

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7446	48	0.6
NZX 50	11531	-22	-0.2
DJIA Futures	37265	154	0.4
S&P 500 Futures	4722	14	0.3
NASDAQ Futures	16542	-22	-0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens Friday trade with the \$A at ~US67.00c, a batch of material economic data due for China this afternoon and geopolitical relations firmly in focus.

US equities markets posted further, but slight – to- moderate, gains overnight.

Locally today, Judo Bank has released December PMIs, ahead of the historically more influential industry indices from AiG, expected early January.

Meanwhile, varying commentary is expected following US parliamentary approval overnight for legislation covering the proposed AUKUS defence arrangement.

Regionally today, **China** is scheduled to release November updates for **fixed asset investment, industrial production, retail sales** at 1pm AEDT. A **house price index** is anticipated at 12.30pm.

Initial December PMIs for Japan are due at 11.30am AEDT.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** picked up the pace of Wednesday's gains, adding ~3% for the session.

US **gold** (Comex Feb) futures were also pushed decisively higher, settling just below \$US2045/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) turned to record a slight gain.

US (Mar) **copper** futures jumped by US10c/lb, to \$US3.79/lb.

Last night's LME final 3-mth evening price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication. These are expected to become available via IRESS at 11.30am AEDT.

The \$A maintained ~US67.00c after trading at ~US66.95c - ~US67.10c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	37248	158	0.4
S&P 500	4720	12	0.3
NASDAQ	14762	28	0.2
FTSE 100	7649	101	1.3
DAX 30	16752	-14	-0.1
Shanghai Composite	2959	-10	-0.3

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US markets appeared to mostly react to

Today's Stock Watch
National Australia Bank (NAB)

Today's AGM materials lodged.

ANZ Group Holdings (ANZ)

ANZ has moved to appeal a Federal Court of Australia decision and penalty relating to an institutional share placement in August 2015.

Australian Clinical Labs (ACL) / Healius Ltd (HLS) / Sonic Healthcare (SHL)

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is opposing ACL's proposed acquisition of HLS. ACL has consequently decided to withdraw its HLS offer.

Adbri Ltd (ABC)

Anticipating \$310M - \$315M FY23 underlying EBITDA. Lowering expected capital expenditure to \$310M - \$320M from \$330M - \$350M. Planning to lodge full year results 27 February 2024.

Link Administration Holdings (LNK)

LNK and LNK client AustralianSuper have agreed an MoU for a potential partnership extension through to 2028. Meanwhile, LNK has lodged provisional results from this week's scheme meeting.

Vita Life Sciences (VLS)

Anticipating \$11.3M - \$11.8M FY23 (ending 31 December) pre-tax profit, from \$10.7M for FY22. Sales are expected to tally \$73.0M - \$74.0M from \$66.9M

Resources
Capricorn Metals (CMM)

The Mt Gibson gold project resource has grown by 18% to 3,244,000 oz.

Energy
Invictus Energy (IVZ)

Webinar scheduled to commence 11am AEDT. Reporting an additional gas discovery within the Zimbabwe Cabora Bassa project Mukuyu-2 well, boosting net pay to an estimated 34.9m. IVZ 80%. IVZ is resuming from a trading halt, having last traded at 20.5c.



further central bank activity and implications commentary overnight.

The **Bank of England** (BoE) and **European Central Bank** (ECB) concluded monetary policy meetings and announced outcomes, these including a hold on interest rates, coupled with repeat warnings that, while inflation growth had slowed, it was too early to consider near-term rate reductions.

In a 6-3 vote, one-third of BoE monetary policy committee members advocated for raising the benchmark rate a further 0.25% to 5.50%.

The \$US index continued lower. 10-year US treasury bond yields fell unexpectedly.

Also overnight, the World Bank published new forecasts for China. These included 4.5% 2024 growth against the 5.2% prediction for this year, the bank describing China's economic progress as 'fragile' and the outlook as 'subject to considerable downside risks'.

A Central Economic Work Conference convened in China earlier this week did not offer any policy details via state media, although administrators were reported as reiterating plans to support local governments to manage debt.

Meanwhile, a 20-year government bond auction in Japan yesterday afternoon (AEDT) resulted in a 1.414% yield from 1.423%, as Japan's PM executed a significant cabinet shift amid a reported 'missing funds' scandal.

In geopolitical developments, the European Union (EU) agreed to commence negotiations for Ukraine to become an EU member.

Among overnight **data** releases, Bank of England forecasts (projections) included predictions of flat GDP growth from the December quarter through into 2024.

In the **US**, weekly new unemployment claims tallied 202,000 against expectations of 220,000 following the previous week's 221,000.

November import and export prices fell by 0.4% and 0.9% respectively for the month.

Against November 2022, prices were respectively down 1.4% and 5.2%.

November retail sales improved by 0.3% against consensus for a 0.1% decline following October's 0.2% fall.

Against November 2022, sales were up 4.1% from October's 2.2% annualised gain.

October business inventories were reported 0.1% lower, against expectations for no change.

Tonight in the US, the New York Fed December manufacturing index, November industrial production and S&P Global's December PMIs are listed for release.

Elsewhere, initial PMI estimates are due for the euro zone and UK

In addition tonight, the Central Bank of Russia convenes a monetary policy meeting and announces outcomes.

In overnight corporate news, Tesla's price recovered on a reported greater than \$US35B turnover.

Pre-Open Announcements

Meridian Energy (* MEZ)

November operational statistics lodged this morning.

Segment sales rose year-on-year, with the exception of agriculture, which declined by 0.2%.

Wrkr Ltd (WRK)

Rest Super has opted to trial WRK's on-boarding and payroll systems under a strategic partnership with Link Group.

Goodman Group (GMG)

Paying a 15c distribution for the six months to 31 December.

Mayfield Childcare (MFD)

21.7M shares are due to be released from escrow 21 December (Thursday next week).

Resources

Ardea Resources (* ARL)

WA Kalgoorlie nickel project Highway diamond drilling and a data review have confirmed nickel sulphide prospectivity and the presence of lithium-caesium-rubidium.

Energy

88 Energy (* 88E)

Purchasing additional Texas Permian Basin interests.

Details lodged this morning.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Future Metals	FME	15 Dec
HeraMED Ltd	HMD	15 Dec
Linus Technologies	LNU	15 Dec
South Harz Potash	SHP	15 Dec
Venture Minerals	VMS	15 Dec
Arizona Lithium	AZL	18 Dec
Intelicare Holdings	ICR	18 Dec
Kaiser Reef	KAU	18 Dec
Neuren Pharmaceuticals	NEU	18 Dec
Sarama Resources	SRR	18 Dec
SensOre Ltd	S3N	18 Dec
Superior Resources	SPQ	18 Dec
Tamboran Resources	TBN	18 Dec
Traka Resources	TKL	18 Dec

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Magnis Energy Technologies	MNS	8 Dec
Propell Holdings	PHL	14 Dec
Rectifier Technologies	RFT	29 Nov

**Commodities**

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Feb)	2044.9	oz	47.6	2.4
Silver (COMEX 5000 Mar)	24.39	oz	1.47	6.4
Platinum	960	oz	22	2.4
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jan)	71.58	bbl	2.11	3.0
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Feb)	76.61	bbl	2.35	3.2
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	135.22	t	0.19	0.1
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)(13 Dec)	8330	t	-26	-0.3
Nickel	16485	t	-60	-0.4
Aluminium	2144	t	19	0.9
Lead	2034	t	-4	-0.2
Zinc	2427	t	-5	-0.2
Tin	24718	t	101	0.4

Commodities Commentary

Oil – improved demand perceptions, plus a continuing \$US pullback (to ~four-month lows), translated into strong price gains overnight.

The International Energy Agency's (IEA) December oil report, published overnight, included a higher demand forecast for 2024.

The new forecast, for 1.1MMbbl/d growth, represented a 130,000bbl/d increase on November's 2024 prediction.

The IEA cited lower prices and increasing US demand for its revision, although its growth forecast remained ~50% lower than the one issued by OPEC.

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

Gold – overnight prices received strong support from the US Federal Reserve's post-policy meeting statements overnight Wednesday, these coming post-gold settlement.

The Fed's stance kept the \$US relatively weaker overnight.

A stronger-than-expected US retail sales report appeared to constrain ultimate gold price gains, however.

Base metals – overnight prices were pushed and pulled by a weaker \$US, a downgraded **China** growth forecast and caution ahead of fresh China data.

China is due to report November fixed asset investment, industrial production, retail sales and property prices today. These will likely influence at least some of tonight's trade amid end-of-week positioning decisions.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6697	-0.0016	-0.24
EUR – USD	1.0994	0.0095	0.87

Australian Data Today

Judo Bank	PMIs	Dec
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Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
KPG	Tue	0.44	100	1.05
APA	28 Dec	26.5	0	6.27
APZ	28 Dec	4.25	0	4.48
ASK	28 Dec	3	0	0.00
BWP	28 Dec	9.02	0	4.96
CHC	28 Dec	22.09	44.99	3.45
CIP	28 Dec	4	0	4.86
CLW	28 Dec	6.5	0	7.39
COF	28 Dec	3	0	10.02
CQE	28 Dec	4	0	5.71
CQR	28 Dec	12.3	0	7.09
GDF	28 Dec	1.575	0	5.89
GMG	28 Dec	15	0	1.22
MGR	28 Dec	4.5	0	4.91
NPR	28 Dec	1.9	0	8.53
RCT	28 Dec	12.25	0	9.83
RFF	28 Dec	2.93	0	5.69
RGN	28 Dec	6.7	0	6.52
TCF	28 Dec	3.5	0	8.17
TCL	28 Dec	30	0	4.29
TGP	28 Dec	2	0	7.46
TOT	28 Dec	1.5	0	11.01
WPR	28 Dec	4.1	0	6.44
DNK	29 Dec	14.72	0	0.00

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	MEZ	Nov
	NAB	AGM
Wed	IPL	AGM
Thu	ANZ	AGM
Fri (22 Dec)	EMH	AGM

December quarter S&P/ASX indices re-balance

The following changes come into effect prior to the ASX open **Monday**:

S&P/ASX 200

Out: CMW, GOZ, LNK

In: BOE, HLI, SIQ

S&P/ASX All Technology

**US Data Tonight**

NY Fed (Empire State) manufacturing	Dec
Industrial production	Nov
S&P Global PMIs	Dec

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Fixed asset investment	Jan-Nov
China	Industrial production	Nov
China	Retail sales	Nov
China	Home prices	Nov
Japan	PMIs (prelim)	Dec
Japan	Tertiary industry index (3.30pm AEDT)	Oct
Germany	PMIs (prelim)	Dec
UK	GfK consumer sentiment (~11am AEDT)	Dec
UK	PMIs (prelim)	Dec
Euro zone	International trade	Oct
Euro zone	PMIs (prelim)	Dec
Russia	CBR rates decision	15 Dec

Need More Information?

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