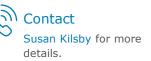


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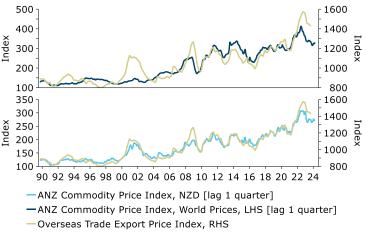
The next issue of the ANZ Commodity Price Index is scheduled for release on 5 February 2024 at 1pm.

Confused by acronyms or jargon? See a glossary here.

# Dairy drives index up

The ANZ World Commodity Price Index gained 2.4% m/m in December, seeing it end the year down just 1.8% y/y. Dairy prices improved to drive the index higher, more than offsetting weaker aluminium prices. In New Zealand dollar terms, the index lifted 1.9% m/m as the NZ dollar gained 2.4% against the trade weighted index.

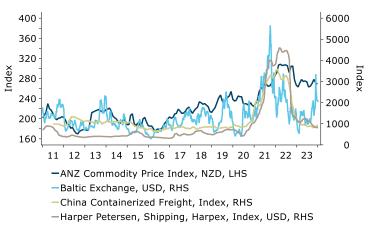
Figure 1. ANZ Commodity Price Index



Source: Stats NZ, Macrobond, ANZ Research

**Global shipping prices** are once more trending higher, eroding exporters' margins. The Baltic Dry Index, which tends to be the most volatile of the shipping indices, spiked to an 18-month high in early December, with this index doubling during 2023. Conflict in the Red Sea is adding to the cost of moving goods to Europe as some ships are now opting for longer routes to avoiding the Suez Canal, and insurance for shipping is now more expensive.

#### **ANZ Commodity Price Index and shipping costs**



Source: Baltic Exchange, Harper Petersen & Co., Shanghai Shipping Exchange, Macrobond, ANZ Research

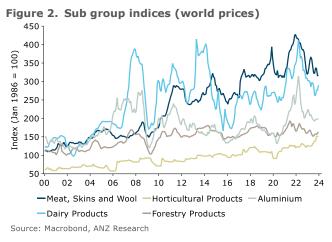
**Dairy** prices strengthened during December, with the dairy index up 4.9% month-on-month (m/m). Butter and cheese prices improved by 6.9% and 7.4% respectively while whole milk powder lifted 5.2%. The improved dairy prices have flowed through to the current season farmgate milk price forecast with pricing now expected to be near breakeven. Dairy prices are expected to continue to steadily improve as global milk supplies ease.

The **meat and fibre** index lifted 0.6% in December. Prices for cuts of lamb meat lifted 2.6% m/m but remain well below year-ago levels. Beef prices eased 1.1% m/m but ended 2023 6% higher than the previous year. Coarse wool is currently trading up 10.2% y/y, but pricing is still not covering the cost of shearing. Lamb pricing is expected to stabilise near the low prices currently on offer, but beef prices are under some downward pressure due to strong global supply.

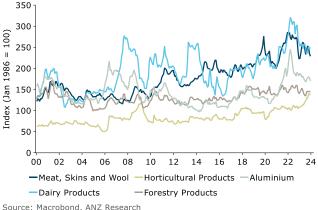
The **horticulture** index was stable in December as fruit sales have concluded for the season. Kiwifruit returns to growers have improved considerably this year due to better in-market prices and improved fruit quality. The higher prices will help balance out the smaller volumes of fruit picked in 2023. Kiwifruit yields are expected to lift substantially this season, but apples won't recover as quickly due to damage from floods last year.

The **forestry** index lifted 2.0% m/m in December. The log price index is now up 2.3% y/y. In-market pricing in China is improving as tighter supplies are generating greater urgency from buyers. Local demand has picked up as seasonal demand from DIY builders kicks in, but building consents remain low, signalling slow overall demand in the months ahead. Demand for poles and posts, used in the construction of farm sheds and fences, remains low due to farm profits being squeezed.

**Aluminium** prices slipped 0.5% m/m in December, wiping out the previous month's gain. Aluminium pricing at the end of 2023 was down 8.3% y/y. Pricing did firm a little in late December due to concerns about the supply of bauxite, the ore used to make aluminium, but prices have now softened again. Demand for aluminium is expected to improve and margins are expected to be maintained for higher-quality aluminium and product with 'green' credentials, such as the aluminium produced in New Zealand using hydro-generated electricity.







	World Price Index	Monthly % Change	Annual % Change	NZD Index	Monthly % Change	Annual % Change
Dec-19	308.9		8.7	238.7		12.2
Dec-20	307.6		-0.4	224.5		-5.9
Dec-21	380.0		23.5	287.0		27.9
Dec-22	336.7		-11.4	266.7		-7.1
Jul-23	323.3	-2.6	-14.7	263.3	-3.7	-13.8
Aug-23	313.8	-2.9	-14.3	264.9	0.6	-9.2
Sep-23	318.2	1.4	-12.5	270.3	2.0	-11.1
Oct-23	327.0	2.8	-6.9	278.2	3.0	-8.7
Nov-23	322.9	-1.2	-4.3	271.4	-2.5	-2.1
Dec-23	330.7	2.4	-1.8	268.9	-0.9	0.8

Commodity Price Index weights are based on contributions to merchandise exports for the prior calendar year. Weights for the 2022 year are: Wool 1.1%; Beef 12.0%; Lamb 10.7%; Venison 0.4%; Skins 0.8%; Dairy 43.8%; Apples 2.2%; Kiwifruit 6.5%; Logs 8.8%; Sawn Timber 2.8%; Wood Pulp 2.3%; Seafood 4.5%; Aluminium 4.1%.



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