WESTPAC DAIRY UPDATE

GlobalDairyTrade auction results.

22 February 2023

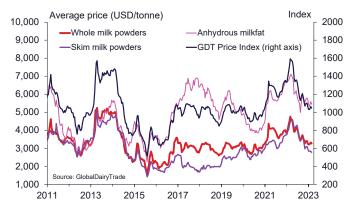
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Two steps forward, one step back.

- Dairy prices took a step lower overnight.
- Although that follows a larger step higher at the previous auction.
- We continue to expect global dairy prices to rise over coming months as the Chinese economic recovery gains further momentum.

Global dairy prices



GlobalDairyTrade auction results

	Change since last auction	Prices USD/tonne
Whole Milk Powder (WMP)	-2.0%	\$3,264
Skim Milk Powder (SMP)	-2.4%	\$2,769
Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF)	-2.6%	\$5,447
Butter	3.8%	\$4,922
GDT Price Index	-1.5%	1046

Dairy auction prices dipped overnight. Overall prices fell 1.5%, while key whole milk powder (WMP) prices were down 2.0%.

By product, the result was more mixed. Of the five products that we monitor, there were two price rises against three price falls. Anhydrous milk fat, skim milk powder and WMP all posted falls in the 2% range. However, the biggest mover was butter prices, jumping 3.8%. Notably, butter prices surged by 10.6% over the two February auctions, while cheddar prices are up 5.0% since the end of 2022.

For February as a whole, prices posted modest gains, with overall prices rising 1.6% and WMP prices lifting 2.1%. Recall that at the first February auction prices posted solid gains.

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

As we have mentioned previously, we expect global dairy prices to rise over coming months as the Chinese economic

recovery gains further momentum. For now, this recovery is centred on butter and cheddar as Chinese consumers return to restaurants, cafes and bakeries where butter and cheddar are key inputs. Over time, we expect the recovery to broaden into other products, notably WMP. However, in the short term and as stocks are run down, the price recovery may be stop-start in nature.

While it's early days in the demand recovery, the broader price move higher over February is consistent with our 2022/23 milk price forecast of \$8.75/kg.

Farmgate milk price forecasts

	2022/23		2023/24
	Westpac	Fonterra	Westpac
Milk price	\$8.75	\$8.50-\$9.50	\$10.00

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