WESTPAC DAIRY UPDATE

GlobalDairyTrade auction results.

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Treading water.

- Dairy prices inched lower overnight.
- In essence, global dairy prices have been treading water so far over 2023.
- At this point, we had anticipated clearer signs of a price recovery stemming from the reopening of the Chinese economy and a subsequent rebound in Chinese dairy demand.
- As a result, there are now downside risks to our 2022/23 milk price forecast of \$8.75/kg.

Global dairy prices Index Average price (USD/tonne) 10,000 2000 Whole milk powders -Anhvdrous milkfat 9,000 1800 Skim milk powders GDT Price Index (right axis) 8,000 1600 7,000 1400 6,000 1200 5,000 1000 4,000 800 3,000 600 400 2,000 1.000 200 2011 2013 2015 2017 2019 2021 2023

GlobalDairyTrade auction results

	Change since last auction	Prices USD/tonne
Whole Milk Powder (WMP)	0.2%	\$3,277
Skim Milk Powder (SMP)	-1.1%	\$2,739
Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF)	-1.8%	\$5,340
Butter	-0.3%	\$4,899
GDT Price Index	-0.7%	1039

Dairy auction prices inched lower overnight. Overall prices fell 0.7%, although key whole milk powder (WMP) prices rose 0.2%.

By product, the price fall was relatively broad-based. Of the seven products that we monitor, there were five price falls, whereas two products posted price rises. Cheddar prices led the falls, plunging 10.2%, although the fall follows three price rises in a row. Butter milk powder posted the next largest price fall of 4.5%. Anhydrous milk fat, butter and skim milk powder also posted price falls.

To date over 2023, global dairy prices have effectively been treading water. Overall prices have fallen 2.0% since the start of the year, while WMP prices have increased by 0.7%.

The result was marginally below expectations. We had pencilled in a 1% WMP price lift ahead of the auction, while the futures market was pointing to a rise of nearly 2%.

As we have mentioned previously, we expect global dairy prices to rise over coming months as the Chinese economic recovery gains further momentum. However, for now, dairy buyers appear in no rush to bid prices higher. This contrasts with meat prices for example which have seen a noticeable uptick in prices for products where China is a key market i.e. mutton. One explanation may be an overhang of stocks. If this is the case, then prices should still pick up over time as the demand lift will eventually lead to a rundown in these stocks.

Nonetheless, we had anticipated that prices would be showing clearer signs of lifting by this stage of the season. Indeed, we are nearing the end of the season and therefore the window for prices to lift is closing. With this in mind, we now see downside risks to our 2022/23 milk price forecast of \$8.75/kg.

In contrast, we remain bullish on the prospects for the 2023/24 season. Recall, that our 2023/24 forecast stands at \$10.00/kg.

Farmgate milk price forecasts

	2022/23		2023/24
	Westpac	Fonterra	Westpac
Milk price	\$8.75	\$8.20-\$8.80	\$10.00

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