

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7093	-52	-0.7
NZX 50	12132	-10	-0.1
DJIA Futures	34007	0	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	4344	0	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	13996	0	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens a new week's trade with a swag of large-cap domestic stocks reporting earnings, heightened warnings of global economic risk from potential Russia-Ukraine military conflict, and with the US observing a Monday public holiday.

Overnight Friday international equities trade proved largely negative.

Since overnight Friday trade, major western nations have issued new warnings regarding a possible invasion of Ukraine by Russia and bemoaned the extension of Russia-Belarus military drills initially scheduled to end yesterday.

Locally today, Markit has reported the group's February PMIs for Australia pre-trade.

AiG's PMI estimates are anticipated from next week.

ANN, STO and **VCX** trade **ex-dividend** today. *Please see p3 for a detailed ex-dividends list.*

Regionally today, February PMIs for **Japan** are expected 11.30am AEDT.

China is scheduled to release January **residential property prices** 12.30pm AEDT.

In addition, the People's Bank of China is due to report one-year and five-year loan prime **rates** at **12.15pm**.

Post-ASX trade Friday, China revealed January **vehicle sales** had been estimated 0.9% higher than for January 2021. Forecasters had anticipated a 0.7% decline.

In overnight Friday commodities trade, WTI **crude** settled lower for a second consecutive session. Brent crude swung higher to settle with a gain. Post-settlement prices have moved higher, this mostly attributed to the US president's announcement that he was 'convinced' Russia's PM had decided to take Ukraine.

US **gold** futures were pushed slightly lower.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) fell below \$US141.50/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** closed with a modest gain. **Nickel** was pushed decisively higher. **Aluminium** declined a little.

The **\$A** fell to ~US71.75c after trading at ~US72.25c early Friday evening.

NB: Japan's markets will be closed Wednesday, due to a public holiday.

Today's Stock Watch
AGL Energy (AGL)

Rejecting an unsolicited indicative \$A7.50-per-share cash or elected scrip proposal from a Brookfield Asset Management-led consortium. AGL traded at \$6.82 - \$7.48 last week.

Lendlease Group (LLC)

5c interim distribution from 15c, 37.3% franked a year ago. \$A264M interim net loss from a \$196M net profit. \$4.01B revenue from \$8.74B. \$4.11M cash and equivalents.

Sonic Healthcare (SHL)

40c fully franked interim dividend from 36c, 10.8c-franked a year ago. 22.1% higher, \$827.665M interim NPAT. 7.3% higher, \$4.76B revenue.

nib Holdings (NHF)

11c fully franked interim dividend from 10c a year ago. 25% higher, \$81.4M interim NPAT. 7% higher, \$1.39B revenue.

Altium Ltd (ALU)

A21c fully franked interim dividend from 19c unfranked a year ago. 15.3% higher \$US22.73M interim NPAT. 27.8% higher, \$US102.2M revenue. \$US1.6388 NTA from \$US1.0612.

In addition, ALU has appointed former ALU CFO Richard Leon as interim CFO, due to current CFO Martin Ive's plans to leave ALU at the end of February.

Reliance Worldwide Corporation (RWC)

US4.5c interim dividend from US6c, 20%-franked a year ago. 3.3% lower, \$US63.74M interim NPAT. 12.4% higher, \$US521.84M revenue.

Adairs Ltd (ADH)

8c fully franked interim dividend from 13c a year ago. 59.9% lower, \$17.506M interim NPAT. 0.5% lower, \$241.75M revenue.

Resources
BlueScope Steel (BSL)

25c interim dividend from 6c a year ago. 398% higher, \$1,64B interim NPAT. 62% higher, \$9.42B sales revenue. \$14.71 NTA from \$9.52.

Energy
Ampol Ltd (ALD)

41c fully franked final dividend from 23c a year ago. \$560M cost basis full year NPAT. \$364.9M (excl significant items) cost-replacement NPAT. 40.4% higher, \$21.63B revenue.

Senex Energy (SXY)

5c interim dividend from 1c, 95.96%-franked a year ago. \$600,000 interim NPAT from a \$900,000 net loss. 65% higher, \$74.1M revenue.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34079	-233	-0.7
S&P 500	4349	-31	-0.7
NASDAQ	13548	-169	-1.2
FTSE 100	7514	-24	-0.3
DAX 30	15043	-225	-1.5
Shanghai Comp	3491	23	0.7

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets featured varying chop and swing overnight Friday, as the US headed into a Monday public holiday weekend.

Risk sentiment was challenged by almost constant updates covering events and interpretations related to Russia's Ukraine intentions.

These centred on Russia's border troops build-up, significant Russia-Belarus military drills within Belarus, which borders Ukraine, new Russia-backed separatist-Ukraine military attacks within eastern Ukraine, and possible broader international impacts should military activity escalate.

Friday evening AEDT, G20 finance ministers and central bankers concluded a forum that reportedly featured more disagreement than usual, releasing a communique noting 'major' global economic risks, including from 'geopolitical tensions'.

In overnight Friday **data** releases, **UK** January retail sales encouraged, rising 1.9% for the month following a 4% December drop and forecasts for a 0.9% increase for the first month of the new year.

Against January 2021, sales were up 9.1%.

The **euro zone** initial February consumer confidence reading represented a further deterioration, calculated at -8.8 from -8.5 following expectations for an improvement to -8.0.

In the meantime, December construction output was estimated 3.9% lower than for December 2020, defying forecasts for a 0.1% increase.

In the **US**, January existing home sales surprised on the upside, jumping 6.7% after dropping by 3.8% in December.

Forecasters had anticipated a new 1% fall.

The Conference Board's January leading index also failed to match expectations, coming in at -0.3% against expectations for a 0.4% gain, following December's 0.7% rise.

Tonight, preliminary February PMI readings are due for the UK and euro zone. Germany also reports January producer prices.

US markets remain closed tonight, due to a public holiday.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$/US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1899.8	oz	-2.20	-0.1
Silver (NY) (Mar)	23.99	oz	0.11	0.5
Gold (LON)	1893	oz	0.15	0.0
Platinum	1066	oz	-24	-2.8
WTI Crude (NYMEX Mar)	91.07	bbl	-0.69	-0.5

Pre-Open Announcements**Australia & New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ)**

\$1.8B capital notes 7 bookbuild completed with a 2.7% pa margin.

The A2M Milk Company (A2M)

50.3% lower, \$NZ59.6M interim NPAT.

2.5% lower, \$NZ660.55M revenue.

In addition, A2M has appointed former Mead Johnson Nutrition Greater China head Sandra Yu as an independent non-executive director, effective 1 March.

Chorus Ltd (CNU)

NZ14c interim dividend from NZ10.5c a year ago.

\$NZ42M interim NPAT from \$NZ27M.

\$NZ483M operating revenue from \$NZ478M.

In addition, CNU plans to commence a 12-month \$NZ150M on-market share buy-back this week.

Resources**West African Resources (WAF)**

Teleconference, focusing on resources and reserves, a 10-year Burkina Faso Sanbrado production outlook and 2022 production and cost guidance, scheduled for 11am AEDT tomorrow.

Nova Minerals (NVA)

NVA has appointed former Ernst & Young accountant Craig Bentley as a non-executive director.

Energy**Cooper Energy (COE)**

Interim results lodged pre-trade.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Auteco Minerals	AUT	21 Feb
GenusPlus Group	GNP	21 Feb
Lodestar Minerals	LSR	21 Feb
WhiteHawk Ltd	WHK	21 Feb
Ardea Resources	ARL	22 Feb
EVE Health Group	EVE	22 Feb
Gold Mountain	GMN	22 Feb
KneoMedia Ltd	KNM	22 Feb
Metgasco Ltd	MEL	22 Feb
Red Dirt Metals	RDT	22 Feb
Riedel Resources	RIE	22 Feb

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Cassius Mining	CMD	27 Jan



Brent Crude (ICE EUR Apr)	93.54	bbbl	0.57	0.6
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	141.11	t	-2.77	-2.0
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	9956	t	31	0.3
Nickel	24144	t	270	1.1
Aluminium	3263	t	-5	-0.2
Lead	2349	t	3	0.1
Zinc	3576	t	-30	-0.8
Tin	44140	t	305	0.7

Commodities Commentary

Oil – overnight Friday Brent futures trade appeared mostly influenced by outbreaks in eastern Ukraine, between Russian – backed separatists and Ukraine’s military. Further, reports emerged that separatist leaders were urging civilians to temporarily evacuate to Russia, but for able males to remain and be prepared to fight.

This seemed to impact end-of-week positioning more than usual, in part due to US markets heading into a Monday public holiday weekend.

In addition, in relation to Ukraine, a gas pipeline near the separatist territory town of Luhansk caught fire following an explosion that some claimed was ‘sabotage’. Supplies to Europe were not impacted, but Russian supply to Europe is seen at risk should sanctions be placed on Russia following any Ukraine invasion.

In the meantime, Italy’s prime minister Mario Draghi implored the European Union not to impose any sanctions that would prevent petroleum imports from Russia.

Other trade considerations overnight Friday included further reports a deal with Iran regarding restoring a 2015 international nuclear agreement was potentially close, but some also pointed out that the first implementation of a staged restoration which included compliance testing would not annul oil export sanctions.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig report, published overnight Friday, included an additional four operational drill rigs, this helping further ease concerns at tight supply.

Brent crude settled 0.9% higher for the week, this representing a ninth consecutive weekly gain. WTI closed 1.7% lower for the week after climbing for eight consecutive weeks.

Gold – overnight Friday trade was pushed and pulled by conflicting reports of the likely chance of continued diplomatic attempts achieving a positive resolution to Russia’s Ukraine border build-up.

In early trade, US secretary of state and Russia’s foreign secretary were reported to have scheduled discussions for this week.

Russian media reported further conflict in a separatist-controlled region of Ukraine, however, as significant joint Belarus-Russia military drills commenced.

In addition to geopolitics, data releases likely to influence gold trade this week include a second US December quarter GDP reading.

Base metals – the risk of potential sanctions by western allies against Russia curtailing Russia’s commodities exports, including *nickel*, *aluminium* and refined *copper*, influenced early overnight Friday LME trade, but vacillating risk sentiment also controlled exaggerated moves.

Other considerations included reports out of China espousing

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 (%)
ANN	Today	34.07	0	3.83
STO	Today	11.93	70	2.00
VCX	Today	4.7	0	3.48
AMC	Tomorrow	16.85	0	3.77
IPH	Tomorrow	14.5	40	3.36
MAF	Tomorrow	12	100	1.75
RKN	Tomorrow	2	100	4.83
TAH	Tomorrow	6.5	100	2.76
WES	Tomorrow	80	100	3.53
AGL	Wed	16	0	9.08
CDA	Wed	13	100	3.33
DOW	Wed	12	0	3.87
DUI	Wed	7	100	3.08
FSA	Wed	3.5	100	2.86
IRE	Wed	30	15	4.16
JBH	Wed	163	100	5.35
NGI	Wed	7.69	0	7.25
NWL	Wed	10	100	1.32
SEQ	Wed	0.5	100	1.36
SGF	Wed	8.32	100	4.27
BBN	Thu	6.6	100	2.80
BHP	Thu	210.7	100	8.40
BRG	Thu	15	100	0.88
CGF	Thu	11.5	100	2.97
EGG	Thu	6	100	3.92
PAI	Thu	2.5	100	9.09
PGH	Thu	3.5	65	4.20
PMC	Thu	3	100	4.52
TWD	Thu	11	100	6.52
WHC	Thu	8	0	0.00
WPL	Thu	146.75	100	2.05
BAP	Fri	10	100	2.90
BPT	Fri	1	100	1.34
FID	Fri	14.8	100	3.24
NCM	Fri	10.48	100	3.06

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	A2M	Interim
	ADH	Interim (tele 11am)
	ALU	Interim (tele 9.30am)
	ALD	Full year



fresh plans to stabilise commodity prices, as tin reportedly traded at a record peak of \$US44,370/t.

Meanwhile, the US administration was reported to be considering accelerating plans for bolstering supplies or *rare earths* and *lithium*.

Among data releases, earlier Friday Japan reported 0.1% inflation for January following forecasts for a flat result. Against January 2021, the national CPI was up 0.5%.

The People's Bank of China is due to report any new changes to interest rates today. China's January residential property prices are also expected.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7176	0.0000	0.01
EUR – USD	1.1322	0.0001	0.01

Australian Data Today

Markit	PMIs	Feb
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Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	One- & five-year loan prime rates	Feb
China	House price index	Jan
Japan	PMIs (initial)	Feb
UK	PMIs (initial)	Feb
Germany	Producer prices	Jan
Germany	PMIs (initial)	Feb
Euro zone	PMIs (initial)	Feb

Need More Information?

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BSL	Interim
CNU	Interim (tele 8am)
COE	Interim
EDV	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
HLO	Interim
LLC	Interim
LFS	Full year (w/cast tele 9.30am)
MLD	Interim (tele 1.30pm)
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)

Tomorrow		
	AWC	Full year
	COH	Interim
	COL	Interim
	CGC	Full year
	EHE	Interim
	GEM	Full year
	HUB	Interim (w/cast 11.30am)
	JLG	Interim (tele 10am)
	JIN	Interim
	MND	Interim
	NAN	Interim (tele 11am)
	SVW	Interim
	SYM	Interim (webinar 9am)
	WAF	Investor update (tele 11am)

Wed		
	APA	Interim
	DMP	Interim
	HLS	Interim
	LYL	Interim (tele 2pm)
	MCP	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
	MEZ	Interim (w/stream tele 9am)
	MHJ	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	MGX	Interim
	PTM	Interim
	RIO	Full year
	SBM	Interim
	SCG	Full year
	SPK	Interim (tele 8am)
	SDF	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	SGP	Interim
	TNE	AGM
	WGN	Interim (tele 9am)
	WTC	Interim
	WOW	Interim
	WOR	Interim