

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6166	42	0.7
NZX 50	12360	110	0.9
DJIA Futures	28297	562	2.0
S&P 500 Futures	3505	70	2.0
NASDAQ Futures	12077	314	2.7

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens Friday trade with a key report due from the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) late morning, new positive, material domestic data in hand pre-trade, and a major domestic bank reporting, ahead of influential data for the US tonight.

In addition, China – Australia trade relations remain in focus following unofficial confirmation yesterday that lobster, wine, copper and other Australian exports to China would be constrained.

The US election vote count continued overnight, Democrat control of the House of Representatives and Republican control of the Senate appearing to have been retained, but the presidential count in key States reported as remaining close.

Locally today, the RBA is due to publish its six-monthly **monetary policy** statement, including updated forecasts, **11.30am** AEDT.

Pre-trade, AiG has revealed a jump to **51.4** for the October **services sector activity** index, following a contractionary 36.2 for September.

In addition, **CSR** and **JHG** trade ex-dividend.

Regionally, **China** is expected to report October **trade** figures over the **weekend**.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** swung lower following a three-session rally.

US **gold** futures (Dec) turned decidedly higher, trading above \$US1945/oz.

LME **copper** again settled slightly higher. **Nickel** rallied. **Aluminium** turned lower.

The **\$A** was pushed ~US72.75c after appreciating to US72.00c early yesterday evening.

This morning, the **\$A** has traded beyond US72.80c.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	28390	543	2.0
S&P 500	3510	67	2.0
NASDAQ	11891	300	2.6
FTSE 100	5906	23	0.4
DAX 30	12568	244	2.0
Shanghai Comp	3320	43	1.3

Australia – RBA six-monthly policy statement, including updated forecasts – **11.30am** AEDT

Australia – 51.4 (AiG) services sector activity index from 36.2

Today's Stock Watch
Macquarie Group (MQG)

\$1.35, 54c-franked interim dividend.
 32.4% lower, \$985M interim NPAT.
 12.67% lower, \$56.52B net operating income.
 \$48.94 NTA, against \$47.83.

Amcort Ltd (AMC)

Paying an US11.75c September quarter dividend.
 \$US66M September quarter net profit (GAAP), against \$US198M a year ago.
 Net sales rose to \$US3.141B from \$US3.097B.

James Hardie Industries (JHX)

AGM materials lodged. The AGM commenced (virtually) in Ireland overnight.

News Corporation (NWS)

\$US47M September quarter net profit, against a \$2US11M net loss a year ago.
 10% lower, \$US2.12B revenue.

REA Group (REA)

September quarter revenue (post-broker commissions) fell 3% to \$195.7M.
 National residential listings fell 1% in October. Melbourne listings grew 14% and Sydney listings 2%.

Dubber Corporation (DUB)

DUB's recording and data capture product has been selected for IBM Cloud for Telecommunications.
 Details lodged this morning.

AMP Ltd (AMP)

AMP has appointed former Chorus (ASX: CNU) CEO Kathryn (Kate) McKenzie as an independent non-executive director, effective 18 November.

Magellan Financial Group (MFG)

\$A103.476B FUM at 30 October, against \$A102.088B at the end of September.

Orica Ltd (ORI)

Full year results anticipated.

Resources
West African Resources (WAF)

\$US25M voluntary early repayment completed, with nil penalties, for a debt facility with Taurus Funds Management.

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and US equities markets mostly rallied further overnight. FTSE trade chopped markedly, however.

Select large US tech and communications stocks remained well supported.

Trader considerations included the likely control of the US Senate, lowered economic growth forecasts, record daily Covid-19 diagnoses tallies, government support announcements and central bank assurances.

Yesterday, in response to growing Covid-19 spread, **China** increased enlarged the lists of nations from which it would not allow entry to China, and from which visitors would need to provide evidence of a broader range of health tests conducted within a certain timeframe.

Meanwhile, **Greece** became the latest euro zone country to announce a new national lockdown.

Also yesterday, England commenced a four-week lockdown in response to surging Covid-19 diagnoses.

Overnight, the **Bank of England** (BoE) raised its bond purchasing facility by £150B to £895B, while retaining the key cash rate at 0.1%.

The BoE also lowered its 2021 GDP growth prediction to 7.25% from 9.00%. The 2020 GDP forecast is for an 11% drop.

In addition, the bank is expecting unemployment to reach as high as 7.75% during 2021.

BoE governor Andrew Bailey assure bank policy committee members would do 'everything we can' to bolster the UK economy.

This, not only in light of Covid-19 impacts, but with the UK transition period for its separation from the European Union (EU) set to expire 31 December with, as yet, no new trade agreements in place.

In addition, UK chancellor Rishi Sunak announced additional Covid-19 – associated support, these including a UK-wide extension to a wages support scheme until 31 March 2021, and a boost to a self-employment support program.

In the meantime, following an **EU** finance ministers' meeting, the European Commission lowered the region's 2021 GDP growth forecast from 6.1% to 4.2%.

In late US trade, the **Federal Reserve** revealed at the conclusion of a two-day policy meeting, that rates would remain lower for longer, noting domestic employment and general economic activity, while recovering, were significantly below early-2020 levels.

Chair Jerome Powell said the bank intended to maintain its current ~\$US120B-per-month rate of bond purchases.

Prior to this, the \$US index had dropped ~0.8%.

In overnight **data** releases, **euro zone** September retail sales fell 2% for the month, against expectations of a 1.4% decline, but proved 2.2% higher than for September 2019.

The region's October construction PMI fell to 44.9 from 47.5.

Germany's September factory orders rose 0.5% following a 4.9% August jump, and against expectations of a new 1.5% increase.

Pre-Open Announcements

iSelect Ltd (* ISU)

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is investigating completed and proposed acquisitions of ISU shares by product comparison competitor Innovation Holdings Australia.

Proposed purchases would boost Innovation Holdings' 29% interest in ISU to ~35%.

Innovation Holdings owns comparethemarket.com.au.

Austal Ltd (* ASB)

ASB's first ship constructed at the Vung Tau yard, Vietnam has been delivered to National Infrastructure Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago.

The vessel is a 94m catamaran, designed as a passenger ferry.

Synlait Milk (SM1)

Confidential SM1 Pokeno site land covenants settlement agreed. Details lodged this morning.

Resources

Ardiden Ltd (* ADV)

Heralding high-grade assays from drilling within the Pickle Lake gold project Kasagiminnis deposit, Ontario, Canada.

Rafaella Resources (RFR)

Presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

Copper Mountain Mining Corporation (C6C)

Director Alistair Cowden has resigned from the C6C board.

Dr Cowden joined the C6C board in 2018 when C6C acquired the former Altona Mining of which Dr Cowden was MD.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
IXUP Ltd	IXU	6 Nov
Lucapa Diamond Company	LOM	6 Nov
MedAdvisor Ltd	MDR	6 Nov
Red Sky Energy	ROG	6 Nov
Scout Security	SCT	6 Nov
Carbonxt Group	CG1	9 Nov
Corum Group	COO	9 Nov
Godolphin Resources	GRL	9 Nov
IOPay Ltd	IOU	9 Nov
Patrys Ltd	PAB	9 Nov
Rafaella Resources	RFR	9 Nov

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Buddy Technologies	BUD	30 Oct



The October construction PMI for Germany slipped by 0.3 to 45.2.

In the **UK**, October new domestic vehicle sales were reported 1.6% lower than for October 2019.

The UK October construction PMI fell to 53.1 from 56.8, following forecasts of a decline to 54.4.

In the **US**, weekly new unemployment claims were estimated at 751,000, from 758,000 the previous week and following forecasts of 745,000.

An October job cuts report included ~80,667 planned layoffs, following September's ~118,800.

Tonight in the **US**, October national employment statistics are due, together with wholesale inventories and a consumer credit update.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today and tonight include: Allianz, Asics, Berkshire Hathaway, CVS Health, Hershey, Honda Motor, Inpex, Isuzu Motors, Kirin Holdings, Liberty Broadband, Marriott International, Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding, Nippon Steel, Sumitomo and ViacomCBS.

In overnight corporate news, **Royal Dutch Shell** announced plans to close a US Gulf Coast oil refinery, citing COvid-19 impacts.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1946.8	oz	50.6	2.7
Silver (NY) (Dec)	25.191	oz	1.30	5.4
Gold (LON) (4 Nov)	1900	oz		
Platinum	894	oz	27	3.1
WTI Crude (NYMEX Dec)	38.79	bbl	-0.36	-0.9
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jan)	40.93	bbl	-0.3	-0.7
Iron Ore (CHN port 62% Fe) (4 Nov)	116.84	t	0.37	0.3
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	6850	t	10	0.1
Nickel	15530	t	177	1.2
Aluminium	1895	t	-17	-0.9
Lead	1836	t	-8	-0.4
Zinc	2609	t	14	0.5
Tin	18345	t	155	0.9

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices turned lower overnight, despite a notable \$US depreciation, falls attributed mostly to profit-taking amid supply-demand and geopolitical uncertainties.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig count is due tonight.

Gold – a \$US drop, and a £150B increase in the Bank of England's bond-buying program helped support overnight gold sentiment.

The US Federal Reserve announced post-gold settlement that low rates would be retained as would be a focus on supporting the US economy.

The Bank of England's post-policy meeting announcements included additional bond-buying, but also a stay on rates.

Among precious metals news, *platinum* received additional support with Anglo American Platinum announced suspended operations at a second smelting facility, reducing output and sales guidance accordingly.

Base metals – a weaker \$US supported general overnight LME

Consolidated Financial Holdings	CWL	16 Oct
Cyclone Metals	CLE	19 Oct
Emerge Gaming	EM1	30 Oct
Fremont Petroleum Corporation	FPL	3 Nov
New Energy Minerals	NXE	15 Oct
Recce Pharmaceuticals	RCE	5 Nov
Resource Generation	RES	26 Oct
Triple Energy	TNP	28 Oct

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
CSR	Today	12.5	100	2.11
JHG	Today	36	0	5.84
WAT	Today	3	100	1.72
ANZ	Mon	35	100	5.39
HAW	Mon	1.58	0	0.00
JYC	Mon	2.7	100	9.17
NAC	Mon	1.4	100	5.00
NSC	Mon	1.25	100	6.11
SRH	Tue	1	100	0.00
API	Wed	2	100	3.60
RMD	Wed	3.88	0	0.54
RND	Wed	10	100	0.00
TBR	Wed	20	100	0.00
WBC	Wed	31	100	4.52
ACQ	Thu	3.75	100	4.86
PL8	Fri (13 Nov)	0.4	100	4.91

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	AMC	Sep Q
	CNU	AGM
	MQG	Interim
	NWS	Sep Q
	ORI	Full year
	REA	Sep Q
	SPK	AGM
Tue	CTP	AGM
	DHG	AGM
	INA	AGM
	JHX	Interim; Sep Q (9am)
	SGM	AGM
	URW	AGM (7pm)
Wed	AST	Interim
	BIN	AGM
	CUV	AGM



trade sentiment, but US election uncertainty and new support measures from the UK government and the Bank of England were also in focus.

In select metal news, China's Antaika predicted the *nickel* surplus would fall during next year.

Some caution is anticipated during tonight's trade, ahead of China's October **trade** figures, expected to be released over the weekend.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7271	-0.0013	-0.17
EUR – USD	1.1831	0.0004	0.04

Australian Data Today

AiG	PSI	Oct
RBA	Monetary policy statement (six-month update)	Sep

US Data Tonight

Employment (incl jobs, wages, unemployment rate)	Oct
Wholesale inventories	Sep
Consumer credit	Sep

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	Household spending	Sep
Germany	Industrial production	Sep

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	CPU	AGM
	CEN	AGM
	ED1	AGM
	FMG	AGM
	IFM	AGM
	MGX	AGM (3pm)
	NEA	AGM
	NCM	AGM
	PPK	AGM (3pm)
	WPL	Investor briefing
Thu	AVH	Sep Q (5.30am)
	BRG	AGM
	COE	AGM
	DTL	AGM
	EHL	AGM
	GDI	AGM
	GNC	Full year (w/cast tele 10am)
	MPL	AGM
	NEC	AGM
	SWM	AGM
	SHL	AGM
	TLS	Investor day
	VCX	AGM
	WES	AGM
	WOW	AGM
	XRO	Interim
Fri	MCR	AGM (4pm)
	NXT	AGM
	ORE	AGM
	PNV	AGM