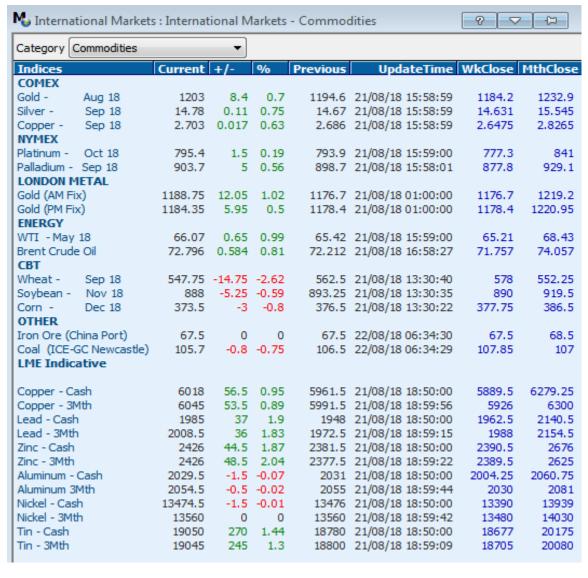


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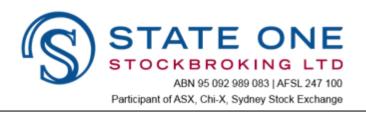
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Daily Resources Overview

22 August 2018







PRECIOUS METALS COMMENTARY

Gold prices are slightly higher in midday U.S. trading Tuesday. Prices did poke back above \$1,200.00 overnight, as the U.S. dollar is under pressure today after President Trump expressed disappointment with the Federal Reserve. This week the gold and silver market bears are showing signs of exhaustion, to suggest near-term market bottoms are in place. December gold futures were last up \$2.10 an ounce at \$1,196.70. September Comex silver was last up \$0.075 at \$14.745 an ounce.

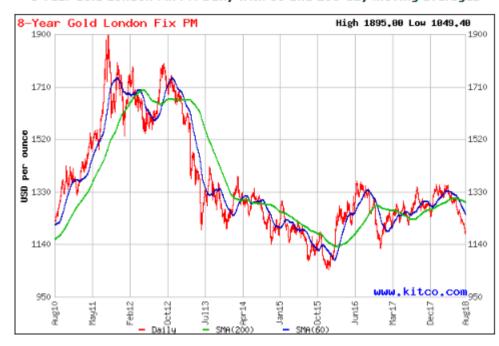
The feature in the marketplace today was a lower U.S. dollar index in the wake of remarks from Trump to supporters criticizing the Federal Reserve for raising interest rates. Trump reportedly said Fed Chairman Jay Powell is not doing the job the president had hoped he'd do, according to Reuters. The Fed has raised U.S. interest rates twice this year and is likely to raise them at least one more time this year.

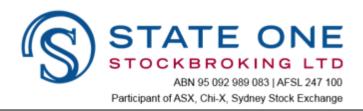
Traders are now looking ahead to Wednesday afternoon's FOMC minutes, to be released at 2:00 p.m. EDT. In recent months, the minutes have moved the markets.

Another highlight of the trading week will be the annual meeting of world central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, late this week.

The other key outside market today find October Nymex crude oil futures prices higher and trading just above \$66.00 a barrel. Source: Kitco







US Market

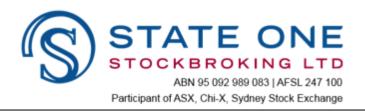
The S&P 500 reached a new intraday record high but was unable to maintain the momentum, ultimately closing 10 points shy of its previous January peak. Still, the benchmark today equalled the longest postwar bull market and will stand alone with the title on August 22.

As far as record highs go, small-cap stocks had better luck, with the Russell 2000 closing at a peak and continuing their outperformance so far this year over large-caps. Interest in stocks took some of the attention away from the US dollar, which had its biggest one-day drop in a month in the wake of President Donald Trump's criticism on Monday of the Federal Reserve's decision to raise interest rates this year.

The S&P 500 finished 0.2 per cent higher, but about 10 points shy of the record close of 2,872.87 on January 26 this year. The benchmark did manage to notch a record intraday high of 2,873.23. The best-performing sectors today were consumer discretionary, up 0.8 per cent, and telecommunications and industrials, which were each up $\frac{2}{3}$ of 1 per cent. Consumer staples and utilities were the only two sectors to finish lower. The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended 0.25 per cent higher, while the Nasdaq Composite gained 0.5 per cent.



S&P 500 Daily Chart (Source: Thomson Reuters)



Australia Market

Australian shares were set to open lower on Wednesday as investors worried about US-China trade ties. In New York, meantime, the benchmark S&P 500 touched a record high and equalled its longest ever bull-market run, as US stocks rose on earnings reports in the consumer sector and relative calm in the trade dispute between the United States and China. The Australian share market has advanced modestly on a volatile day of trading, as losses by the major banks and supermarkets were wiped by gains in the materials sector. The S&P/ASX 200 index rose 5.8 points, or 0.1 per cent, to 6345, hitting a fresh 10-year high for the second straight session.

Eclipx shares lifted 16.8 per cent to \$2.50 after the company rejected a \$806.6 million cash and stock takeover offer from SG Fleet Group. The offer, which represented a 17.9 per cent premium to Eclipx's Friday closing price was described as "inadequate" by the company. Woolworths reported a 12.5 per cent jump in annual net profits on Monday but chief executive Brad Banducci said that sales pressure was already mounting in the new financial year on the back of the removal of single-use plastic bags.



BHP Daily Chart (Source: Thomson Reuters)

Participant of ASX, Chi-X, Sydney Stock Exchange

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