

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7875	-44	-0.6
NZX 50	11670	-59	-0.5
DJIA Futures	40020	10	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	5320	0	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	18655	5	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences Friday trade with the \$A at ~US66.85c, and influential economic data due out of China, ahead of an inflation update for the euro zone tonight.

US equities markets turned lower by 0.1% - 0.3% overnight.

Locally today, this week's national budget analysis and speculation regarding a possible interest rate cut during 2024, are expected to remain in focus.

Regionally today, China's April updates for **fixed asset investment, industrial production** and **retail sales** are anticipated at **midday AEST**.

An **April house price index** is expected at 11.30am.

Meanwhile today, Russia's president concludes a two-day state visit to China.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** posted a second consecutive gain.

US **gold** (Comex) futures turned moderately lower.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) swung 0.5% higher, settling above \$US116.5/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and **nickel** rallied further. **Aluminium** turned, closing down by 0.4%.

The **\$A** declined to ~US66.75c after trading at ~US66.80c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	39869	-39	-0.1
S&P 500	5297	-11	-0.2
NASDAQ	16698	-44	-0.3
FTSE 100	8439	-7	-0.1
DAX 30	18739	-131	-0.7
Shanghai Composite	3122	2	0.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

First-half interest rate – related optimism across major European, UK and US equities markets had mostly evaporated by respective overnight settlements.

The FTSE proved the exception and the DJI touched a record intra-session peak, supported by select corporate earnings and outlooks.

Today's Stock Watch
Lendlease Group (LLC)

Selling life sciences interests for ~\$A147M into a newly-established LLC-Warbug Pincus 50:50 JV. LLC anticipates \$A66M net cash.

The Star Entertainment Group (SGR)

The Star Gold Coast and Treasury Brisbane casinos licence suspensions date of effect has been moved from 31 May to 20 December.

James Hardie Industries (JHX)

JHX has appointed Oshkosh Corporation president and CEO John Pfeifer as an independent non-executive director.

NextEd Group (NXD)

International student enrolments grew by 11% during the March quarter.

The number of international student visas approved Australia-wide (ie not just for NXD prospective students) fell by 30% year-on-year, however.

Australian Government visa approvals policy remains uncertain.

ClearView Wealth (CVW)

Crescent Capital Partners Management has offloaded ~73.11M CVW shares in a 59c-per-share block trade.

This will reduce Crescent's CVW holding to 34.59%. CVW has traded at 58.5c – 60c for the week to date.

Locality Planning Energy (LPE)

Anticipating \$1.95M - \$2.0M full year NPAT from a \$12M FY23 net loss. Expecting \$3.3M - \$3.5M EBITDA.

Resources
Poseidon Nickel (POS)

POS has resumed Lake Johnston exploration following the four-month star during the project sales process, ultimately ended by Mineral Resources (ASX: MIN) opting out of a HoA to purchase the project. Project lithium potential and exploration plans outlined this morning.

Sun Silver (SS1)

Silver and gold explorer SS1 has continued to attract attention after completing a stellar ASX listing Wednesday. SS1 debuted at 50c Wednesday, following a \$13M IPO at 20c per share, and settled for the day at 42.5c. Yesterday, SS1 traded as high as 59c before settling at 53.5c, up 25.88% for the session. Investor webinar scheduled for Tuesday next week.

AIC Mines (AIC)

Queensland Jericho copper project mining lease in hand.



A European Central Bank (ECB) financial stability review report warned of risks from shocks emanating from elections in key nations and further risk from geopolitical 'surprises'.

In the meantime, a Bank of England policy maker promoted caution in commencing any interest rate cuts.

Earlier yesterday, **Japan** reported a 0.5% fall in GDP for the March quarter, following no change in GDP for the December quarter 2023, but which had previously been finalised as having grown by 0.1%.

Economists had expected a 0.4% decline for the new quarter.

On an annualised basis, March quarter GDP was down 2.0% following the December quarter's flat year-on-year result, previously finalised as having grown by 0.4%.

Meanwhile, a 20-year government bond auction hosted by Japan resulted in a 1.734% yield from 1.630%.

Also yesterday, **Australia's** April unemployment rate was revealed 0.2% higher for the month, at 4.1%, a day after wages growth was reported to have eased during the March quarter.

The combined data prompted some speculation regarding an interest rate reduction by year's end.

Among mixed overnight **economic data** releases, **US** weekly new unemployment claims tallied 222,000, against consensus for 220,000 following the previous week's 232,000.

April import and export prices rose by 0.9% and 0.5% respectively for the month.

Against April 2023, import prices were up 1.1% and export prices down 1.0%.

The Philadelphia Fed manufacturing index dropped to 4.5 from 15.5.

The new orders component index tumbled to -7.9 from 12.2.

April industrial production in the meantime came in flat, following a 0.1% increase (revised from 0.4%) for March.

April housing starts were calculated 5.7% higher after plunging by 16.8% in March.

April building permits fell by 3.0% following a 3.7% March decline.

Tonight in the **US**, the Conference Board April leading index is due.

Elsewhere, the euro zone releases a final April CPI inflation reading.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Jun)	2385.5	oz	-9.40	-0.4
Silver (COMEX 5000 Jul)	29.88	oz	0.15	0.5
Platinum	1059	oz	-6	-0.6
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jun)	79.23	bbl	0.60	0.8
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jul)	83.27	bbl	0.52	0.6
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	116.85	t	0.55	0.5
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	10426	t	203	2.0
Nickel	19815	t	311	1.6
Aluminium	2590	t	-11	-0.4
Lead	2297	t	23	1.0
Zinc	2962	t	-16	-0.5
Tin	33737	t	321	1.0

Pre-Open Announcements

GPT Group (GPT)

COO Mark Fookes is retiring from GPT, having been with the company since 2005.

GPT has appointed Mark Harrison as chief investment officer.

Contact Energy (CEN)

Reviewing Wairakei geothermal facility development options in the wake of increased costs.

Expected early development costs have risen to \$NZ144M.

Nuix Ltd (NXL)

COO and CFO Chad Baron is planning to leave NXL at the end of August.

CurveBeam AI (CVB)

58.97M shares are due for release from voluntary escrow Thursday next week (23 May).

Resources

Helix Resources (HLX) / Aeris Resources (AIS)

The recent HLX \$2.3M rights issue closed oversubscribed, prompting HLX to accept an additional \$500,000 worth of applications.

The fund-raise was conducted in support of NSW Canbelego copper JV exploration.

HLX 70% and project operator; AIS 30%.

Indiana Resources (IDA)

Company update, including plans to conduct a \$1.44M 7c-per-share, one-for-30 entitlement offer, lodged post-trade yesterday.

This week's London mining conference presentation also lodged.

Thunderbird Resources (THB)

Investor presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

THB has traded at 3.0c – 3.8c for the month to date, closing at 3.1c yesterday.

MetalsTech Ltd (MTC)

Extending the 23c-per-share SPP closing date until Thursday next week (23 May), due to postal delays.

MTC is exploring for gold in Slovakia.

MTC has traded at 24.5c – 26.5c for the week to date.

Redivium Ltd (RIL) / Classic Minerals (CLZ)

RIL and CLZ have agreed a further extension to the deadline for satisfying conditions for the sale of RIL's holding in the Forresteria project to CLZ.

CLZ currently holds 80% of the Forresteria gold rights, but stated October 23 that the company was keen to explore for other potential Forresteria minerals, including lithium and nickel.

The new deadline is 24 May (Friday next week).



Commodities Commentary

Oil – improved optimism for a US interest rate cut earlier than anticipated just two weeks ago was cited as the major influence producing a notable consecutive session rise for oil prices overnight.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig report is due tonight from Baker Hughes.

Gold – an ultimate overnight turn lower for gold was mostly attributed to profit-taking and a slightly weaker \$US.

Base metals – overnight trade appeared mostly influenced by interest rate, and hence demand speculation, plus commentary ahead of a batch of key economic data updates due out of China today.

Comex copper prices were pushed lower as LME copper continued to rally.

New Caledonia nickel output on watch.

Tonight's trade could be influenced by China's January – April fixed asset investment, and April industrial production, retail sales and home prices, all expected to be reported today.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6683	0.0002	0.04
EUR – USD	1.0868	-0.0014	-0.13

US Data Tonight

Conference Board leading index	Apr
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Other Overseas Data Today and Tonight

China	Fixed asset investment	Jan-Apr
China	Industrial production	Apr
China	Retail sales	Apr
China	Home price index	Apr
Euro zone	CPI inflation (final)	Apr
Russia	CPI inflation	Apr

Need More Information?

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Iltani Resources (ILT)

ILT traded at 19.5c – 35c yesterday, settling at 34c, which represented a 74.36% gain for the session. ~1.1M shares were traded across 153 transactions.

In response to an ASX price query, ILT pleaded ignorance, but pointed out North Queensland Orient silver-indium project drilling was continuing.

The commencement of the current drilling program was announced 6 May, together with an expectation of being completed within 3 – 4 weeks and for results to become available 4 – 6 weeks from samples being submitted to a laboratory in Townsville.

Sierra Rutile (SRX)

SRX recorded respective 48.20% and 5.01% poll and proxy votes against adopting the company's remuneration report at yesterday's AGM.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Brazilian Critical Minerals	BCM	20 May
Cufe Ltd	CUF	20 May
Galan Lithium	GLN	20 May
Impact Minerals	IPT	17 May
Loyal Lithium	LLI	17 May
Magmatic Resources	MAG	20 May
Peninsula Energy	PEN	20 May
Peppermint Innovation	PIL	20 May
SI6 Metals	SI6	20 May

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Cosmos Exploration	C1X	15 May
Nexion Group	NNG	26 Apr
Openn Negotiation (in admin)	OPN	3 May
Orexlore Technologies	OXT	13 May

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
WMI	Today	5.25	100	3.58
WLE	Mon	4.6	100	6.47
AMC	Tue	19.32	0	4.90
ATM	Tue	4.83	0	2.86
ORI	Thu	19	0	2.29
WHF	Fri (24 May)	10.25	100	3.93

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Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Mon	ELD	Interim (w/cast tele 10am & 6pm Tue 21 May)
	GTK	Interim (webcast 8.30am)
	MLX	AGM
Tue	MMI	AGM
	VEA	AGM
	VGL	AGM
Wed	APE	AGM
	PLT	Full year
	TLX	AGM
	WEB	Full year
Thu	GQG	AGM
	GOR	AGM
	KAR	AGM
	NUF	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	RSG	AGM
	SMR	AGM
	SSR	AGM
	VNT	AGM
	XAM	AGM
	XRO	Full year
Fri (24 May)	AGY	AGM
	APX	AGM
	SYR	AGM
	VMT	AGM
	VUL	AGM