

# Unilever discontinues Hellmann's Mayonnaise in South Africa

By  Lauren Hartzenberg

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South African consumers have lamented the loss of some iconic food products over the years - Cadbury's Tempo, [Chocolate Log](#), and Simba's All Gold Tomato Sauce chips to name a few.



Source: Unilever

The Covid-19 lockdown was then made all the more distressing for lovers of savoury spreads when [Peck's Anchovette and Redro](#) fish paste was discontinued and Marmite was in [sparse supply](#) on shelves.

Now, consumer goods giant Unilever has confirmed that Hellmann's Mayonnaise has been discontinued in South Africa. A refrigerator staple in many households, local grocery shoppers have found the condiment hard to come by for many months.

*Bizcommunity* queried this with Unilever and in an emailed response, the company said, "It has been confirmed that the product has been discontinued due to a low consumer demand for the product within South Africa and also because it was delisted by the major retailers."



South Africans bid farewell to Redro and Pecks fish paste

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Woolworths confirmed that it delisted the product in April 2022, but contrary to Unilever's claim of low demand, Woolies told *Bizcommunity* that "Unilever was unable to consistently supply Woolworths with Hellmann's Mayonnaise to meet our customer demand".

Meanwhile, Shoprite Group simply stated, "Unilever has advised the supermarket group that it has discontinued Hellmann's Mayonnaise."

Pick n Pay commented that "Hellmann's was delisted by Unilever", but the retailer assured customers that Pick n Pay is "already working on plans" to get the product back on its shelves.

## Hellmann's history

The Hellmann's Mayonnaise brand has existed for more than 100 years.

German immigrant Richard Hellmann moved to New York City where opened up a delicatessen in 1903 with his wife Margaret. They soon noticed that their homemade mayonnaise was so popular that they started to sell it separately.

According [to Unilever](#), the creamy condiment was first sold in grams, from small batches that were freshly made on a daily basis. Local housewives would buy the mayonnaise, which was sold in small wooden boats. When demand grew, Richard Hellmann got 'Blue Ribbon Mayonnaise' trademarked so that the small glass jars in which he began selling his mayonnaise would highlight the product's quality.



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Over the years Hellmann's Mayonnaise expanded beyond the USA to become a household name around the globe.

Here's hoping the product will return to local shelves soon, whether through a reversal of Unilever's decision, or through an alternative supplier.

## ABOUT LAUREN HARTZENBERG

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