

**Markets**

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	7206	3	0.0
<b>NZX 50</b>	12191	70	0.6
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	34851	-53	-0.2
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	4470	6	0.1
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	14600	-9	-0.1

**Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market commences today's trade with an overnight \$A appreciation, a plethora of large-cap stocks reporting earnings, and influential domestic economic data due late morning, following vacillating sentiment across overnight international equities trade, largely on geopolitics and key economic and monetary policy reports.

Post-ASX trade yesterday, Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) deputy governor Guy Debelle and assistant governor (financial system) Michele Bullock met with the national Senate economics legislation committee, Dr Debelle insisting that while a rate increase was possible during the coming year it was not inevitable.

**Locally** today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes January **employment** statistics, including jobs, wages and the unemployment rate, at **11.30am** AEDT.

At the same time, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) releases January foreign exchange transactions and official reserve assets.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **GPT** and **KOV**. Please see pp2-3 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

**Regionally** today, **Japan** is scheduled to report January trade figures at 10.50am AEDT.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** seesawed higher.

US **gold** futures also turned to record the first sessional gain for the week to date.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** reportedly closed slightly higher. **Nickel** was reported to have gained ~0.6%. **Aluminium** reportedly settled ~1.5% higher. Last night's LME final price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication.

The **\$A** declined to ~US71.00c after appreciating to ~US71.80c early yesterday evening, but has moved higher again this morning.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	34934	-55	-0.2
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	4475	4	0.1
<b>NASDAQ</b>	14124	-16	-0.1
<b>FTSE 100</b>	7604	-5	-0.1
<b>DAX 30</b>	15370	-42	-0.3
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	3466	20	0.6

**Today's Stock Watch**
**Wesfarmers Ltd (WES)**

80c fully franked interim dividend from 88c a year ago. 12.7% lower, \$1.21B interim NPAT. 0.1% lower \$17.76B revenue.

**Telstra Corporation (TLS)**

6c interim and 2c special dividends, each fully franked, from 5c and 3c respectively a year ago. 34% lower, \$743M interim NPAT. 9.4% lower, \$10.89B income. 69.6c NTA from 62.1c.

**Goodman Group (GMG)**

Flat, 15c interim dividend. 92.3% higher, \$2.0B interim NPAT. 59.5% higher, \$3.0B income. \$7.693 NTA from \$6.034.

**Transurban Group (TCL)**

Flat, 15c interim distribution. \$103M interim net loss. 8.7% lower, \$1.30B revenue. \$4.79 NTA from \$2.74.

**The Reject Shop (TRS)**

9.9% lower \$15.35M interim NPAT. 2.2% lower, \$424.68M sales revenue.

In addition, TRS has appointed former Officeworks MD and previous Bunnings operations GM Mark Ward as a non-executive director.

**Cleanaway Waste Management (CWY)**

2.45c, 25%-franked interim dividend from 2.25c, fully franked a year ago. ~34% lower, \$52.5M interim NPAT. 16.6% higher, \$1.36B revenue.

**Resources**
**Newcrest Mining (NCM)**

US7.5c fully franked interim dividend from US19.3c a year ago. 46% lower, \$US298M interim NPAT. 21% lower, \$US1.715B revenue. \$US12.13 NTA from \$US11.73.

**South32 Ltd (S32)**

US8.7c fully franked interim dividend from US1.81c a year ago. \$US1.03B interim NPAT from \$US53M. 32% higher, \$US4.60B underlying revenue.

**Energy**
**Woodside Petroleum (WPL)**

US1.05 fully franked final dividend. 149% higher, \$US1.98B full year NPAT. 93% higher, \$US6.96B operating revenue. \$US3.77B net debt.

**Origin Energy (ORG)**

Flat, 12.5c interim dividend. \$131M interim net loss from a \$183M 1H FY21 loss. 7% higher, \$6.51B revenue. Planning to end coal-fired power generation earlier than initially forecast.

**Whitehaven Coal (WHC)**

8c interim dividend from nil a year ago. \$340.50M interim NPAT from a \$94.46M net loss. 106% higher, \$1.44B revenue.



## Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets chopped and swung variously overnight, amid conflicting statements regarding Russian military personnel activity near the border with Ukraine, continued cost warnings from influential stocks reporting earnings, and commentary surrounding material international data releases, including new inflation figures.

US Federal Reserve January policy meeting minutes revealed monetary committee agreement on tightening monetary policy this year, and also that all moves ought be dictated by data analysis. This appeared to improve sentiment across key US equities indices during the last two hours of trade.

Earlier yesterday, China reported 0.9% annual inflation to the end of January, but 9.1% higher producer prices.

Overnight **data** releases included an initial January CPI estimate for the **UK**, which represented 0.1% deflation for the month and 5.5% inflation for the 12 months to 31 January.

The figures came in roughly as anticipated by forecasters.

**Euro zone** December industrial production rose 1.2%, against expectations for a 0.3% increase for the month following a 2.4% November climb.

Against December 2020 output was up 1.6%.

In the **US**, January retail sales pleased, jumping by 3.8% following a 2.5% December decline.

Moreover, sales were 13% higher than for January 2021.

January industrial production also improved, rising 1.4% for the month after slipping by 0.1% during December.

Forecasters had expected a 0.3% turn higher.

Against January 2021, output was up 4.1%.

In the meantime, January export and import prices were estimated 2.9% and 2.0% higher respectively for the month, following forecasts for 1% and 1.5% increases.

Business inventories were reported to have grown by 2.1% during December against expectations of a 1.7% rise.

A February home builder's sentiment index slipped to 82 from 83.

Weekly mortgage applications dropped 5.4% after tumbling 8.1% the previous week.

The mean average 30-year mortgage rate was calculated at 4.05% from 3.83%.

Meanwhile, a 20-year US bond auction produced a 2.40% yield from 2.21%.

In Germany, a 10-year bond auction delivered a 0.31% yield from -0.08%.

**Tonight** in the **US**, weekly new unemployment claims, a regional manufacturing index, and January building permits and housing starts are due.

In addition, two US Federal Reserve regional presidents are scheduled to speak publicly.

Elsewhere, the European Central Bank's chief economist is also scheduled to speak publicly.

Companies listed to report earnings or provide trading updates later today or tonight include: Airbus, Alibaba, Barclays, Commerzbank, Gazprom Neft, Lundin Mining, Nestlé, Reckitt

## Pre-Open Announcements

### Tabcorp Holdings (TAH)

6.5c fully franked interim dividend from 7.5c a year ago.  
5% lower, \$175M interim NPAT.  
2% higher, \$2.93B revenue.

### Webjet Ltd (\* WEB)

Outlaying \$US10M to secure 49% of US-headquartered Roomdex which boasts the Upgrade Optimizer service.  
WEB will also hold an option to acquire the balance 51%.  
Planning to report full year results 19 May.  
WEB recouped 4.8% yesterday, settling at \$6.08.

### Bell Financial Group (\* BFG)

AUSTRAC has demanded BFG appoint an external auditor to assess compliance with the *Anti-Money Laundering & Counter-Terrorism Financing Act* (AML/CTF) and to report to AUSTRAC within 180 days of the auditor appointment.  
BFG says it welcomes the opportunity to ensure its AML/CTF compliance program is robust and appropriate.

## Resources

### Gold Road Resources (\* GOR)

Resources and reserves update lodged pre-trade.

## Energy

### Strike Energy (\* STX)

Declaring a gas discovery within the South Erregulla 1 well, onshore Perth Basin.  
Details lodged this morning. STX 100%.

## Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Bowen Coking Coal	BCB	17 Feb
Critical Resources	CRR	17 Feb
Global Lithium Resources	GL1	18 Feb
Ragnar Metals	RAG	18 Feb

## Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Cassius Mining	CMD	27 Jan
Comet Resources	CRL	31 Jan
Delecta Ltd	DLC	15 Feb
Structural Monitoring Systems	SMN	27 Jan

## Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
GPT	Today	9.9	0	5.28



Benckiser and Walmart.

In overnight corporate news, **Kraft Heinz** and **Heineken** confirmed they were each raising prices to help offset increasing costs.

Post-US trade, **Nvidia** has reported record sales and a 100% profit jump.

**NB: US markets will be closed Monday next week, due to a public holiday.**

### Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold (NY)</b> (Apr)	<b>1871.5</b>	oz	15.3	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Silver (NY)</b> (Mar)	<b>23.56</b>	oz	0.22	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Gold (LON)</b> (15 Feb)	<b>1849</b>	oz		
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>1061</b>	oz	38	<b>3.8</b>
<b>WTI Crude</b> (NYMEX Mar)	<b>93.66</b>	bbl	1.59	<b>1.7</b>
<b>Brent Crude</b> (ICE EUR Apr)	<b>94.81</b>	bbl	1.52	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Iron Ore</b> (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	<b>144.89</b>	t	15 Feb	-1.3
<b>Copper (LME 3mth Evening)</b> (15 Feb)	<b>9965</b>	t		
<b>Nickel</b>	<b>23270</b>	t		
<b>Aluminium</b>	<b>3207</b>	t		
<b>Lead</b>	<b>2308</b>	t		
<b>Zinc</b>	<b>3582</b>	t		
<b>Tin</b>	<b>43391</b>	t		

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – prices turned to settle higher overnight, amid a swing lower for the \$US, and speculation regarding whether or not Russia was reducing troop numbers near the border with Ukraine.

WTI traded as high as \$US95.82/bbl intra-session.

Meanwhile, South Korea and Iran were reported to be discussing the possible release of Iranian funds in South Korea and South Korean imports of crude from Iran.

A negotiator from France offered a potential decision on the restoration of a 2015 international nuclear agreement with Iran was perhaps days, rather than weeks, away.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report, published overnight by government agency the EIA, included a 1.121Mmbbl increase in stored crude and 1.331MMbbl fall for petrol stocks.

Petrol production fell by 56,000bbl/d.

Net crude imports rose by 23,000bbl/d.

Post-overnight Tuesday US trade, the American Petroleum Institute released a report indicating a 1.076MMbb fall for domestic crude stocks last week.

**Gold** – a weaker \$US, some bargain buying following this week's declines and unresolved Russia-Ukraine border tensions were cited as major influences on a move higher for Comex gold futures overnight.

The US Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting minutes, published post-Comex settlement, revealed no defined timeframe for increasing interest rates.

**Base metals** – ongoing uncertainty regarding the situation near Russia's border with Ukraine and continuing high energy costs supported an overnight swing higher for *aluminium* prices.

In the Guangxi region city of Baise however, a Covid-19 –

<b>KOV</b>	Today	<b>25</b>	100	4.29
<b>KPG</b>	Today	<b>0.36</b>	100	0.92
ARG	Tomorrow	16	100	2.78
GUD	Tomorrow	17	100	4.48
GWA	Tomorrow	7	100	4.88
RYD	Tomorrow	3	100	4.55
ZIM	Tomorrow	156.6	0	6.17
ANN	Mon	34	0	3.88
AMC	Tue	16.85	0	3.78
RKN	Tue	2	100	5.00
AGL	Wed	16	0	8.93
DOW	Wed	12	0	3.90
JBH	Wed	163	100	5.30
BBN	Thu (24 Feb)	6.6	100	2.74
BHP	Thu	210.7	100	8.51
PMC	Thu	3	100	4.49
TWD	Thu	11	100	6.52
BAP	Fri (25 Feb)	10	100	2.84
BPT	Fri	1	100	1.37
FID	Fri	14.8	100	3.35

### Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
<b>Today</b>	<b>ABP</b>	Interim (w/cast 10am)
	<b>CGF</b>	Interim
	<b>CWY</b>	Interim (w/cast tele 9.30am)
	<b>CDA</b>	Interim
	<b>CWP</b>	Interim
	<b>CWN</b>	Interim
	<b>DTL</b>	Interim (w/cast tele 11.30am)
	<b>DHG</b>	Interim (w/cast 10.30am)
	<b>EGG</b>	Interim (w/cast tele 9.30am)
	<b>GMG</b>	Interim
	<b>GOZ</b>	Interim
	<b>GNC</b>	AGM
	<b>IRE</b>	Interim
	<b>MVF</b>	Interim
	<b>NCM</b>	Interim
	<b>NWH</b>	Interim (tele 10am)
	<b>ORG</b>	Interim
	<b>RIC</b>	Interim (tele 10am)
	<b>S32</b>	Interim
	<b>SGR</b>	Interim
<b>TAH</b>	Interim	
<b>TLS</b>	Interim	
<b>TRS</b>	Interim (tele 9.30am)	
<b>TCL</b>	Interim	
<b>VUK</b>	AGM (8pm)	
<b>WES</b>	Interim (w/cast 1pm)	



containment lockdown was lifted, enabling easier aluminium production.

China's January **producer prices** and **CPI**, published yesterday, represented 9.1% and 0.9% year-on-year growth respectively. Forecasters had anticipated 9.6% and 1.4% respective climbs.

### Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.7195	0.0040	<b>0.56</b>
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.1375	0.0027	<b>0.24</b>

### Australian Data Today

ABS	Employment (incl jobs, wages, unemployment rate)	Jan
RBA	Forex transactions; official reserve assets	Jan

### US Data Today & Tonight

Initial jobless claims	12 Feb
Building permits	Jan
Housing starts	Jan
Philadelphia Fed manufacturing	Feb

### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

<b>Japan</b>	Trade balance	Jan
Japan	Machinery orders	Dec
<b>Euro zone</b>	ECB economic bulletin	Feb
Euro zone	Domestic vehicle registrations	Jan

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	WHC	Interim
	WPL	Full year
<b>Tomorrow</b>	ING	Interim (w/cast 10am)
	MFG	Interim (webinar 11am)
	MYS	Interim
	QBE	Full year
<b>Mon</b>	A2M	Interim
	ADH	Interim (tele 11am)
	ALU	Interim (tele 9.30am)
	ALD	Full year
	BSL	Interim
	CNU	Interim (tele 8am)
	EDV	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	LLC	Interim
	LFS	Full year (w/cast tele 9.30am)
	NXL	Interim (w/cast 10.30am)
	NHF	Interim
	OZL	Full year
	RWC	Interim (w/cast 9am)
	SSG	Interim (tele 11am)
	SHL	Interim
	SUL	Interim (tele 10.30am)

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