

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7315	-94	-1.3
NZX 50	11783	-101	-0.9
DJIA Futures	32956	74	0.2
S&P 500 Futures	4134	7	0.2
NASDAQ Futures	12880	28	0.2

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences a new week and month's trade with new material domestic and regional economic data in hand, plus several additional key domestic economic reports due this morning and post-trade.

US equities dropped overnight Friday. Key commodities trade proved mixed.

US futures have turned slightly higher this morning.

Since overnight Friday trade:

- China has tightened Covid containment restrictions in Beijing;
- China's NBS and another agency have published business activity figures which indicated ongoing contraction, at a faster pace than anticipated; and
- Poland has reported gas was being delivered by state subsidiary companies to 10 areas that had been affected when Russia stopped supplies last week.

Locally today, the ANZ's April **job advertisements** report is anticipated at **11.30am AEST**.

Also today, the Melbourne Institute is listed to release its monthly **inflation gauge** report and CoreLogic April **residential property prices**.

Pre-trade, the AIG has published a firmly expansionary **58.5** estimate for the April **manufacturing** index. This, from 55.7 for March and following forecasts for a slight decline to 55.4.

Post-trade the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) publishes April **commodity prices**.

The RBA's policy meeting, scheduled for tomorrow, will continue in focus today, some commentators comparing the bank's stance against that of the US Federal Reserve and Bank of England which also convene policy meetings this week.

Regionally today, several regional markets are closed, including those in China, Hong Kong and Singapore. China's markets will remain closed through Wednesday.

Saturday, China reported a 47.4 April **manufacturing PMI** from 49.5 for March, and 41.9 **services sector PMI** from 48.4 for March. Both indices had been expected to continue to indicate contraction, but came in lower than forecast.

Caixin's April manufacturing PMI for China was estimated at 46.0 from 48.1.

South Korea released March **trade** figures **yesterday**, these including a \$US2.66B deficit following a \$US0.12B February shortfall. Imports were calculated 18.6% greater than for March

* **Mineral exploration** listing – **11am AEST** – **SLS** *

* **Mineral exploration** listing – **11.30am AEST** – **APS** *

* **Mineral exploration** listing – **12.30pm AEST** – **SRR** *

Today's Stock Watch

National Australia Bank (NAB)

An AUSTRAC (Australian Transaction Reports & Analysis Centre) investigation into NAB compliance with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism laws has resulted in NAB agreeing to an 'enforceable undertaking'.

Among other things, the undertaking requires NAB to complete an AUSTRAC-approved remedial action plan by 31 December 2024.

AUSTRAC commenced its NAB investigation in June 2021.

Crown Resorts (CWN)

CWN has estimated that had proposed tax rates for Crown Melbourne electronic gaming machines from 1 July 2023 been in place FY2019 (the financial year prior to Covid-19), CWN earnings would have been adversely impacted by \$35M - \$40M.

AGL Energy (AGL)

Lowering FY22 forecasts for underlying profit-after-tax (PAT) and underlying EBITDA.

Transurban Ltd (TCL)

Today's investor day presentation lodged this morning.

Resources

IGO Ltd (IGO)

\$A133.0M March quarter NPAT, up 154% for the three months. Produced 6290t of nickel, 2762t of copper and 237t of cobalt from the WA Nova project during the March quarter, respectively 10%, 4% and 8% lower than for the December quarter 2021. WA Greenbushes spodumene concentrate production tallied 259,000t on a 100% basis, from 270,000t for the December quarter 2021. IGO sales revenue grew 31% to \$A245.5M, supported by a 14% rise in nickel sales and 38% higher realised nickel price. \$A440.2M cash.

Global Lithium Resources (GL1)

Heralding WA Pilbara region Marble Bar lithium project drilling results which include several 'encouraging' width and/or high-grade intersections. Assays lodged this morning.

Korab Resources (KOR)

Letter of intent in hand from rolled aluminium products specialist Speira GmbH regarding the potential supply of KOR Northern Territory Winchester magnesium project output to Speira.

**2021 and exports to have grown by 12.6%.**

In overnight Friday commodities trade, Brent **crude** settled higher again, following volatile trade. WTI turned lower, however.

US **gold** futures were pushed decisively higher.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) was pushed decidedly lower, trading below \$US145.00/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and **aluminium** gained. **Nickel** dropped.

The **\$A** tumbled to ~US70.60c after trading at ~US71.45c early Friday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	32977	-939	-2.8
S&P 500	4132	-156	-3.6
NASDAQ	12335	-537	-4.2
FTSE 100	7546	35	0.5
DAX 30	14098	118	0.8
Shanghai Comp	3047	72	2.4

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and UK equities markets scored gains overnight Friday, surviving vacillations which followed decidedly positive openings.

Risk sentiment was evaporating by the US open, however and key US indices trended lower early.

Intensified Russian war activity in Ukraine and a flurry of anti-Ukraine ally rhetoric out of Russia over several days served to lower equities risk sentiment in the US, despite vacillations in response to any positive large-cap corporate earnings reports and outlooks.

In addition, US data releases spawned mixed commentary on the short-medium – term domestic economic outlook and the likely impacts of recently promoted likely monetary policy action.

Earlier Friday, reports had emerged that the Politburo, senior members of the Communist Party of China, had backed additional policy support to ensure economic growth returned.

This initially buoyed European equities trade, but end-of-month trade jitters, ahead of Monday public holidays in several key regions, meant degrees of caution remained.

The **Bank of Russia** held a policy meeting at which the key interest rate was lowered to 14% from 17%. Economists had anticipated a cut to 15%.

Among overnight Friday **data** releases, the **euro zone's** initial March quarter **GDP** reading came in at 0.2% growth for the three months and 5.0% year-on-year.

The euro zone's April **inflation** growth was estimated at 0.6% for the month and 7.5% on an annualised basis, roughly in line with expectations.

Loans to households and businesses during March were reported 4.5% and 4.2% respectively higher than for a year earlier.

Germany's March quarter GDP reading represented 3.7% growth on an annualised basis, and 0.1% growth for the three months.

Pre-Open Announcements**INOVIQ Ltd (* IIQ)**

Master manufacturing agreement secured with MP Biomedicals for the production of the SubB2M protein for IIQ's SubB2M-based tests relating to cancer biomarkers.

Vection Technologies (* VR1)

A VR1 film-making solution for virtual production, developed with LunoStudios has been successfully tested at the largest film studio in Europe.

Details lodged pre-trade.

nib Holdings (NHF)

NHF's New Zealand subsidiary has completed its \$NZ45M acquisition of Kiwi Insurance.

MGC Pharmaceuticals (MXC)

March quarter sales tallied \$625,000.

Nuheara Ltd (NUH)

March quarter product receipts fell 55% year-on-year to \$720,000.

Webinar scheduled to commence 11am AEST **tomorrow**.

Pre-registration link lodged post-trade Friday.

Resources**Solstice Minerals (* SLS)**

Mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEST, following a \$12M IPO at 20c per share. 100M quoted shares. 15M quoted options.

Allup Silica (* APS)

Explorer scheduled to list on the ASX **11.30am** AEST, following a \$5M IPO at 20c per share. ~37.05M quoted shares.

Sarama Resource (* SRR) / Silver Lake Resources (SLR)

Mineral exploration company scheduled to list on the ASX **12.30pm** AEST, following an \$8M IPO at 21c per CDI. Settlement is in the form of CHES Depository Interests (CDI) of a ratio of 1:1. ~39.1M quoted shares. SLR holds 7.76%.

Alkane Resources (* ALK)

Tomingley gold project Roswell resource boosted 37% to 904,000oz. Details and commentary lodged pre-trade.

White Rock Minerals (WRM)

Underground diamond drilling has identified a new quartz reef within the Woods Point gold project Morning Star mine Gap zone, Victoria.

Details lodged post-trade Friday.

Maronan Metals (* MMA) / Red Metal (RDM)

Multi-metal explorer and RDM spinoff MMA completed an enviable ASX listing Friday, following a \$15M IPO at 20c per



This followed a 0.3% pullback during the December quarter 2021, dragging the annualised rate to 1.8%.

March import prices were calculated 5.7% higher for the month and 31.2% higher than for March 2021.

The **UK's** home prices, as reported by Nationwide, rose 0.3% in March. Prices were 12.1% higher than for a year earlier.

In the **US**, March personal income rose 0.5% but spending increased by 1.1%.

The 65.2 final April consumer sentiment reading, as calculated by the University of Michigan, represented a 5.8-point climb for the month.

The April Chicago PMI fell to 58.5 from 62.9.

Tonight in the **US**, the ISM's April manufacturing index, March construction spending and the S&P Global final April manufacturing PMI are due.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include: Baidu, Expedia, Mitsui & Co, NXP Semiconductors, ON Semiconductors, Sony and Zoom.

Among overnight Friday and weekend corporate news, **Berkshire Hathaway** reported a 53% year-on-year fall in March quarter earnings to \$US5.46B.

*Markets in **China, Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK** will be closed today and tonight due to public holidays.*

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Jun)	1911.7	oz	20.4	1.1
Silver (NY) (Jul)	23.09	oz	-0.09	-0.4
Gold (LON)	1911	oz	23	1.2
Platinum	938	oz	21	3.3
WTI Crude (NYMEX May)	104.69	bbl	-0.67	-0.6
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jun)	109.34	bbl	1.75	1.6
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	144.9	t	-6.29	-4.3
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	9771	t	73	0.8
Nickel	31767	t	-1212	-3.7
Aluminium	3050	t	21	0.7
Lead	2261	t	5	0.2
Zinc	4113	t	-30	-0.7
Tin	40334	t	199	0.5

Commodities Commentary

Oil – there was plenty to impact overnight Friday-end-of-month trade, but expiry of the Brent oil contract and US heating oil, petrol and diesel futures provided more volatility than usual.

OPEC+ members remain scheduled to meet to discuss planned output levels Thursday, amid varying views of likely supply and demand scenarios.

A US weekly petroleum drill rig report, published overnight Friday, included three additional operational oil rigs, taking the tally to 552.

The June Brent contract expired on Friday's settlement. Notably, the July delivery Brent contract settled 12c lower for the session Friday, at \$US107.14/bbl.

Gold – a pullback (0.4% - 0.7%) for the ICE \$US index, combined with safe-haven interest and end-of-month considerations, served

share.

Opened at 30c and traded at 27c – 39.5c before settling at 33.5c.

~1.36M shares changed hands across 213 transactions.

~75M quoted shares.

MMA holds the lead-silver copper-gold Maronan project formerly held by RDM.

RDM held 50% of MMA on MMA's listing.

Belarox Ltd (BRX)

BRX non-executive director Stephen Lowe has resigned from the BRX board, effective Friday (29 April).

Sierra Nevada Gold (* SNX)

Explorer scheduled to list on the ASX 11.30am AEST **tomorrow**, following an ~\$10.03M IPO at 50c per share.

~40.8M quoted CDIs/shares.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Aeris Resources	AIS	2 May
Alchemy Resources	ALY	2 May
Sovereign Metals	SVM	2 May
Triangle Energy (Global)	TEG	2 May
Virtus Health	VRT	2 May
Kuniko Ltd	KNI	3 May
Metalicity Ltd	MCT	3 May
Miramar Resource	M2R	3 May
Monger Gold	MMG	3 May
Osprey Medical	OSP	3 May

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Carbine Resources	CRB	28 Apr
DC Two	DC2	29 Apr
Pathfinder Resources	PF1	8 Apr
Respiri Ltd	RSH	29 Apr

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
NBI	Today	0.8	0	6.58
ACQ	Tomorrow	4.25	100	5.27
BOQ	Wed	22	100	4.80
WAT	Wed	3	100	1.94
VTG	Thu	13.3	100	4.80



to push prices higher overnight Friday.

Comex futures settled 2.1% lower for the month, however.

Views of this week's likely trade vary, due to several uncertainties, including whether the US Federal Reserve will announce a much-promoted 0.50% rate increase mid-week (early Thursday AEST). US data released overnight Friday supported an increase.

In addition the Bank of England and Reserve Bank of Australia also hold policy meetings from which commentary is keenly anticipated.

Base metals – reports out of China that a high-level meeting chaired by China's president determined extra support would be offered to stabilise China's economy supported early overnight Friday trade sentiment.

In addition, the \$US was pushed lower for the first time in several sessions.

Friday represented the last trading opportunity for the month, occurring ahead of China's April PMIs, expected on the weekend, and ahead of public holidays today and tonight for several markets including in the UK, China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The PMIs announced for China on Saturday undershot expectations, even while indicating continued contraction.

The LME will remain closed tonight and will react for the first time this week to China's new data from later tomorrow. China's markets are closed today through Wednesday, so reduced volume LME trade is anticipated Tuesday and Wednesday.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7070	0.0009	0.13
EUR – USD	1.0542	0.0009	0.08

Australian Data Today

AiG	Manufacturing PMI	Apr
CoreLogic	Home price index	Apr
ANZ	Job advertisements	Apr
MelbInstitute	Inflation gauge	Apr
RBA	Commodity prices (4.30pm)	Apr

US Data Today & Tonight

ISM manufacturing	Apr
Construction spending	Mar
S&P Global manufacturing PMI (final)	Apr

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Apr
Germany	Retail sales	Mar
Germany	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Apr
Euro zone	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Apr
Euro zone	Economic sentiment	Apr
Euro zone	Consumer inflation expectations	Apr

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	RLT	Full year
	TCL	Investor day (w/cast 9.30am)
Tomorrow	IKE	Mar Q
	NUH	Mar Q webinar (11am)
	STO	AGM
	TPG	AGM
	WOW	Mar Q
Wed	AMC	Mar Q
	ANZ	Interim (tele 10am)
	JHG	Mar Q (~6pm; w/cast tele 10pm)
Thu	IRE	AGM
	MAF	AGM
	NAB	Interim
	NWS	Mar Q
	QBE	AGM
	RIO	AGM (RIO Ltd)
	VNT	AGM
Fri	JRV	AGM (9am)
	MQG	Full year



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