

AWEX Northern Micron Indices Comparison

AWEX INDEX	This Week S31/23	This Week M31/23	Last Sale S30/23	Sydney Change	Last Year Sydney	Sydney Yearly Change
17	1804	1785	1807	-3	2405	-601
18	1598	1602	1632	-34	2075	-477
19	1414	1404	1411	+3	1772	-358
20	1328	1326	1328n	0	1586	-258
21	-	1319	-	-	1523	-
26	-	552	551n	-	-	-
28	365n	360	360n	+5	350	+15
MC	701n	726	701n	0	924	-223

Similar Week for the Start of Chinese New Year

A similar result in the Australian wool market to the last four weeks, with a continuation of the gradual decline. Again, it was wools finer than 18.5 micron that were the most affected, but the losses were much more subdued than previous weeks. As we know the majority of these types are the domain of the Europeans, where things continue to be very difficult economically, leading exporters having to explore other options for sales over the Superfine designated sales that started back in August 23. In the four months prior to that support had already fallen, with the 17 micron indicator falling 600 cents over that period, and some sales weeks had Chinese buyers dominating the purchasing. This week there was Italian interest at the premium quality with very tight specifications, which were rewarded with 300 to 450 cents above the standard type of similar micron. Just a shame that these results are coming at the end of the fine wool selling season.

Middle micron wools have had a far less difficult run over the same period, and this was evident in results for the week. Orders out of India were filled by exporters at similar levels to last week, with reasonable Chinese enquiry also evident. Demand for these types is consistent but waning in quantity booked up just at the moment, showing that the supply on offer is balancing with that demand. Crossbreds and cardings have continued their positive run, having another improved week.

Chinese New Year is the most important traditional festival celebrated in China, and it started on Wednesday. Officially it runs for 15 days, and it can be compared to our Christmas/New Year period, where businesses shut down and many people travel back to their village or town to be with family over this time. Much is made of this period in the wool market, particularly when sales fall in this fortnight and whether competition will fall away. My information heading into next week is that buyer's agents are still communicating and doing business and seem to be able to balance the demand of festivities and work enough to have a sale week that looks much the same as usual.

Next weeks has almost 44,000 bales rostered, with Macwool and Carmichael Wool offering on Tuesday.

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 6 bales pledged for the first sale which will be tested and held for the sale in late March.

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	1330

Main Buyers (this week)

1	Techwool Trading	5113	2	Endeavour Wool	4536	3	Pelican Australia	3328
4	PJ Morris Wools	3186	5	Fox & Lillie	3025	6	United Wool	2927

Eastern Market Indicators (AUD cents/kg clean)
1163 cents ↓ 8 cents compared with 02/02/2024

Northern Market Indicators (AUD cents/kg clean)
1212 cents ↓ 8 cents compared with 02/02/2024

AUD/USD Currency Exchange
0.6528 ↓ 0.0044 cents compared with 02/02/2024