

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6564	-24	-0.4
NZX 50	12691	83	0.7
DJIA Futures	30113	0	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	3686	-20	-0.6
NASDAQ Futures	12684	-29	-0.2

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences today's trade following mostly negative overnight international equities and commodities trade, but with new US economic stimulus expected to roll out next week, and key data due for the UK and US tonight.

Locally today, a weekly **consumer sentiment** reading is due pre-trade.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics releases **preliminary** November **retail sales** data 11.30am AEDT.

In addition, **MTS** trades **ex-dividend** today. *Please see pp3-4 for details of companies trading ex-dividend.*

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** turned and fell decisively.

US **gold** futures settled modestly lower.

LME **copper** and other key base metals fell.

The **\$A** appreciated to ~US75.90c after trading at ~US75.25c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	30216	37	0.1
S&P 500	3695	-14	-0.4
NASDAQ	12743	-13	-0.1
FTSE 100	6416	-113	-1.7
DAX 30	13246	-384	-2.8
Shanghai Comp	3421	26	0.8

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European equities markets dropped on open overnight.

Sentiment appeared mostly bruised by Covid-19 containment fears and the economic impacts of multiple border closures to the UK, in the face of a recent surge in UK infections, including by a newly-identified Covid-19 strain.

This, coupled with no definitive further progress with UK-European Union (EU) trade negotiations ahead of the 31 December expiry of the transition period for the UK's separation from the EU.

Key US indices likewise fell early, but after ~one hour mostly began to trend higher.

Late Sunday, US parliamentary negotiators had agreed to a compromise mix of ~\$US900B worth of funding to continue

ASX Trading 24 December – 4 January

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

State One's Market Opener will continue until tomorrow
and resume Monday 4 January 2021



Trades executed **tomorrow** (23 December) will **settle** 29 December (Tuesday next week).

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

Trades executed Wednesday **next week** settle 4 January.

Thursday 31 December trades will settle 5 January.

Today's Stock Watch

Unibail Rodamco Westfield (URW)

Selling the Paris La Défense region office buildings known as Village 3, Village 4 and Village 6 for a combined net €213M.

Alterity Therapeutics (ATH)

University of Queensland commercialisation company UniQuest has granted ATH a licence to novel zinc ionophore technology for combatting antimicrobial resistance in superbugs. ATH's right is exclusive and worldwide.

Ramsay Health Care (RHC)

New volume-based agreement secured with NHS England for Covid-19 – related services to public patients.

Asaleo Care (AHY)

Acquiring organic feminine hygiene business TOM Organic for \$12.75M cash.

Charter Hall Group (CHC) / Charter Hall Long WALE REIT (CLW)

A CHC managed funds and partnerships consortium is purchasing the Elizabeth Street, Sydney David Jones store for \$510M. Details lodged this morning.

government operations for nine months and to offer economic support to individuals and businesses.

The US treasury announced that, following anticipated votes overnight in both the House of Representatives and Senate, and a final signature from the president, the distribution of support cheques for individuals was expected to commence as early as next week.

Also in the US overnight, first priority community vaccinations using Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine, the second Covid-19 vaccine approved for emergency use in the US, were anticipated.

In other overnight vaccine news, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) approved the use of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine across the European Union (EU). Priority vaccinations are expected to commence in some regions over the coming weekend.

The **UK PM** and **France's** president in the meantime, discussed France's temporary border closure to the UK, including freight, announced over the weekend.

In Brussels, **UK** and **European Union** (EU) representatives continued negotiations, but with no definitive announcements. Should an agreement be reached this week, the European parliament would likely only have time to potentially approve this in principle by the 31 December expiry of the UK's transition period for separating from the EU, leaving formal ratification until 2021.

Among just a snatch of overnight **data** releases, a **euro zone** consumer confidence reading improved to -13.9 from -17.6.

In the **UK**, the CBI distributive trades index also remained negative while representing an even greater improvement, coming in at -3 from -25.

In the **US**, the Chicago Fed national activity index dropped however, to 0.27 from 1.01.

Meanwhile, a 20-year US bond auction delivered a 1.470% yield, from 1.422%.

Tonight in the **US**, a final September quarter **GDP** reading, November existing home sales, the Conference Board December consumer confidence reading and the Richmond Fed manufacturing index are due.

Elsewhere, the **UK** also releases a final September quarter **GDP** reading.

In overnight corporate news, **Tesla's** inclusion in the S&P 500, announced last month, became effective. By Friday's close, the stock had added ~60% since the announcement. Overnight, the stock was pushed ~6% lower for the session.

Tonight, Germany's markets will trade for the last time this week, due to Christmas season holidays.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Feb)	1882.8	oz	-6.1	-0.3
Silver (NY) (Mar)	26.379	oz	-0.346	-1.3
Gold (LON) (18 Dec)	1880	oz		
Platinum	1005	oz	-27	-2.6
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jan)	47.74	bbf	-1.36	-2.8
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Feb)	50.91	bbf	-1.35	-2.6

Pre-Open Announcements

Doctor Care Anywhere (** DOC)

Recently ASX-listed DOC has secured a new channel agreement with Allianz Partners. Details lodged this morning.

FlexiRoam Ltd (* FRX)

Mastercard agreement extended for the offer of the FRX global roaming data plan to Mastercard holders. Under the extension, FRX expects \$US250,000 of FY21 revenue and a minimum \$US500,000 for FY22.

To date, Mastercard has paid FRX \$US500,000 as a data purchases commitment, with \$US250,000 able to be rolled over for 2021 calendar year use.

FRX anticipates a minimum additional \$US250,000 to be paid in the FY21 fourth quarter.

The Mastercard-FRX program has expanded from Taiwan to Vietnam and is expected to launch in Hong Kong 1 January.

McPherson's Ltd (* MCP)

Anticipating paying a minimum 3c-per-share fully franked interim dividend, against 4c for 1H FY20.

Year-to-date Australian, owned-brands sales, excluding Dr LeWinns are up 7%.

PharmAust Ltd (* PAA)

Ethics approvals in hand to commence a phase IIb clinical trial of monepantel tablets involving pet dogs diagnosed with B cell lymphoma. The phase IIa trial is continuing. Phase IIb is expected to commence January-February 2021.

Macquarie Telecom Group (MAQ)

MAQ has successfully negotiated a \$50M boost to a syndicated debt facility, raising debt capacity to \$190M in support of data centre expansion.

MAQ's undrawn balance is \$96.5M.

Access Innovation Holdings (AIM)

CFO Patrick Fok has resigned, effective 31 December.

AIM has contracted recent Regeneus (ASX: RGS) CFO and COO John Bird as interim CFO.

Resources

Neometals Ltd (NMT)

Heralding the results of beneficiation test work using ore from the WA Barrambie titanium and vanadium project.

Tempest Minerals (TEM)

WA Warriedar West project reconnaissance drilling across several target areas has confirmed gold mineralisation within the silica rich lithocap, in addition to the previously identified surface gold.

Sipa Resources (SRI)

CFO and company secretary Tara Robson has resigned, effective 1 February, after commencing with SRI in 1999.



Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (18 Dec)	152.49	t		
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	7842	t	-145	-1.8
Nickel	17305	t	-180	-1.0
Aluminium	2024	t	-33	-1.6
Lead	1975	t	-66	-3.2
Zinc	2834	t	-40	-1.4
Tin	19940	t	-127	-0.6

Commodities Commentary

Oil – overnight sentiment was impacted by heightened crude demand fears heading into 2021, in a large part due to a lengthening list of border closures to the UK, in the face of high Covid-19 daily diagnoses tallies a newly-identified Covid-19 strain, and more onerous restrictions reluctantly implemented by the US government.

The January WTI contract expired on settlement overnight. The February delivery contract traded 2.6% (\$US1.27) lower overnight, settling at \$US47.97/bbl.

Gold – a stronger \$US (ICE \$US index +0.2%), reportedly backed in part by safe-haven interest in the \$US at the expense of gold, pushed overnight prices lower.

Some industry watchers also pointed to likely liquidity considerations in the face of broadening international border closures to the UK.

Any significant change in final September quarter GDP readings for the UK and US tonight could swing some sentiment heading into end-of-year holiday season positioning.

Base metals – Covid-19 containment angst appeared the major early influence on overnight LME trade, but the \$US was also stronger.

In the meantime, the International Copper Study Group revealed a 155,000t global refined copper deficit in September, following a 72,000t August shortfall.

For its part, the International Aluminium Institute published November global output figures, including a 4.1% year-on-year rise in primary aluminium production, to 5.47Mt.

Yesterday, the People's Bank of **China** retained prime rates for five- and one-year loans at 4.65% and 3.85% respectively.

Tonight, when finalised September quarter GDP figures are published for the UK and US, any major variation from previous estimates could swing some trade.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7584	-0.0003	-0.04
EUR – USD	1.2236	-0.0008	-0.06

Australian Data Today

ANZ/RoyMorgan	Consumer sentiment	20 Dec
ABS	Retail sales (preliminary)	Nov

Ms Robson was appointed SRI company secretary in 2004.

Benz Mining (* BNZ)

Minerals explorer and miner scheduled to list on the ASX 11.30am AEDT **tomorrow**, following a \$2M IPO at 50c per CDI. 4M quoted shares/CDIs.

Rincon Resources (* RCR)

Minerals explorer completed an enviable ASX listing yesterday, following a \$6M IPO at 20c per share.

Opened at 30.5c and traded at 29.5c – 34c before settling at 30.5c.

2.84M shares changed hands across 463 transactions.

37.18M quoted shares.

Energy

Strike Energy (STX)

\$8M worth of deferred R&D refunds in hand.

An additional refund is anticipated for FY20.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Ausmex Mining Group	AMG	22 Dec
Blue Star Helium	BNL	22 Dec
Impact Minerals	IPT	22 Dec
Pepinnini Minerals	PNN	22 Dec
Australian Vanadium	AVL	23 Dec
BuildingIQ Inc	BIQ	23 Dec
Douugh Ltd	DOU	23 Dec
Dubber Corporation	DUB	23 Dec
Kangaroo Island Plantation Timbers	KPT	23 Dec
Rafaella Resources	RFR	23 Dec
Strata-X Energy	SXA	24 Dec

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Aumake Ltd	AUK	17 Dec
Ovato Ltd	OVT	4 Dec

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
EAS	Today	5	100	3.15
MTS	Today	8	100	1.82
BGP	Tomorrow	7.06	0	2.09
FPP	29 Dec	1.4	0	2.86
ADI	30 Dec	4.3	0	5.73
APA	30 Dec	24	0	4.91
APD	30 Dec	1.7	54.70	5.43
APZ	30 Dec	3.1	0	4.96
AQR	30 Dec	5.47	0	6.11

**US Data Tonight**

GDP (final)	Sep Q
Conference Board consumer confidence	Dec
Existing home sales	Nov
Richmond Fed manufacturing	Dec

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

UK	GDP (final)	Sep Q
UK	Public sector borrowing	Nov
Germany	GfK consumer confidence	Jan

Need More Information?

Contact your State One Stockbroking advisor on 08 9288 3388 or 1300 651 898, or by email, advice@stateone.com.au

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ARF	30 Dec	3.73	0	4.83
AVN	30 Dec	4.2	0	4.28
BWP	30 Dec	9.02	0	4.19
CDP	30 Dec	11.5	0	3.89
CHC	30 Dec	18.55	40.16	2.50
CIP	30 Dec	4.25	0	5.85
CLW	30 Dec	7.3	0	6.14
CNI	30 Dec	4.5	26.66	3.80
COF	30 Dec	4.13	0	8.02
CQE	30 Dec	3.75	0	4.76
CQR	30 Dec	10.7	0	6.61
DXS	30 Dec	28.8	0	5.27
EAF	30 Dec	2.54	0	3.91
EGF	30 Dec	3.08	0	10.31
GDF	30 Dec	1.8	0	5.39
GDI	30 Dec	3.875	0	6.28
GMG	30 Dec	15	0	1.62
GOZ	30 Dec	10	0	6.28
HPI	30 Dec	9.6	0	6.06
KLA	30 Dec	21.25	0	1.00
LEP	30 Dec	10.75	0	4.36
MGR	30 Dec	4.8	0	3.46
NSR	30 Dec	4	0	4.15
PWG	30 Dec	2.1	100	2.24
RCT	30 Dec	8.54	0	3.91
RFF	30 Dec	2.82	0	4.30
SCP	30 Dec	5.7	0	4.96
SGP	30 Dec	11.3	0	5.78
SKI	30 Dec	6.5	0	6.65
TGP	30 Dec	1	0	4.44
TOT	30 Dec	1.5	0	9.38
VCX	30 Dec	3.4	0	4.84
WPR	30 Dec	7.73	0	5.25

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	OAR	AGM
	ORI	AGM
Tomorrow	AR9	AGM
	SCT	AGM