

AWEX Northern Micron Indices Comparison

AWEX INDEX	This Week S35/23	This Week M35/23	Last Sale S34/23	Sydney Change	Last Year Sydney	Sydney Yearly Change
17	1767	1744	1757	+10	2350	-583
18	1550	1548	1557	-7	2013	-463
19	1414	1407	1415	-1	1722	-308
20	1348n	1336	1348n	0	1552	-204
21	1317n	1319	-	-	-	-
26	-	529	522n	-	-	-
28	359	358	360n	-1	348	+11
MC	701	726	702n	-1	928	-227

Tough Finish After Bright Start

This week's Australian wool market was one of anticipation after last week's leveling out of the EMI. Buyers had received better enquiry over the weekend and on Monday which gave rise to improved levels for the merino segment of the opening day offering. Gains of 10 to 15 cents were recorded in both Sydney and Melbourne and 20 cents or more lifts were seen over in Fremantle. Quantities that had been booked up were small in volume with most of the new business originating out of China. After the increased price levels at the auction, enquiry went quiet and very little business was written for the second day of selling. Subsequently the market on the final day of sale had some price softening even after the exchange rate worked in our favour. Both cardings and crossbred run of improvement was halted, seeing minor falls for the week.

Exporters have been telling us about the challenging business environment that they are trading in at present. Both the major destinations of China and Europe are continuing to struggle with sales from tops right through to garments. European processors particularly are carrying reasonably large levels of stock which in some cases were purchased twelve months or more ago at much higher price levels. This has led to the unusual buying strength that the Chinese have shown in the finer end with the Italian buyers being very selective in what they secure. Many industry pundits believe the 17 micron indicator is far too cheap at the moment. With the talk that the processors in Europe won't see demand lift until later in the year, this means a continuation of these price level styles for wools finer than 18 micron.

Wool between 19 and 22 micron are looking more positive than the finer end having more demand for Chinese bread and butter types - being 19.5 and 21 micron orders. These are the typical uniform orders that are often spoken about with both white and blue collar workers being catered for. These types have had far less volatility over the last eight months or so with the 21 indicator just shy of trading at 50% of its highest price over the last five years, the best out of all the micron rankings.

Next week again sees around 40,000 bales being offered. Macwool and Carmichael wool will offer almost 1,500 bales, which will be the largest broker offering for the week in the North.

We are calling on growers to donate wool, either oddments or a bale or two lower lines to be auctioned at one of our three special wool sales during the year. Your bale of oddments that might be worth \$400-\$500 could double that at the charity auction for such a cause, which is where Endeavour Wool Exports contribution will come from. Please visit www.macquariehomestay.com.au to view this amazing facility. We have already have around 29 bales pledged for the first sale which will be tested and held for the sale in late March at Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Charity Sale Dates		
S39/23 – Week of 25 th Mar 2024	S03/24 – Week of 15 th Jul 2024	S24/24 – Week of 9 th Dec 2024

Southern Aurora Forward Prices

Micron	Date	Low
21	March 2024	1300

Main Buyers (this week)

1	Techwool Trading	6749	2	Endeavour Wool	3630	3	Pelican Australia	3270
4	Tianyu Wool	2898	5	PJ Morris Wools	2714	6	Fox & Lillie	2442

Eastern Market Indicators (AUD cents/kg clean)
1158 cents ↑ 1 cent compared with 23/02/2024

Northern Market Indicators (AUD cents/kg clean)
1204 cents → unchanged compared with 23/02/2024

AUD/USD Currency Exchange
0.6521 ↓ 0.0036 cents compared with 23/02/2024