



Southern Micron Price Guide

	Apr 21	Apr 9	Last Year	Start of season
IND	754	750	888	835
19	959	959	1191	1083
21	748	746	930	874
23	724	719	877	831
28	495	495	423	436

Price Week ending April 21

	Broad Wool	Greasy Wool
	716	769
	716	767
	716	770
	716	773
	716	801
	716	801
	716	801
	716	801
	716	801
	716	801

or for losses arising from actions based on the information.

es Week ending April 20

	Nov 2009	Mar 2009
	1,049	1,042
	926	921
	732	718
	712	698
	690	673
	673	655

Week ending April 9

Northern Region		Southern Region	
April 8	April 2	April 8	April 2
940	955	985	940
940	955	973	940
935	955	955	928
930	955	936	935
-	-	-	-
773	773	766	763
764	760	759	740
770	762	770	745
765	765	765	727
-	-	630	-
447	450	440	445
744	740	749	735
740	740	745	740
744	742	746	738
740	740	742	731
-	-	-	-
-	-	445	440
-	-	465	480
730	730	730	730
730	725	735	728
730	725	727	722
725	725	733	729
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
715	715	720	712
710	710	715	714
715	715	725	716
722	722	718	716

Source: Australian Wool Exchange

Diagram clean - Schium Dry; mm = length in mm, midpoint of range; Nkt = strength in kg.

Christmas, in mid January, the Northern Indicator level was 785 cents a kilogram.

In the final week before the short recess for Easter, the indicator was just one cent lower at 787c/kg.

There have been a good many ups and downs, however, along the way.

For, after the opening auctions in mid January the market weakened until, in late February, the Indicator had settled on 750c/kg and there appeared little to prevent it falling even further as economic woes spread across the world.

However, the market did have one thing in its favour - a lack of supply, in fact, during the past few months the most vital question has

apply in the long, or even the medium term.

Three weeks after the 18c/kg rise, in early April, the indicator gained a further 12c/kg, taking the pro-Easter level to 787c/kg.

In recent sales, there has been quite a high percentage of old wool included in the various brokers' catalogues.

Much of this has been fine and superfine wool in the 16-to 18-micron range, wools which have either been passed in during earlier sales or held in store without being offered at all.

The four series from mid October to the beginning of November would undoubtedly have been responsible for some, at

17- and 17.5-micron types have improved to the point where those indicators are slightly dearer than they were at the beginning of November, but 18-microns are still well below their value at that time.

While the fine and superfine wools have fluctuated considerably, the microns have been remarkably steady during the past three months.

It has been noticeable, however, that the 22-micron wools have varied more than the 20- or 21-micron types.

Apparently in some weeks the Chinese orders have taken in the 22-micron wools, but at other times they were out of favour.

Bridging the gap to Italy

By ROWENA McNAUGHTON

LUCA Bellandi, the man behind Italy's biggest woollen manufacturing company, Bellandi, knows about beautiful fabrics.

But while he can intricately outline the cloth specifications needed for high end woollen suits and stylish woollen overcoats, where his treasured textile originated from has been little more than a made-up image in the back of his mind.

That was until earlier this month when he and father, Paolo Bellandi, travelled to Australia and saw first-hand the workings of a Merino sheep property.

"To see the flocks, to experience the live shearing and last but not least talk to those who stand out on the side of the pond (quite literally) from us but make our business from the very start, it was particularly fascinating," Mr Bellandi said.

Mr Bellandi, who was hosted during his visit by vertically integrated wool company, The Merino Company (TMC), admits the experience of visiting Clive and Anna Jamiesons, "Stony Point" Darlington,

property was truly an "impressive" experience.

"The grounds were amazing, and the property a huge one at least by our standards," he said.

But while seeing where wool that he and his father have structured into one of Italy's biggest weaving and spinning companies in Prato, Italy; making fabrics for women's coats and jackets for brands such as H&M and Zara and producing the exclusive Duemilagori fabric, the visit could be the catalyst for cementing a direct supply relationship between Bellandi and TMC.

"We are interested in working with TMC to exploit and advertise wool as nicely and broadly as possible," he said.

He insists it was an "absolute shame" the wool industry was downsizing at a time when wool should be the fibre of choice for the growing eco-friendly "inner culture" market.

"Sustainability is becoming the name of the game in the general public, including the



Luca Bellandi stepping over the desk and finding out where his wool comes from.

younger generations, and wool means all that."

Bellandi currently buys Merino wool with micron range 17.5 to 21.5 world wide.

TMC is understood to have been in discussions with Bellandi for several months to secure a contract for TMC's Australian pool participants.

Fine wools gain 30c/kg in the south

THE wool market closed firmer before the Easter selling recess, as fine wools in the south gained 15 to 30 cents a kilogram and 10c/kg to 20c/kg in the north.

The Eastern Market Indicator closed up 2c/kg to 767c/kg.

This week's auction offering

is estimated to be more than 61,000 bales, which would be the second largest for the season.

Early reports from this week indicate the wool market was generally firmer during Tuesday's Melbourne sale.

Forward markets have been generally softer, however, still

well bid for contracts expiring throughout 2009.

Just above 47,000 bales are expected to be auctioned next week during two days in Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle selling centres.

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