

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	5055	-169	-3.2
NZX 50	9790	-136	-1.4
DJIA Futures	20891	151	0.7
S&P 500 Futures	2466	18	0.7
NASDAQ Futures	7490	51	0.7

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens today's trade following decisive overnight falls across international equities markets, coupled with price declines for key commodities, and with the US Federal Reserve subsequently announcing an easing of some investment regulations for large banks.

US equities futures have turned higher this morning.

Regionally today, **Japan** conducts a 10-year government bond offering.

Locally, no major economic indicator releases are due.

In overnight commodities trade, Brent **crude** fell decisively and WTI swung lower.

US **gold** futures (CME April) continued to decline, but at a much slower rate than Tuesday.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) dropped below \$US80.35/t on ongoing announcements of steel production cutbacks and a warning from Vale.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and other key base metals fell.

The **\$A** has traded at US60.90c this morning after falling to ~US60.60c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	20944	-974	-4.4
S&P 500	2471	-114	-4.4
NASDAQ	7361	-340	-4.4
FTSE 100	5455	-217	-3.8
DAX 30	9545	-391	-3.9
Shanghai Comp	2735	-16	-0.6

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and US equities markets fell on opening overnight, with Covid-19 cases and deaths warnings from the US administration late Tuesday through Wednesday and ongoing international announcements of further containment-related curbs underscoring global expectations of economic and social hardship for some time to come.

In addition, earlier yesterday South Korea's and Japan's manufacturing PMIs were reported to have fallen to lows not seen respectively since January and April 2009.

Daylight saving ends this weekend

From **Monday 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
Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC)

WBC has appointed acting CEO Peter King as CEO for two years. Chairman's letter also lodged this morning, including details regarding new board committees.

Coca-Cola Amatil (CCL)

Webcast briefing scheduled to commence 10am AEDT, highlighting March quarter trade and Covid-19 responses. Presentation lodged. CCL has traded higher the past three sessions, yesterday settling at \$9.22.

Spark New Zealand (SPK)

Two new \$NZ75M revolving bank facilities secured, to refinance £18M worth of 5.75% notes maturing 2020, and for corporate purposes. Each facility will mature 2 October 2021.

Cann Group (CAN)

Pushing back any decision on Mildura, Victoria production plant funding options.

Meanwhile, CAN has commenced filling orders for the GMP manufactured products, now the company has successfully completed initial shelf-life stability testing.

OrthoCell Ltd (OCC)

A case study indicating that OCC's Ortho-ATI is effective in supporting return-to-work and pain management programs has been published in the *International Journal of Case Reports*.

BARD1 Life Sciences (BD1)

Commercial research agreement secured with Griffith University, targeting technology to detect breast, lung and ovarian cancer.

Cynata Therapeutics (CYP)

The commencement of patient participation in two Phase II clinical trials has been pushed back. An acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) pre-clinical study continues however, and initial results are anticipated by 30 June.

Energy
Whitehaven Coal (WHC)

WHC has appointed former Peabody Energy Australia VP health safety and environment Ian Humphris as executive GM operations.



Further, the Bank of Japan's Tankan surveying indicated business sentiment had dropped to a seven-year low during the March quarter.

Consequent increased safe-haven buying pushed US 10-year government bond yields lower.

Earlier yesterday however, Caixin's March manufacturing PMI for **China** was estimated in expansion mode, defying many forecasts and concurring with the official NBS PMI (reported Monday), which also indicated a swing from expansion..

In new overnight data releases, the **euro zone's** final March manufacturing PMI came in at 44.5, following 49.2 at the end of February.

Germany's manufacturing PMI fell from 48 to 45.4 and France's from 49.8 to 43.2.

Germany's February retail sales were reported 1.2% higher for the month and up 6.4% year-on-year.

In the **UK**, the March manufacturing PMI was finalised at 47.8 from 48 for February.

In the **US**, the ISM's March manufacturing index slipped to a contractionary 49.1 from 50.1 for February.

A March private sector employment report included 27,000 fewer jobs for the month, following 179,000 created in February, and against predictions of a March loss of 170,000 positions.

February construction spending fell 1.3% for the month after increasing by 2.8% in January.

Weekly mortgage applications rose 15.3% with 30-year mortgage rates falling to 3.47% from 3.82%.

Tonight in the **US**, weekly new unemployment claims and a job cuts report are due ahead of the national March employment report tomorrow night.

In addition, the ISM's New York activity index, February trade figures and factory orders are expected.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Jun)	1591.4	oz	-5.2	-0.3
Silver (NY) (May)	13.984	oz	-0.172	-1.2
Gold (LON) (31 Mar)	1609	oz		
Platinum	721	oz	-2	-0.3
WTI Crude (May)	20.31	bbl	-0.17	-0.8
Brent Crude (Jun)	24.74	bbl	-1.61	-6.1
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	80.34	t	-7.68	-9.6
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	4802	t	-123	-2.5
Nickel	11250	t	-230	-2.0
Aluminium	1496	t	-30	-2.0
Lead	1701	t	-42	-2.4
Zinc	1859	t	-49	-2.6
Tin	14420	t	-200	-1.4

Commodities Commentary

Oil – swinging prices were reported overnight, with an International Energy Agency (IEA) warning of Covid-19 adverse impacts on industry supply chains, and prices that had discouraged output outlays by 20% - 35%.

Pre-Open Announcements

MCP Master Income Trust (MXT)

S&P Global Ratings has upgraded the Metrics Credit Partners diversified Australian senior loan fund (DASLF) to A- from BBB+. The outlook is stable.

60% of capital invested in MXT is invested in this fund.

Shriro Holdings (SHM)

Withdrawing guidance and confirming SHM's New Zealand business stopped trading Wednesday last week for a minimum four weeks.

A majority of employees has been stood down.

Redbubble Ltd (RBL)

Investor update conference call transcript lodged post-trade yesterday.

Investec Australia Property Fund (IAP)

IAP has completed the \$94M sale of a Queensland Fortitude Valley property, with proceeds earmarked to repay debt.

Meridian Energy (MEZ)

MEZ has appointed Claire Shaw as GM corporate affairs and sustainability, and Jason Woolley as general counsel and company secretary, effective immediately.

5GN Networks (5GN)

Update lodged this morning.

\$4.2M cash. \$1.3M undrawn debt.

KKR Credit Income Fund (KKC)

Advisor update, contained in presentation format, lodged post-trade yesterday.

Resources

Western Areas (* WSA)

Complying with Australia's Covid-19 – related regulatory changes.

Consequently, interstate FIFO personnel are no longer working at the WA Forresteria nickel project.

\$181.4M cash. No debt.

De Grey Mining (* DEG)

WA Mallina gold project RC and diamond drilling results lodged post-trade yesterday.

The drilling was completed late-November – mid-December 2019.

A new resource estimate is expected to be released soon.

OceanaGold Corporation (OGC)

US South Carolina Haile gold project operations continue, with entry limited to essential employees and contractors, and each shift comprising groups of fewer than three people.

Lucapa Diamond Company (LOM)

Cutting Angola Lulo diamond JV project activity to essential operations, using camp-based staff, until at least 11 April.

Mincor Resources (MCR)



Premiums were reported in single digits for Western Canada, and outright negative for some North American regions.

WTI trading as low as \$US19.90/bbl intra-session, but a partial recovery was attributed to reports of industry aid talks.

Broad demand angst continued however, demonstrated by Brent's renewed tumble.

Weekly US petroleum inventories, reported overnight by government agency the EIA, included a 13.83MMbbl jump in stored crude and 7.52MMbbl rise for petrol stocks.

Net crude oil imports rose by a daily 625,000bbl.

Gold – government bonds again appeared the preferred safe-haven purchase overnight, amid a batch of disappointing, but generally better-than-feared economic indicator releases.

Base metals – overnight trade was pushed and pulled by new data out of key trading nations, currency moves and industry announcements.

South Africa's Department of Transport revealed ports remained open, including for mineral exports and imports, but that goods considered 'essential' were treated as priority.

Meanwhile, Indonesia approved a one-year 1.07Mtpa *copper concentrate* export permit for Freeport, and 373,626tpa permit for PT Amman Mineral Nusa Tenggara.

Teck Resources revealed a slowdown in both *copper* and steelmaking *coal* output.

Among other producer news, Metallurgical Corp of China's 2019 PNG Ramu *nickel-cobalt* hydroxide output was reported 6.4% lower in nickel content and down 11% for cobalt.

A Caixin March manufacturing PMI for **China**, reported yesterday, jumped 9.8 points from decided contraction-mode to an expansionary 50.1.

Japan's March manufacturing PMI declined 3.6 points to 44.2 and the Tankan survey indices each dropped.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6090	0.0015	0.25
EUR – USD	1.0959	-0.0005	-0.04

US Data Tonight

Trade balance	Feb
Initial jobless claims	28 Mar
Challenger job cuts	Mar
ISM New York	Mar
Factory orders	Feb

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

UK	Construction PMI	Mar
Euro zone	Producer prices	Feb

Need More Information?

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Presentation lodged this morning.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Chant West Holdings	CWL	2 Apr
DXN Ltd	DXN	2 Apr
MetalsTech Ltd	MTC	2 Apr
Perpetual Resources	PEC	2 Apr
Titan Minerals	TTM	2 Apr
Abilene Oil & Gas	ABL	3 Apr
Aeris Environmental	AEI	3 Apr
Anson Resources	ASN	3 Apr
Bougainville Copper	BOC	3 Apr
Galan Lithium	GLN	3 Apr
ImpediMed Ltd	IPD	3 Apr
Kathmandu Holdings	KMD	3 Apr
Nanollose Ltd	NC6	3 Apr
Osprey Medical	OSP	3 Apr
Middle Island Resources	MDI	6 Apr
Consolidated Zinc	CZL	7 Apr

Suspensions *(select)*

Company	Code	Since
8IP Emerging Companies	8EC	16 Mar
Advance NanoTek	ANO	18 Mar
Astivita Ltd	AIR	18 Mar
Blina Minerals	BDI	18 Mar
Flight Centre Travel Group	FLT	23 Mar
G Medical Innovations Holdings	GMV	31 Mar
Graphex Mining	GPX	25 Mar
MGC Pharmaceuticals	MXC	23 Mar
P2P Transport	P2P	1 Apr
Pacific Star Network	PNW	20 Mar
Prospect Resources	PSC	23 Mar
Pyrolyx AG	PLX	24 Mar
Respiri Ltd	RSH	19 Mar
Southern Cross Media Group	SXL	25 Mar
TBG Diagnostics	TDL	19 Mar
Webjet Ltd	WEB	23 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ARB	Today	18.5	100	2.83
EDC	Today	1.93	100	6.08
HVN	Today	12	100	11.02
KKC	Today	0.53	0	0.00
PFG	Today	0.2	100	8.00
SDI	Today	1.35	100	1.76



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CAM	Tomorrow	1.3	100	6.85
CLF	Tomorrow	1.5	100	5.79
WAX	Mon	4.9	100	7.89
WMI	Mon	3	100	4.33
GOW	Wed	5	100	6.45
PIA	Wed	2.5	100	7.45
RIC	Wed	1.5	100	5.86
ABC	Thu (9 Apr)	5	100	5.07
BKW	Thu	20	100	4.24
TPM	Thu	3	100	0.54

Reports & Events

(selected)

When	Company	Report/Event
Tomorrow	STO	AGM
8 Apr	RIO	London AGM
	SCG	AGM
9 Apr	ILU	AGM