

Unilever reports growth in food and ice cream divisions

17 February 2025 | News

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Unilever's Foods and Ice Cream segments experienced steady growth in the past year, with underlying sales increasing by 2.6 per cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively. The rise in performance was attributed to strategic pricing, innovation, and operational improvements across key markets.

Unilever's Foods division saw 2.6 per cent growth, with Knorr and Hellmann's accounting for about 60 per cent of the segment-leading the way. The company has been streamlining operations to focus on Cooking Aids, Condiments, Mini Meals, Unilever Food Solutions, and its India Foods portfolio. Knorr's strong performance in bouillon, seasonings, and ready-to-eat ranges contributed to its success, while Hellmann's continued expanding its Flavoured Mayo range, now available in 30 markets. Digital selling initiatives and professional kitchen solutions further boosted sales.

Set for separation by the end of 2025, Unilever's Ice Cream division posted a 3.7 per cent rise in underlying sales, with growth evenly split between pricing and volume. The segment saw strong demand for innovative products such as Magnum Bon Bons, Ben & Jerry's expanded Peaces range, and Yasso's Greek yoghurt-based snacks.

In-home Ice Cream, which represents 60 per cent of sales, grew through smaller portion offerings tailored to evolving snacking habits. Meanwhile, Out-of-Home Ice Cream saw mid-single-digit growth, led by pricing strategies and premium product launches, including Magnum's Pleasure Express and Ben & Jerry's oat-based non-dairy ice creams. Cornetto marked its 60th anniversary with a global relaunch featuring enhanced formulation and packaging.

Unilever remains committed to strengthening both divisions through product innovation, optimised distribution, and strategic investment. The upcoming separation of the Ice Cream business is expected to create a world-leading independent entity in an attractive and competitive market.

Hein Schumacher, CEO of Unilever said, "The separation of Ice Cream remains on track and we are making good progress on the key workstreams. We announce the appointment of the Chair Designate for the demerged Ice Cream

business and details of the listing structure.

“Market growth, which slowed throughout 2024, is expected to remain soft in the first half of 2025. The steps we have taken in 2024, including the launch of our refreshed GAP2030 strategy, further reinvestment in our brands and strong innovation pipelines leave us better positioned to deliver on our ambitions in the years ahead.”