

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7199	23	0.3
NZX 50	13202	82	0.6
DJIA Futures	34369	104	0.3
S&P 500 Futures	4365	15	0.3
NASDAQ Futures	14795	56	0.4

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens the last day's trade for the September quarter with another overnight \$A depreciation, several material domestic and regional economic indicator reports due by late morning, and others anticipated out of the euro zone, UK and US tonight.

Overnight US equities sentiment proved weak. Prices for most key commodities fell.

Locally today, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) publishes monthly **financial aggregates**, including private sector credit, at **11.30am AEST**.

At the same time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will release two reports, one covering August **building approvals** and the other August **job vacancies**.

Post-ASX trade, the RBA reports monthly international reserves and foreign currency liquidity.

Regionally today, **China** is expected to release official (NBS) September **PMIs 11am AEST**.

Caixin is scheduled to report its September **manufacturing PMI** for China **11.45am AEST**.

Japan publishes August **industrial production** and **retail sales** figures just prior to the ASX open.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** extended Tuesday's swing lower.

US **gold** futures also continued to fall.

Iron ore (China port CFR, 62% fines) turned higher.

LME **copper** and **nickel** continued lower, and **aluminium** turned so.

The **\$A** dropped to ~US71.75c, after falling to US72.40c early yesterday evening.

China's markets will be closed from tomorrow through Thursday next week due to a holiday season.

In Australia, the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia are heading towards Monday public holiday weekends.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34391	91	0.3
S&P 500	4359	7	0.2
NASDAQ	14512	-34	-0.2
FTSE 100	7108	80	1.1

* **Multi-mineral exploration** listing – **11.30am AEST – MMC** *

* **WA-focused mineral exploration** listing – **1pm AEST – FRS** *

September quarter – last trading day today

Monday 4 October – ASX trade & settlement as normal
 Public holidays in the ACT, NSW, QLD and South Australia

Daylight saving commences in the ACT, New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria early **Sunday 3 October**.

From Monday (4 October), ASX trade consequently **commences local time** in:

Western Australia at 7am;
Queensland at 9am; and the
Northern Territory at 8.30am.

Today's Stock Watch

Zip Co (Z1P)

Agreement secured with Microsoft, under which Z1P's payments technology will be integrated within Microsoft Edge.

Functionality will be tested during the December quarter, ahead of a possible November launch date.

Gentrack Group (GTK)

Anticipating \$NZ105M full year revenue, against the previously forecast \$100.5M.

Planning to lodge full year results 25 November.

Resources

Westgold Resources (WGX) / Gascoyne Resources (GCY)

WGX plans to launch an off-market takeover offer for GCY. Details lodged pre-trade.

In addition, WGX resources at 30 June were estimated at 111Mt @ 2.22g/t Au, for 7.9Moz of gold. Reserves measured 29Mt @ 2.36g/t Au, for 2.2Moz of gold. Associated details and commentary lodged post-trade yesterday.

Chalice Mining (CHN)

Confirming plans to spin out the Pyramid Hill, Viking and Mt Jackson gold projects into a company established as Falcon Metals and to list Falcon on the ASX.

Details, including board and management appointments, lodged this morning.

Energy

Oil Search (OSH)

Commercial agreement secured with PNG LNG JV partners regarding the redetermination of participating interests.



DAX 30	15365	117	0.8
Shanghai Comp	3536	-66	-1.8

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets bounced on opening overnight but US sentiment soon proved jittery, with the \$US index propelled to 11-month peaks.

Again, there was plenty to consider.

The **European Central Bank** (ECB)-hosted central bankers' forum continued, **US Federal Reserve** chair Jerome Powell describing as 'frustrating' Covid-19 – induced bottlenecks and supply shortages which would likely push inflation pressures into 2022.

The chair also used the word frustrating in bemoaning his view the effort to contain Covid-19, including vaccination programs, 'remains the most important economic policy that we have'.

Fellow forum participant **Bank of England** governor Andrew Bailey also warned supply chain crises threatened to derail broad economic recovery.

Meanwhile, **US Congress** appeared to make little progress in debating the new funding authority needed for US government operations beyond midnight US eastern time tonight, to avoid a shutdown of some services as the new fiscal year commences.

Yesterday, **China's** major property developer Evergrande was reported to have agreed to sell a \$US1.5B (~20%) holding in privately-held commercial bank Shengjing Bank to a state-owned asset management group in order to bolster debt repayments capacity.

A \$US47.5M bond interest payment was due overnight. Evergrande missed an \$US83.5M overseas bond interest payment last week, and was reported to have reached an agreement with investors in China regarding a \$US35.9M payment also due last week.

Also yesterday, **Japan** announced the ruling Liberal Democratic Party had elected Fumio Kishida as party leader and hence, Japan's next PM, to take over from Yoshihide Suga who is stepping down at a parliamentary session scheduled for Monday next week. Mr Kishida was Japan's minister for foreign affairs 2012 – 2017.

Among overnight **data** releases, a **euro zone** economic sentiment index rose by 0.2 to 117.8, against expectations for a decline to 115.9.

The Bank of England estimated **UK** net lending to individuals had tallied £5.6B during August following forecasts for half this amount.

Germany's August import prices were calculated 1.4% higher for the month, following a 2.2% July jump.

Against August 2020, prices were up 16.5%.

Meanwhile, Germany hosted a 10-year bond auction, this delivering a -0.22% yield from -0.38% previously.

A similar auction in **Italy** produced a 0.86% yield from 0.67%.

In the **US**, August pending home sales jumped 8.1% for the month, following a 2.0% July fall.

Forecasters had anticipated a 1.1% rise.

Year-on-year, pending sales were down 8.3%.

Pre-Open Announcements

Volpara Health Technologies (* VHT)

Agreement secured with Natera, for Natera genetic testing to be offered to VHT customers. Details lodged pre-trade.

ImpediMed Ltd (* IPD)

Agreement secured with Icon Group for 13 SOZO units to be installed screening in Australia and New Zealand for breast cancer patient lymphoedema screening.

MGC Pharma (* MXC)

Distribution partner AMC Holdings has ordered 1000 CimetrA units for use by US regulators and researchers ahead of potential approval for US distribution and sales.

Mader Group (* MAD) / Austin Engineering (ANG)

Establishing a strategic support alliance, whereby ANG can gain access to MAD's personnel and workshop facilities on an as-needs basis.

Buddy Technologies (BUD)

Commencing LIFX Smart Switch live television and radio promotions in the US.

Touch Ventures (* TVL)

LIC completed a successful ASX listing yesterday, after raising \$100M in a 40c per share IPO.

Opened at 58c and traded at 50c - 74c before settling at 50.5c.

40.99M shares changed hands across 6968 transactions.

713.37M quoted shares.

Touchcorp (acquired by Afterpay [ASX: APT]) held 24.31% on listing.

Thorney Technologies (ASX: TEK) held 1.30% on listing.

Resources

Mitre Mining Corporation (* MMC)

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

Targeting gold, base metals and lithium near Batemans Bay, southern NSW coast.

27.085M quoted shares.

Forrestania Resources (* FRS) / Firefly Resources (FFR) / Gascoyne Resources (GCY)

Exploration company FRS is scheduled to list on the ASX **1pm** AEST, following a \$5M IPO at 20c per share.

28.05M quoted shares.

FRS will hold the formerly FFR-owned WA Forrestania lithium, gold and nickel project, in addition to the Southern Cross and Leonora gold projects.

FFR holds 12.25%.

Firefinch Ltd (* FFX)

The Mali government will not object to the plan for FFX and



Weekly mortgage applications fell 1.1% after increasing 4.9% the previous week.

Mean 30-year mortgage rates were calculated at 3.1% from 3.03%.

Tonight in the US, the final June quarter GDP reading, Chicago September PMI and August pending home sales are anticipated, together with weekly new unemployment claims.

In addition, US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell and US treasury secretary Janet Yellen are scheduled to meet with the House of Representatives financial services committee.

Government funding deliberations are set to continue and in the meantime the House of Representatives remains due to vote on proposed infrastructure funding.

Further, four other Fed officials are expected to speak publicly.

Elsewhere, the UK releases a final June quarter GDP reading and Germany an initial September CPI.

H&M and Paychex are among companies scheduled to report earnings.

Commodities.

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1722.9	oz	-14.6	-0.8
Silver (NY) (Dec)	21.49	oz	-0.98	-4.4
Gold (LON)	1734	oz		
Platinum	949	oz	-15	-1.6
WTI Crude (NYMEX Nov)	74.83	bbl	-0.46	-0.6
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Nov)	78.64	bbl	-0.45	-0.6
Iron Ore (Qingdao) (CHN;62% <i>f</i>)	112.06	t	2.07	1.8
Iron Ore (Nymex)	119.89	t		
Copper (LME Ind)	9207	t	-61	-0.7
Nickel	18275	t	-291	-1.6
Aluminium	2915	t	-30	-1.0
Lead	2158	t	-16	-0.7
Zinc	3051	t	-28	-0.9
Tin	35420	t	-658	-1.8

Commodities Commentary

Oil – overnight prices continued lower due to \$US strength and new data out of the US.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report, published overnight by government agency the EIA, included a 4.578MMbbl rise in stored crude and 193,000bbl increase in petrol stocks.

Net crude imports were estimated to have fallen by 124,000bbl/d.

Overnight Tuesday post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report which included an estimated 4.127MMbbl increase in US crude stocks last week.

OPEC+ members are preparing in the meantime to meet Monday next week.

Gold – Comex futures fell to settle at ~six-month lows overnight, as the \$US ICE index rose 0.6% to 11-month highs. Silver tumbled to levels not seen in 14-months.

Meanwhile, inflation and economic recovery commentary continued from high-profile central bankers, ahead of a batch of influential international data releases from today through tonight.

Jiangxi Ganfeng lithium to develop and operate the Goulamina lithium project on a JV basis.

In addition, a Mali Morila project contractor supplier convoy was reportedly attacked earlier this week while conveying equipment. The convoy was protected by Mali Gendarmes.

European Metals (* EUR)

Austria Wolfsberg lithium project resource extension drilling results anticipated in October.

Final metallurgical test work test work results anticipated by year's end.

US OTC listing anticipated in October.

Eastern Iron (EFE)

Resuming from a trading halt with 'encouraging' Victoria Nowa Nowa iron project mining study results.

Ongoing feasibility study expected to be completed in November.

EFE last traded at 4.3c.

Podium Minerals (POD)

POD has appointed recent MMG GM operations and technical excellence Sam Rodda as CEO, effective 1 January 2022.

West Cobar Metals (* WC1)

Exploration company WC1 is scheduled to list on the ASX 11.30am AEST **tomorrow**, following a \$5.5M IPO at 20c per share.

29.25M quoted shares.

Holds four exploration projects in the NSW Cobar region, prospective for copper, gold, silver and lead.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Field Solutions Holdings	FSG	30 Sep
Aeris Ltd	AER	1 Oct
Brightstar Resources	BTR	1 Oct
Mount Gibson Iron	MGX	1 Oct
Predictive Discovery	PDI	1 Oct

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Hannans Ltd	HNR	29 Sep
Stemcell United	SCU	29 Sep
Zeus Resources	ZEU	6 Sep

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
CII	Today	1	100	1.67
COS	Today	1	100	0.75
GVF	Today	3.3	100	4.84



Base metals – a strong \$US and reports of broadening power shortages in China bruised overnight LME sentiment.

Major smelters in China were in the meantime reported to have determined December quarter *copper* treatment fees at \$US70/t and refining charges at US7c/lb, from \$55/t and 5.5c/lb for the June quarter.

In other smelting news, a *lead* smelter operated by Glencore in Germany was reported to be moving from 75% capacity over the past six weeks to full output by November.

China's official September PMIs are anticipated today, together with Caixin's China September manufacturing PMI.

These figures are expected to influence at least some of tonight's trade.

China's markets will be closed from tomorrow through Thursday next week due to a holiday season.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7179	-0.0071	-0.99
EUR – USD	1.1600	-0.0083	-0.71

Australian Data Today

RBA	Financial aggregates (incl private sector credit)	Sep
ABS	Job vacancies	Aug
ABS	Building approvals	Aug

US Data Tonight

GDP (third and final)	Jun Q
Chicago PMI	Sep
Pending home sales	Aug
Initial jobless claims	25 Sep

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	NBS PMIs	Sep
China	Caixin manufacturing PMI	Sep
Japan	Industrial production (prelim)	Aug
Japan	Retail sales	Aug
UK	GDP (final)	Jun Q
UK	Domestic vehicle production	Aug
Germany	CPI (prelim)	Sep
Germany	Unemployment	Sep
Euro zone	Unemployment	Aug

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MOT	Today	0.93	0	6.49
MXT	Today	0.64	0	4.17
PBP	Today	3	100	2.29
PGG	Today	0.68	0	4.71
PTB	Today	5	100	2.48
WGX	Today	2	0	0.00
XRF	Today	2	100	2.11
EDC	Tomorrow	2	0	7.72
NBI	Tomorrow	0.8	0	5.11
NCK	Tomorrow	25	100	5.57
SST	Tomorrow	11.69	0	2.51
BSA	Mon	0.5	100	3.57
BWX	Tue	3.1	100	0.20
CAM	Tue	1.52	100	5.03
GNP	Tue	1.8	100	0.00
NCC	Tue	3.75	100	6.44
PRN	Tue	2	0	8.48
SGM	Tue	30	50	0.93

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Tue	AFI	AGM
	BBN	AGM
	MIR	AGM
	PBH	AGM
Wed	MEZ	AGM

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