

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6785	19	0.3
NZX 50	12526	-35	-0.3
DJIA Futures	32904	6	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	3968	1	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	13105	15	0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens the last domestic trading day until Tuesday next week with six material domestic economic reports due by late morning, and additional key regional data, including for China, by early afternoon.

Overnight international equities and commodities trade leads proved mixed, and plenty of varied commentary is anticipated on the US president's proposed new spending plan, ahead of a bevy of further influential international data tonight and tomorrow night.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases February **trade, retail sales, lending indicators/finance** and **job vacancies** reports, each at **11.30am AEDT**.

CoreLogic is also expected to release its March **residential property prices** report this morning.

Pre-trade, AiG has published a **59.9** estimate for the national March **manufacturing activity index (PMI)**. This, against 58.8 for February.

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) publishes its monthly **commodity prices** report 4.30pm AEDT.

Regionally today, Caixin is scheduled to release its March **manufacturing PMI** for China **12.45pm AEDT**.

A final March **manufacturing PMI** is anticipated for Japan **11.30am AEDT**, and **Tankan indices** 10.50am.

South Korea is expected to report March **trade** statistics 11am. A March **manufacturing PMI** is due 11.30am.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** continued to fall.

US **gold** futures swung higher, settling above \$US1710/oz.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) declined by \$US1.43/t to \$US165.15/t.

Nymex (CFR China, 62% Fe) iron ore was reported 2.9% lower.

LME **copper** (indicative) and **nickel** turned to settle higher. **Aluminium** extended this week's decline.

The **\$A** fell to US75.90c after trading at ~US76.20c early yesterday evening.

China's markets will be closed Monday, due to a public holiday, but will be open tomorrow.

Overseas Markets.

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	32982	-85	-0.3

State One wishes readers a safe and peaceful Easter

The Market Opener will resume Tuesday

The **ASX** will be **closed tomorrow**
and **Monday** next week (5 April), due to **Easter**

Settlements

Today's trades will settle **Wednesday next week** (7 April)

Yesterday's settle **Tuesday next week** (6 April)

Daylight saving ends this weekend

From **Tuesday** (6 April), **ASX trade commences** local time in:
Western Australia at 8am;
Queensland at 10am; and the
Northern Territory at 9.30am

Today's Stock Watch

AMP Ltd (AMP) / Australia & New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)

AMP CEO Francesco De Ferrari is remaining in his role until at least 1 July, but AMP has appointed ANZ deputy CEO Alexis George to ultimately take over as CEO.

AMP salary and conditions for Ms Alexis lodged pre-trade, together with arrangements for Mr De Ferrari.

Dough Ltd (DOU)

US Securities and Exchange Commission Registered Investment Adviser (RIA) licence in hand, enabling DOU to offer wealth management services in the US.

Vital Harvest (VTH)

As previously flagged, VTH has received a binding \$1.12 cash-per-unit trust scheme takeover proposal from Roc Private Equity.

Boral Ltd (BLD)

\$US1.05B sale of BLD's 50% of the USG BLD completed for an anticipated \$A450M post-tax profit. In association, BLD will conduct a 12-month, 10% on-market share buy-back.

Downer EDI (DOW)

\$155M sale of 70% of DOW's Laundries business completed.

New Zealand Coastal Seafoods (NZS)

A purchase agreement secured with Good Health Products in May 2020 has been terminated due to a third party contract processor not meeting NZS product standards. This meant NZS was unable to sufficiently satisfy agreement timeframes. NZS-Good Health distribution opportunities talks continue.



S&P 500	3973	14	0.4
NASDAQ	13247	201	1.5
FTSE 100	6714	-58	-0.9
DAX 30	15008	-0.3	-0.0
Shanghai Comp	3442	-15	-0.4

Overseas Markets Commentary

Marked swings continued across most European, UK and US equities markets overnight, but not so for the NASDAQ and S&P 500, as large tech/communications stocks returned to favour in end-of-quarter trade.

Amid Covid-19 concerns, France's administration meanwhile extended a select lockdown nationally and announced schools would return to remote learning for three weeks from next week.

A pre-release of the US president's plan for an ~\$US2 trillion spend on infrastructure and community care included no change in capital gains tax or the highest individual tax rates, but a 7% increase in corporate tax to 28%.

Plenty of debate is anticipated ahead of a proposed legislative vote pencilled in for July.

In overnight **data** releases, the final estimate of **UK** December quarter GDP represented a fall of 7.3% over the three months, against forecasts of a 7.8% decline, and following an 8.5% September quarter drop.

Against the December quarter 2019, GDP was up 1.3%.

A March house price index fell 0.2% for the month following a 0.7% February rise. Prices were estimated 5.7% higher than for March 2020.

The **euro zone's** initial March CPI reading represented 0.9% inflation for the month, following a 0.2% February rise, and 1.3% year-on-year inflation growth.

Germany's March unemployment rate remained flat at 6%.

In the **US**, a private sector employment report estimated 517,000 new jobs for March, following just 176,000 in February and against forecasts of a 495,000 increase.

The March Chicago PMI came in at 66.3 from 59.5 and following forecasts of a more modest rise to 59.8.

Pending home sales were reported down 10.6% for the month and 0.5% lower than for February 2020.

Weekly mortgage applications extended a string of falls, this time declining 2.2%. 30-year mortgage rates were estimated at a mean 3.33% from 3.36% the previous week.

Tonight in the **US**, the ISM's March manufacturing index and February construction spending are due.

Weekly new unemployment claims, and a March job cuts report are also keenly anticipated, ahead of March national employment statistics tomorrow night.

Elsewhere, the **European Central Bank** (ECB) publishes a monthly economic bulletin, featuring outlooks and updated forecasts.

Easter trading ...

US markets will be **closed tomorrow** but will open for regular trade **Monday next week**.

Major European and UK markets will be **closed Friday and Monday**.

Pre-Open Announcements

Identitii Ltd (* ID8)

HSBC contract renewal in hand for three years.

Worth up to \$2M in recurring revenue, plus professional services and other fees.

Webjet Ltd (* WEB)

Conducting a \$250M five-year convertible notes offer.

Additional details, including current debt information lodged post-trade yesterday.

EML Payments (* EML)

The UK Payment Systems Regulator has resolved regulatory action against Prepaid Financial Services (PFS).

EML acquired PFS late 2019, almost two years after the regulator had commenced an investigation into alleged anti-competitive activity by PFS.

The investigation continues, but a settlement has been agreed, with PFS to pay an ~£920,000 penalty.

In anticipation of a penalty, EML had withheld £5M from PFS' vendors, and will now pay ~£4M to the vendors after deducting legal costs.

4DMedical Ltd (* 4DX)

\$32M worth of applications received for the company's originally targeted \$3M \$1.55-per-share SPP.

4DX subsequently increased the offer to \$6M.

Together with the \$40M raised in the prior institutional placement, 4DX boasts an \$80M cash balance.

4DX has traded at \$1.62 - \$1.99 for the week to date.

Funtastic Ltd (FUN)

\$1.0M interim (to 31 January) NPAT, from a \$4.19M net loss a year ago.

14.9% higher, \$16.25M revenue.

\$2.93 NTA, from \$3.59 net tangible liabilities.

Resources

OZ Minerals (* OZL)

Update keenly anticipated at today's AGM, 11am AEDT.

Queensland Pacific Metals (* QPM)

MoU in hand to supply Eramet group subsidiary Société Le Nickel with a potential 800,000tpa of laterite ore.

In addition, QPM has appointed QPM CEO Stephen Grocott as MD, to take over immediately from John Downie.

Mr Downie will remain with QPM as an executive director.

Further, QPM has appointed Barry Sanders as project director.

Artemis Resources (* ARV)

Heralding Carlow Castle RC drilling results, which include several significant-width and/or high-grade gold and copper assays.

**Commodities**

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$/US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1713.8	oz	29.9	1.8
Silver (NY) (May)	24.53	oz	0.39	1.6
Gold (LON) (29 Mar)	1706	oz		
Platinum	1180	oz	30	2.6
WTI Crude (NYMEX May)	59.16	bbbl	-1.39	-2.3
Brent Crude (ICE EUR May)	63.54	bbbl	-0.60	-0.9
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	162.21	t	-4.78	-2.9
Copper (LME Ind)	8622	t	46	0.5
Nickel	16085	t	144	0.9
Aluminium	2216	t	-13	-0.6
Lead	1979	t	11	0.5
Zinc	2808	t	-0.5	-0.0
Tin	25215	t	-495	-1.9

Commodities Commentary

Oil – an overnight description of international economic scenarios as ‘remaining challenging, complex and uncertain’ from the OPEC secretary general, kept overnight prices contained.

The OPEC+ technical committee met overnight to consider market outlooks and production curb compliance, subsequently issuing a report which included a 300,000bbbl/d reduction in this year’s oil demand growth prediction, to 5.6MMbbbl/d.

International supply growth was estimated to rise by a daily 200,000bbbl, to 1.6MMbbbl/d.

Associated options for production, but no recommendations, were reportedly contained in the committee’s advice, which will be considered at OPEC and OPEC+ meetings tonight. Energy ministers will attempt to determine agreeable production levels from 1 May, with Saudi Arabia expected to continue voluntary cuts in order to support prices.

Also overnight, a weekly US petroleum inventories report from government agency the EIA estimated an 876,000bbbl draw on crude stocks and 1.735M fewer barrels of petrol in storage.

Net crude imports declined by 17,000bbbl/d.

Overnight Tuesday, post-US trade, a US petroleum industry group published a report which included a 3.91MMbbbl increase in domestic crude stocks last week.

Tonight, a weekly US petroleum drill rig count is due.

Brent crude fell 3.9% during March but ended the quarter ~23% higher than at 31 December 2020. WTI crude declined 3.8% for the month and ~22% for the quarter.

The May delivery Brent contract expired on settlement overnight, the June contract losing 2.2% to settle at \$US62.74/bbl.

Gold – end of quarter trade pushed gold prices higher overnight.

Nonetheless, Comex futures (most active contract prices) settled ~9.5% lower for the March quarter and 0.8% down for the month.

The most active contract has now swung to June. These futures also rose 1.8% overnight, to \$US1715.6/oz.

Base metals – overnight LME trade appeared influenced by several factors, including end of March quarter considerations, and China’s official (NBS) March PMIs, published yesterday, continuing \$US strength, and further Covid-19 – related

Venturex Resources (* VXR)

Chairman Tony Kiernan retired from the VXR board yesterday. VXR director Anthony Reilly has been appointed interim chair, ahead of the proposed appointment, pending shareholder approval, of Michael Blakiston as chair.

Pursuit Minerals (* PUR)

Resuming from a trading halt with firm commitments for an ~\$A8.25M, 6.9c-per-share placement.

PUR is issuing Stocks Digital with 3M shares for nil consideration. Details lodged this morning.

PUR traded at 7.1c – 9.7c over the five sessions immediately prior to calling the halt.

Grange Resources (GRR)

Resources for the Savage River magnetite deposits in Tasmania increased by 7Mt last year to 497.5Mt @ 45.8% DTR.

Ore reserves have been estimated at 107.Mt @47.2% DTR, down 5.5Mt due to mining.

Geopacific Resources (GPR) / GR Engineering Services (GNG)

GPR has ordered Woodlark gold project grinding mills from GNG.

Western Areas (WSA)

Extending the company’s SPP by two weeks to 20 April.

Danakali Ltd (DNK)

Full year results to 30 December 2020 lodged post-trade yesterday.

Peregrine Gold (* PGD)

Gold-focused explorer completed a successful ASX listing yesterday, following a \$2.5M IPO at 20c per share.

Opened at 26c and traded at 24c – 30c before settling at 24.5c.

~1,67M shares were traded across 135 transactions.

~28.88M quoted shares. ~9.625M quoted options.

Energy**Strike Energy (* STX)**

Term sheet in hand to acquire existing WA Perth Basin geothermal rights by acquiring Mid West Geothermal Power. Details lodged pre-trade.

88 Energy (88E)

Operations update, including ongoing Merlin-1 wireline logging, lodged post-trade yesterday.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Advanced Human Imaging	AHI	1 Apr
Alara Resources	AUQ	1 Apr
Maggie Beer Holdings	MBH	1 Apr



restrictions in Europe.

In addition, speculation spread regarding potential further curbs on steel facilities, in Tangshan, China.

Meanwhile, mining at the Ok Tedi Mining copper project, shut down for the past couple of weeks on PNG Covid-19 outbreak concerns, was reported to be resuming today.

China's PMIs indicated growth for both the manufacturing and services sectors. The manufacturing PMI rose by 1.3 to 51.9. The services sector activity index jumped 4.9 points to 56.3.

Another March manufacturing PMI for China, this one from Caixin, is due today.

Japan's initial February industrial production estimate, reported yesterday, fell 2.1% for the month and 2.6% year-on-year. Output had been reported 4.3% higher for January.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7598	-0.0003	-0.04
EUR – USD	1.1726	0.0019	0.16

Australian Data Today

ABS	Retail sales	Feb
ABS	International goods & services trade	Feb
ABS	Lending indicators/finance (incl for property)	Feb
ABS	Job vacancies	Feb
AiG	PMI	Mar
CoreLogic	Home price index	Feb
RBA	Commodity prices (4.30pm AEDT)	Mar

US Data Tonight

ISM manufacturing	Mar
Initial jobless claims	27 Mar
Construction spending	Feb
Challenger job cuts	Mar

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	Tankan indices	Mar Q
Japan	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
South Korea	Trade balance	Mar
South Korea	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
UK	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
Germany	Retail sales	Feb
Germany	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar
Euro zone	ECB economic bulletin (incl new forecasts)	Mar
Euro zone	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Mar

Nagambie Resources	NAG	1 Apr
Qualitas Real Estate Income Fund	QRI	1 Apr
Nova Minerals	NVA	6 Apr
Sacgasco Ltd	SGC	6 Apr
Skyfii Ltd	SKF	6 Apr
Tietto Minerals	TIE	6 Apr
Xstate Resources	XST	6 Apr

Suspensions *(select)*

Company	Code	Since
Agua Resources	AGR	31 Mar
Roto-Gro International	RGI	17 Mar
SG Fleet Group	SGF	26 Mar
Story-I Ltd	SRY	24 Mar
Syntonic Ltd	SYT	25 Mar
Vanadium Resources	VR8	31 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
CYC	Today	0.5	0	0.19
EP1	Today	2	100	3.76
NBI	Today	0.7	0	4.95
PFG	Today	0.3	100	4.29
EDC	Tues	2	0	7.19
MA1	Tues	13	100	0.71
PIC	Tues	2.8	100	4.78
SIG	Tues	1	100	0.00
ABC	Wed	7.25	100	2.80
CAM	Wed	1.2	100	5.25
CLV	Wed	0.5	100	1.36
HM1	Wed	12	100	0.00
PIA	Wed	1.25	100	5.21
WAX	Wed	4.95	100	5.51
WMA	Wed	1	100	3.03
WMI	Wed	4	100	2.88
ARB	Thu (8 Apr)	29	100	1.15
GOW	Thu	4	100	3.88
SDI	Thu	1.5	100	2.26
UNI	Thu	5	100	0.00



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