Dairy Update.

5 February 2020



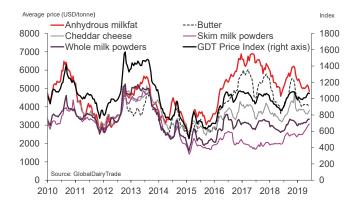
GlobalDairyTrade Auction Results, 5 February 2020

	Change since last auction	Prices USD/Tonne
Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF)	-4.5%	\$4,626
Butter	0.2%	\$4,258
Butter Milk Powder (BMP)	-	\$2,886
Cheddar	6.0%	\$4,302
Lactose	2.5%	\$830
Rennet Casein	6.0%	\$9,956
Skim Milk Powder (SMP)	-4.2%	\$2,907
Whole Milk Powder (WMP)	-6.2%	\$3,039
GDT Price Index	-4.7%	1,007

Farmgate milk price forecasts

	2019/20		2020/21
	Westpac	Fonterra	Westpac
Milk Price	\$7.40	\$7.00-\$7.60	\$7.30

Dairy prices



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Last night's GlobalDairyTrade auction saw prices for most products fall, the headline index down 4.7%.

Our key export product - whole milk powder - fell 6.2%, close to yesterday's futures market predictions of a 7% fall. At US\$3030, it remains inside the past 12-month range of \$2970-\$3330.

The other major export product - skimmed milk powder - fell 4.2%, while butter rose 0.2%, anhydrous milk fats fell 4.5%, and cheddar cheese rose 6.0% (Fonterra reduced the volume offered at this auction).

Last night's results were in contrast to the previous two auctions in January, where whole milk powder prices rose a total of 4%. The obvious explanation for last night's decline is uncertainty regarding the coronavirus outbreak. Financial markets have been reacting to those developments for around two weeks, with global equities, interest rates, industrial commodities and risky currencies falling sharply. Moreover, whole milk powder futures prices had been falling since late January. It was unsurprising, then, that last night's GDT auction followed suit.

Looking ahead, there are risks to near-term demand which could be affected by coronavirus developments (positive and negative). The steps that China has taken to contain the outbreak – such as extending the Lunar New Year holiday period, and limiting the movements of people – has kept many factories closed. That has meant less demand for their inputs, including milk powder. These disruptions might prove to be short-lived, but that depends on what further steps the government might take to contain the spread of the virus.

On the supply side, persistently dry conditions in the upper North Island and eastern South Island could see milk production fall short of what the market is expecting.

Futures market pricing for the current season's Fonterra milk price is currently at \$7.20, having fallen from a recent peak of \$7.46 in late January. Westpac's forecast is at \$7.40. Last night's auction presents some downside risk to our forecast, but it is still achievable if the disruptions to activity caused by the coronavirus prove to be short-lived.



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