

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7201	6	0.1
NZX 50	12722	-44	-0.4
DJIA Futures	34813	-439	-1.3
S&P 500 Futures	4559	-51	-1.1
NASDAQ Futures	15621	-167	-1.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade with Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) policy minutes due late morning, and new regional data in hand pre-trade, following a dull overnight sentiment across international equities markets.

Locally today, the **RBA** will release the **minutes** of its 7 December **policy meeting** at **11.30am** AEDT.

Stocks trading ex-dividend today include **MTS**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

Regionally this morning, **South Korea** has reported November **producer prices**, these estimated 0.5% higher for the month against forecasts for a 0.9% rise, following October's 1.0% increase.

Against November 2020, prices were up 9.6%.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** fell further.

US **gold** futures turned lower, falling beneath \$US1795/oz.

Iron ore (China port CFR, 62% fines) rallied beyond \$US123.50/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and other key base metals were reportedly pushed lower in early trade. *Last night's LME final price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication.*

The **\$A** rose to ~US71.10c after trading at ~US70.95c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34932	-433	-1.2
S&P 500	4568	-53	-1.1
NASDAQ	14981	-189	-1.2
FTSE 100	7198	-72	-1.0
DAX 30	15240	-292	-1.9
Shanghai Comp	3594	-39	-1.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets dropped on opening overnight, largely maintaining the falls through to settlement.

Traders considered a wave of Covid-19 restriction announcements from the weekend.

In addition, in the US, a key democratic Senator confirmed late weekend that he intended to vote against the proposed ~\$US1.75B 'build back better' funding legislation.

ASX Trading 24 December – 4 January

24 December	10am – 2.10pm AEDT
27 December	CLOSED
28 December	CLOSED
29 December	10am – 4.10pm AEDT
30 December	10am – 4.10pm AEDT
31 December	10am – 2.10pm AEDT
3 January 2021	CLOSED
4 January 2021	10am – 4.10pm AEDT

State One's Market Opener will continue until Thursday and resume Monday 10 January 2022



Trades executed **Thursday** (23 December) will settle 29 December (Wednesday next week).

Friday's (24 December) trades will settle 30 December (Thursday next week).

Trades executed **Thursday next week** (30 December) settle 4 January.

Friday (31 December) trades will settle 5 January.

Today's Stock Watch

Nine Entertainment Co (NEC)

National Rugby League broadcast exclusive, live free streaming free-to-air TV rights secured for 2023 – 2027. Select radio and audio streaming rights also secured. Details lodged post-trade yesterday. NEC will pay ~\$115Mpa cash plus \$15M contract and other non-cash services. NEC has settled lower or flat the past six sessions, at \$2.73 yesterday.

Unibail Rodamco Westfield (URW)

Selling Solna Centrum, Stockholm for 2.8B Swedish krona (~€272M), a premium to the most recent appraisal.

Australian Clinical Labs (ACL)

Anticipating \$116.3M - \$128.0M 1H FY22 NPAT and \$497.3M - \$517.2M revenue, each higher than previous forecasts.

Resources

Matsa Resources (MAT)

Selling the Red October and Devon gold projects to Linden Gold (LGL) for a total \$20M worth of LGL cash and shares. LGL is paying \$15M initially and \$5M as a deferred payment. MAT is retaining the 72-room Red October village and associate infrastructure. MAT last traded at 5.8c.



Further, yesterday, Chinese property developer Kaisa revealed it had defaulted on several bond payments and that restructuring negotiations with creditors were underway.

This, as the much larger developer Evergrande, assessed late last week by S&P Global as in default, was reported to have received no compensation as the Chengdu local government reclaimed two land packages.

Earlier yesterday, the People's Bank of China reduced the one-year loan prime rate from 3.85% to 3.80%, but retained the five-year rate at 4.65%.

Overnight, the German administration announced its nomination for the nation's central bank the Bundesbank's next president, a member of the Bundesbank policy making committee during 2010 - 2016.

In scant overnight **data** releases, the UK CBI December industrial trends orders index was reported at 24, from 26 and against forecasts for a larger decline to 19.

In the **US**, the Conference Board's November leading index was estimated at 1.1% from 0.9% for October and following forecasts for no change.

Tonight in the **US** no major economic indicators are listed for release. A 20-year bond auction is scheduled, however.

Elsewhere, consumer confidence readings from the euro zone will prove of interest, given the range of Covid-19 containment measures announced over the past few weeks.

Companies scheduled to report earnings or provide an update later today or tonight include Aluminum Corp of China, FactSet Research Systems and General Mills.

In overnight corporate news, **Moderna** announced the company's Covid-19 booster shot had demonstrated a strong antibody response against the omicron variant, perhaps boosting antibody levels beyond those determined following a third dose of **Pfizer's** Covid-19 vaccine.

Meanwhile, the European Medicines Agency recommended, and the European Commission approved, use of the **Novavax** Covid-19 vaccine, following the WHO's emergency-use authorisation late last week.

Oracle confirmed it was outlaying ~\$US28.3B (\$US95 cash-per-share) for medical software specialist **Cerner**.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Feb)	1794.6	oz	-10.3	-0.6
Silver (NY) (Mar)	22.29	oz	-0.24	-1.1
Gold (LON)	1808	oz		
Platinum	935	oz	-2	-0.2
WTI Crude (NYMEX Feb)	68.23	bbbl	-2.63	-3.7
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Feb)	71.52	bbbl	-2.00	-2.7
Iron Ore (Qingdao) (CHN;62%Fe)	123.51	t	3.91	3.3
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (17Dec)	9443	t		
Nickel	19658	t		
Aluminium	2727	t		
Lead	2313	t		
Zinc	3390	t		
Tin	38455	t		

Pre-Open Announcements

Insurance Australia Group (IAG)

IAG has appointed Westpac Banking Corporation (ASX: WBC) enterprise risk GM Peter Taylor as IAG chief risk officer (CRO), pending regulatory approvals.

Mr Taylor is expected to commence with IAG mid-2022.

Current IAG CRO David Watts resigned in September and will be leaving IAG 11 February 2022.

In addition, IAG strategic projects executive Craig Olsen is planning to leave IAG 28 February.

AMP Ltd (AMP)

Planning to delist from the New Zealand Exchange (NZX) main board early February 2022 and to maintain a sole listing on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX).

SenSen Networks (* SEN)

Three-year ~\$A192,000 AI number plate recognition contract secured with the Queensland Revenue Office.

Inghams Group (ING)

New Zealand CEO Jonathan Gray is stepping down from this role effective 1 July 2022.

Mr Gray joined ING in 2008.

Australian Dairy Nutritionals Group (AHF)

Clarification lodged post-trade yesterday regarding the supply agreement secured with a cross-border distributor in China.

AHF has dispatched an initial order of ~2000 units, and will pay fees based on products sales through e-commerce channels.

BirdDog Technology (* BDT)

Audio-visual technology developer and manufacturer completed its ASX listing yesterday, following a \$33M IPO at 65c per share.

Opened at 70c and traded at 67.5c – 74.5c before closing at 69c.

~204.6M quoted shares.

Atturra Ltd (* ATA)

Technology services company scheduled to list on the ASX 10.30am AEDT **tomorrow**, following an ~\$24.78M IPO at 50c per share.

~200.55M quoted shares.

Resources

Rumble Resources (RTR)

Earaheedy project Chinook prospect drilling has determined a major zinc-lead-silver-copper feeder fault zone.

Assays lodged this morning.

Ongoing drilling.

Artemis Resources (* ARV)

Carlow east zone RC drilling has returned high-grade gold and copper intersections.

Assays lodged pre-trade.



Commodities Commentary

Oil – broadening Covid-19 containment travel and select industry restrictions bruised demand views overnight.

Brent crude traded as low as \$US69.28/bbl intra-session, and WTI at \$US66.04/bbl.

Gold – liquidity considerations, a drop in oil prices and general risk-off sentiment damaged overnight gold interest.

The \$US traded a little lower (\$US index -0.152%), but this failed to support any gains.

Final September quarter US and UK GDP growth readings, due tomorrow night, could potentially influence some trade heading into the early US close for the Christmas holiday.

Base metals – overnight trade was pushed and pulled by a rate cut in China yesterday, Covid-related international growth concerns, industry activity reports and Chile's presidential election.

The International Aluminium Institute estimated international primary aluminium production 0.22% lower year-on-year, at 5.497Mt.

Further, data out of China over the weekend, revealed China's November aluminium imports had pushed annual aluminium imports to a record peak.

Meanwhile, a left-leaning politician was declared the winner of Chile's presidential election late weekend, this interpreted as possibly negative for *copper* and *lithium* miners.

Yesterday, the **People's Bank of China's** 0.05% cut in the one-year loan prime rate to 3.80% represented the first cut since April 2020.

The central bank opted to retain the 4.65% five-year loan prime rate.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7110	0.0000	0.00
EUR – USD	1.1280	0.0031	0.28

Australian Data Today

RBA	Policy meeting minutes	7 Dec
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Overseas Data Today & Tonight

South Korea	Producer prices	Nov
UK	Public sector finances	Nov
UK	CBI distributive trades	Dec
Germany	GfK consumer confidence	Jan
Euro zone	Consumer confidence (initial)	Dec

Need More Information?

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Kirkland Lake Gold (* KLA)

Paying a US18.75c quarterly dividend.

Poseidon Nickel (POS)

WA Black Swan project restart update lodged this morning.

Wiluna Mining (WMC)

Matilda-Wiluna concentrator commissioning underway, ahead of a first shipment anticipated in January 2022.

Greenvale Mining (GRV)

Northern Territory Georgina Basin IOCG project update lodged this morning, including expectations of results from the latest diamond drilling by the end of February 2022.

In addition, GRV has successfully applied, via a competitive process, for two additional exploration licences.

DMC Mining (* DMM)

Mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX midday AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$5M IPO at 20c per share. 27.2M quoted shares.

Falcon Metals (* FAL)

WA-focused mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX 2pm AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$30M IPO at 50c per share.

177M quoted shares.

Infinity Mining (* IMI) / Macarthur Minerals (MIO)

Lithium and base metals exploration company and MIO spin-out IMI is scheduled to list on the ASX 3pm AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$10M IPO at 20c per share.

57.5M quoted shares.

MIO intends to focus on iron ore assets.

Macarthur Australia holds 20.74% of IMI.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Pantera Minerals	PFE	21 Dec
Midas Minerals	MM1	22 Dec

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
BPH Energy	BPH	9 Dec
Emerge Gaming	EM1	3 Dec
Geopacific Resources	GPR	15 Dec
Palla Pharma (<i>in administration</i>)	PAL	15 Dec

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
MTS	Today	10.5	100	3.89
REP	Today	1.09	0	0.00

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SGLLV	Today	10	100	5.16
KPG	Tomorrow	0.36	100	1.53
FPP	29 Dec	3	0	4.48
ABP	30 Dec	8.75	0	4.53
APA	30 Dec	25	0	5.16
APZ	30 Dec	3.1	0	3.77
ARF	30 Dec	3.95	0	3.34
AVN	30 Dec	5	0	4.88
BWP	30 Dec	9.02	0	4.40
CHC	30 Dec	19.66	42.37	1.73
CIP	30 Dec	4.33	0	4.25
CLW	30 Dec	7.62	0	5.77
CMW	30 Dec	1.63	0	7.76
CNI	30 Dec	5.5	21.81	2.94
COF	30 Dec	4.15	0	6.95
CQE	30 Dec	4.22	0	4.15
CQR	30 Dec	11.7	0	5.43
DXC	30 Dec	5.72	0	6.26
DXI	30 Dec	4.33	0	4.93
DXS	30 Dec	28	0	4.59
GDF	30 Dec	1.8	0	4.29
GDI	30 Dec	3.88	0	7.05
GMG	30 Dec	15	0	1.14
GOZ	30 Dec	10.4	0	4.58
HCW	30 Dec	3	0	0.00
HDN	30 Dec	2.08	0	4.06
HPI	30 Dec	10.2	0	5.27
KLA	30 Dec	US18.75	0	tbc
MGR	30 Dec	5.1	0	3.37
NSR	30 Dec	4.6	0	3.23
RCT	30 Dec	16.58	0	7.23
REP	30 Dec	1.09	0	0.00
RFF	30 Dec	2.93	0	3.72
SCP	30 Dec	7.2	0	4.18
SGP	30 Dec	12	0	5.54
TCL	30 Dec	15	0	2.66
TGP	30 Dec	1.5	0	5.42
TOT	30 Dec	1.5	0	6.74
WPR	30 Dec	4.21	0	7.42