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Lactose - Central and Western U.S.

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The lactose price range is unchanged, but the bottom of the mostly price series moved downwards amid pressures from lower spot market prices. Demand for 200 mesh lactose and lactose used in standardization is stable. However, industry contacts relay that lactose, and dairy carbohydrates as a whole, are stuck in a rut. Freight costs have eroded profit margins, and buyers do not want to overextend themselves by taking on more inventory. Contacts say lactose inventories at both the manufacturer and within secondary markets have grown. While a good part of the lactose is committed, stocks are rising none the less. Some manufacturers suggest that shipping challenges have gotten worse rather than better. In a few cases, sellers have had to unallocate some lactose and sell into nearby domestic markets, making more space in the warehouse. Lactose production is steady to lower as milk production seasonally declines and heat and humidity make production cycles more challenging.

Prices for: Central and Western U.S., Spot Sales And Up to 3 Month Contracts, F.O.B., Conventional, and Edible Lactose

Price Range - Non Pharmaceutical; $/LB:	.3600 - .5600
Mostly Range - Non Pharmaceutical; $/LB:	.4000 - .5000

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