium to large scale commercial dairy farms can to some degree be quantified since the milk is marketed in the formal market. The shortfall to local production including liquid milk, powdered milk, yoghurts, yoghurt drinks, cheeses and other dairy products is met through the importation of these products from other countries. The volumes and value of imported milk and dairy products is evidence that there is a huge and established demand for milk and dairy products in Swaziland and hence a real potential for local farmers to exploit this prospective lucrative market. In order for the apparent production deficit to be met by local production, the main issues negatively affecting producers need to be addressed.

Establishing a dairy farm requires high capital investment on land, infrastructure, equipment, pastures and the animals. Internationally the price at which milk processors buy milk from farmers has remained very low in the face of escalating production costs. The challenge is for farmers to produce milk at a cost that falls below the E4.50/litre market price for raw milk (implying improved production efficiencies as well as economies of scale). The most economically efficient way for milk production is simply by cows converting grass into milk; however this approach doesn't exploit the maximum genetic potential for milk yield of each animal. This therefore implies that more animals and land would be required for both biologically and economically efficient milk production in the quantities to meet milk and dairy product market demands. In the absence of large equity capital and land, the aspiration of improved local milk production in the country will not be realised. There has to be a concerted effort and intervention by all stakeholders (particularly by Government) in this regard to address the situation since aspiring farmers have difficulty in accessing land and affordable financing for capital investment in dairying.

The livestock census data revealed that there were 3806 dairy cows and 474 farmers on Swazi Nation land (SNL), who are predominantly smallholder farmers. There were 1418 dairy cows and 55 farmers on title deed land (TDL). In contrast the 2011 census revealed that there were 2654 dairy cows and 462 farmers on SNL, with 2013 cows and 52 farmers on Title deed land. On SNL, the number of farmer increased by 12, while the total dairy herd increased by 432 animals. Disturbingly there was a decline in both the herd size and numbers of dairy farmers on TDL, cattle declining by 525 cows and the number of farmers by 3.

10.4 Poultry

The poultry industry in Swaziland is predominantly chicken based, while other species of birds such as ducks, geese, swans, turkeys, turtle doves, Guinea fowls, and peafowls might be kept, they are usually kept either as pets or at a small scale for both home consumption and for sale. On the other hand, birds like parrots, canaries, nelliies and finches, to name a few, are strictly kept as pets.

	Region	Tenure	No. Indigenous	No. Farmers	No. Broilers	No. Farmers	No. Layers	No. Farmers
	2011	Hhohho	SNL	172,342	10,464	149,233	241	3,235
TDL			4,761	50	411	2	122,012	1
Lubombo		SNL	211,114	11,970	14,689	114	2,611	28
		TDL	4,586	202	266	11	80	3
Manzini		SNL	259,192	13,985	86,936	186	2,082	57
		TDL	8,716	444	713,403	242	29,721	15
Shiselweni		SNL	226,724	11,953	19,451	119	2,625	16
		TDL	3,546	134	1,194	3	0	0
		Totals	890,981	49,202	985,583	918	162,366	149
	Region	Tenure	No. Indigenous	No. Farmers	No. Broilers	No. Farmers	No. Layers	No. Farmers
	2012	Hhohho	SNL	170,065	10,520	169,845	222	1,904,757
TDL			601	11	400	1	0	0
Lubombo		SNL	215,877	13,307	21,783	122	2,271	24
		TDL	4,850	203	639	6	77	3
Manzini		SNL	271,336	14,845	95,464	155	11,917	26
		TDL	6,847	279	874,162	20	54,069	6
Shiselweni		SNL	210,655	16,901	16,883	151	1,921	17
		TDL	5,425	256	1,920	8	0	0
		Totals	885,656	56,322	1,181,096	685	1,975,012	110

Table 65: Numbers and Distribution of Chicken and Chicken farmers in 2011 and 2012

Generally, the numbers of all types of chicken farmers has decreased in 2012, from the numbers observed in 2011, however the number of chickens has increased across the board: implying an intensification of the number of chickens per farm/home (Table 65). It should however be noted that these figures are based on census data which is in actual fact a snapshot of the situation at a given point in time. Chickens generally have a higher turnover when compared to other types of livestock and as it happens, the farms and farmers where there was no stock at the time of the census were omitted from the count.

An interesting point to note is the apparent increase in both the number of chickens and the number of farmers involved in traditional chicken farming over the past year. The Ministry of Agriculture has actively been involved in promoting traditional chicken farming which is less capital intensive, hence can efficiently serve as an effective tool for poverty alleviation in the country. On broiler farming, there was a huge increase in the observed number of chickens and inversely a huge decline in the number of farmers from 242 to 20 on Title Deed land in the Manzini region. The possible cause in the decline in the number of farmers of monogastric animals is the perpetual increase in the costs of production, while the prices at which farm produce is bought from farmers does not increase in a proportional fashion.

Poultry Product Imports and Exports

Months	Fresh/Frozen/ Chilled Chicken (E)	Chicken Offal (E)	Turkey (E)	Ostrich (E)	Duck (E)
January	486,966.11	8,534.31	438,031.59	-	-
February	940,917.36	13,160.42	352,934.21	212.69	6,982.50
March	438,410.17	322,848.60	387,370.46	117,389.32	343,891.00
April	311,790.46	16,500.97	379,488.51	1,359.13	186.89
May	441,599.96	128,533.07	652,767.95	5,784.48	-
June	529,043.88	30,154.29	373,108.20	-	-
July	507,113.50	13,767.93	432,844.58	-	750.00
August	371,064.31	51,911.68	585,061.27	1,477.32	-
September	893,225.65	5,187.17	526,435.27	432.98	72.00
October	786,155.05	343,731.25	60,945.18	234,675.36	113,756.34
November	1,172,854.46	-	718.46	8,856.41	11,909.19
December	306,702.40	-	348,895.11	4,264.00	17,341.95
Totals	7,185,843.31	934,329.69	4,538,600.79	374,451.69	494,889.87

Table 66: Poultry Meat Imports

The quantities of imported chicken and other poultry are shown in tables 47 and 48. Table 49, shows the monetary values of the imported poultry products as captured by the Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA). There was a consignment of 24,948.00kg chicken imported from South Africa in March 2012, authorised by the National Agricultural Marketing Board. While in most instances, whole bird chickens consumed in the country are grown locally, certain cuts and processed chicken are imported into the country primarily for use in the fast-food industry, which accounts for the largest share of chicken meat consumption.



Egg Imports and Exports Statistics



Product	Imports (E)	Exports (E)
Bird Eggs, In shell, Fresh, Preserved or Cooked	10,742,090.31	16,184,075.36
Fertilised Chicken Eggs	11,197,265.97	4,320.00
Other Fertilised Eggs For Incubation	15,265,495.59	28,328.00
Ostrich Eggs	1,577,276.41	11,452.40
Other	898.06	31,125.70
Other	1,214,950.68	291,900.00
Dried Egg Yolks	29,616.00	10,978.65
Egg Yolks (excl. dried)	5,589.44	0.00
Birds' Eggs, not in shell (excl. dried)	18,312.00	11,460.00
Total	40,051,494.46	16,573,640.11

* Source: Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA)

Table 67: Numbers of Egg Imports and Exports in 2012

Swaziland imports a lot of eggs and chicken stock in the form of day old chicks (broilers) as well as point of lay (POL) birds (layers). In 2012, a total of 1,577,701 day old chicks (broilers) were imported into the country; 120,188 point of lay chickens; 6,000 layer chicks and 18,380,292 fertilised/hatching eggs for incubation (broilers). It should be noted that the monetary values reported by SRA are based on the invoice values of the consignments, which differ in costs per unit item since they are procured from different sources of supply. Day old chicks are often imported either by farms directly or by retailers who in turn sell directly to smallholder farmers. The fertilised eggs are imported for incubation by hatcheries and then the day old chicks are sold to farms.

There is an established market for wet egg yolks within the country, in which the cracked eggs are decanted from their shells into containers and then sold to bakers on either volumetric or mass basis. Egg yolks are also imported as an ingredient by food processing companies.