

Markets

Market	Price	Change	% Change
SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7571	3	0.0
NZX 50	11928	-24	-0.2
DJIA Futures	38774	161	0.4
S&P 500 Futures	5015	41	0.8
NASDAQ Futures	17842	182	1.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens today's trade with new data from China in hand and more due today, together with a trio of key domestic economic reports.

US equities markets closed 0.4% - ~1.0% higher overnight.

Locally today, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) releases December **lending to business** and **housing loan payments** reports, each at 11.30am AEDT.

At the same time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes an updated version of the December building approvals report released Thursday last week.

Regionally today, **China** is expected to release January **CPI** and **producer prices** at 12.30pm AEDT.

Post-trade yesterday, China reported \$US3.219 trillion worth of January **foreign reserves** from \$US3.238 trillion for December.

China also revealed a 47.9% year-on-year jump in January **vehicle sales** following a 23.5% higher year-on-year tally for December.

Japan reports January bank lending at 10.50am AEDT.

Several markets will be **closed** for Lunar New Year's Eve **tomorrow**, these including ones in **China**, South Korea and Taiwan. Markets in Hong Kong and Singapore will close early.

China's markets will remain **closed** through **next week**.

Japan's markets will be **closed Monday**, due to a public holiday.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** posted a third consecutive gain, adding 0.8%.

US **gold** (Comex) futures added just US30c/oz, settling above \$US2050.5/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) continued lower, but remained above \$US127.00/t.

US **copper** futures declined by US4c/lb higher, to \$US3.74/lb.

Last night's **LME** final 3-mth evening price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication. These are expected to become available via IRESS at 11.30am AEDT.

The **\$A** fell beneath US65.20c after trading at ~US65.25c - ~US65.35c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	38677	156	0.4
S&P 500	4995	41	0.8
NASDAQ	15757	148	0.9

Today's Stock Watch
Telix Pharmaceuticals (TLX)

Acquiring QSAM Biosciences.

Consideration comprises \$US33.1M upfront, payable in ~4.37M TLX shares, plus up to \$US90M worth of contingent payments, payable in cash and/or shares.

QSAM is targeting treatments for bone cancer, both primary and metastatic.

News Corporation (NWS)

\$US183M December quarter net profit, from \$US94M a year ago.

3% higher, \$US2.59B revenue.

REA Group (REA)

87c fully franked interim dividend from 75c a year ago.

37% lower, \$122.6M interim NPAT.

18% higher, \$725.5M revenue, including record December quarter revenue. \$314M cash balance.

Operating expenses grew 11% to \$287M.

\$4.421 NTA from \$4.859 at 30 June 2023.

Anticipating 'continued tough market conditions in the US'.

Mirvac Group (MGR)

4.5c interim distribution from 5.2c a year ago.

\$201M interim net loss from a \$215M net profit.

47% higher, \$1.26B income.

\$2.56 NTA from \$2.79.

Transurban Group (TCL)

30c interim distribution/dividend from 26.5c a year ago.

\$204M interim NPAT, from \$41M.

4.5% higher, \$2.125B revenue. \$3.89 NTA from \$4.48.

\$1.41B free cash.

Unibail Rodamco Westfield (URW)

Full year results anticipated today.

Alliance Aviation Services (AQZ)

\$26.269M interim NPAT, from \$6.556M a year ago.

27.2% higher, \$299.364M revenue.

\$2.19 NTA from \$2.02 at 30 June 2023.

\$244.6M net debt.

Energy
AGL Energy (AGL)

26c interim dividend from 8c a year ago.

\$A576M interim NPAT from a \$1.075B net loss a year ago.

20.8% lower, \$A6.183B revenue.

\$3.46 NTA from \$2.88 at 30 June 2023.

Anticipating \$680M - \$780M FY24 underlying net profit, from previous \$580M - \$780M guidance.



FTSE 100	7629	-52	-0.7
DAX 30	16922	-111	-0.7
Shanghai Composite	2830	40	1.4

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and UK equities markets opened cautiously overnight, with sentiment subsequently deteriorating amid some disappointing corporate earnings and outlooks.

Key US indices gained on opening and mostly headed decisively higher from early trade.

US Federal Reserve officials spoke variously of qualms regarding inflation containment, given services and rental prices, perhaps a reduction in interest rates later this year, and potentially two or three cuts by year's end.

In the meantime, an author and economist was quoted as predicting a possible reduction in US Fed debt holdings from next month, potentially in response to banking sector risk.

In second-half US trade, Israel's PM rejected the latest ceasefire conditions from Hamas, reiterating his vow for absolute victory.

Among other geopolitical developments, Russia reportedly launched another intensive round of attacks in Ukraine.

In overnight economic data releases, **Germany's** December industrial production dropped 1.6% for the month against consensus for a 0.3% fall following a 0.2% November decline.

In the **UK**, house prices rose 1.3% during January, according to a Halifax report. A 0.8% appreciation had been expected following a 1.1% December increase.

Against January 2023, prices were up 2.5%. December's annualised increase was calculated at 1.8%.

The UK January mortgage rate, as calculated by BBA, came in flat at 7.96%.

Russia reported 2023 GDP growth, this estimated at 3.6% from a 1.2% drop for 2022.

In the **US**, December international trade figures included a \$US62.2B deficit, matching consensus, following \$US61.9B for November.

The values of exports and imports also proved little changed from November.

A December consumer credit change report included an estimated \$US1.56B increase for the month, against consensus for \$US16B, following a \$US23.75B November jump.

Weekly mortgage applications rose by 3.7% following a 7.2% drop the previous week.

Mean average 30-year mortgage rates were calculated at 6.80% from 6.78%.

A 10-year US note auction produced a 4.093% yield from 4.024%.

Earlier, a UK three-year treasury gilt auction had notably delivered a 4.131% yield from 3.887%.

Yesterday afternoon (AEDT), Japan hosted a 30-year government bond auction which resulted in a 1.791% yield from 1.629%.

Tonight in the **US**, weekly new unemployment claims are keenly anticipated. December wholesale inventories are also due.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include: ArcelorMittal, AstraZeneca, Brookfield Corp,

Pre-Open Announcements

Insignia Financial (* IFL)

IFL has appointed former AMP Australia CEO Scott Hartley as CEO, effective 1 March.

Mr Hartley will commence with IFL 26 February.

He has also been appointed as an IFL executive director.

Platinum Asset Management (* PTM)

\$A15.190B FUM at 31 January from \$A15.447B at 31 December 2023.

Clime Capital (* CAM)

Anticipating \$3.7M interim NPAT from \$12.3M for 1H FY23.

Planning to pay a minimum 1.35c fully franked March quarter dividend, against 1.32c fully franked for the March quarter 2023.

Contact Energy (CEN)

CEN has appointed former Deutsche Bank NZ manager and current Goodman NZ deputy chair David Gibson as a non-executive director.

Resources

White Energy (WEC)

WEC has secured a farm-in to Tectonic Gold subsidiary Signature Gold's four copper- and gold-prospective tenements in the central Queensland Biloela region.

The WEC tenement interests will be held by WEC subsidiary Amerod Resources.

Proposed farm-in details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Energy

New Hope Corporation (* NHC)

NHC has committed to apply for up to \$A105M worth of shares in a minimum \$A160M, \$1.80-per-share institutional placement for 15% NHC-held Malabar Resources.

NHC will use existing cash to purchase the shares.

A firm allocation of \$A76M worth of Malabar shares will deliver NHC 19.9% of Malabar.

A conditional further allocation of \$A29M worth of shares would boost NHC's Malabar holding to 23%.

Malabar is an unlisted company.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
BMG Resources	BMG	9 Feb
BPH Energy	BPH	9 Feb
Culpeo Minerals	CPO	8 Feb
Rhythm Biosciences	RHY	9 Feb



ConocoPhillips, Credit Agricole, Duke Energy, Honda Motor, Industrial Bank of Korea, L'Oréal, Motorola, Nissan Motor, Rinnai, Siemens, Société Générale, Take-Two Interactive and Unilever.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Apr)	2051.7	oz	0.30	0.0
Silver (COMEX 5000 Mar)	22.36	oz	-0.12	-0.5
Platinum (Spot)	879	oz	-24	-2.7
WTI Crude (NYMEX Mar)	73.86	bbl	0.55	0.8
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Apr)	79.21	bbl	0.62	0.8
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	127.03	t	-0.36	-0.3
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (6Feb)	8407	t	41	0.5
Nickel	15947	t	-99	-0.6
Aluminium	2234	t	18	0.8
Lead	2116	t	-1	-0.0
Zinc	2434	t	12	0.5
Tin	25196	t	349	1.4

Commodities Commentary

Oil – demand and security of supply considerations appeared to feature in overnight crude trade considerations.

Israel rejected conditions attached to the latest ceasefire proposal, US central bank officials offered a variety of comments regarding inflation and the timing of any rate cuts this year and the International Energy Agency commented on demand growth at an Energy Week event in India.

In addition, a weekly US petroleum inventories report, published overnight by US government agency the EIA, included an estimated 5.52MMbbl build for crude stocks.

This was mostly attributed to lower refinery demand and a further rise in net crude imports.

Petrol inventories declined by 3.145MMbbl.

Meanwhile, India's demand growth was noted by the IEA and predicted to usurp China's over the period extending from last year through 2030.

Post-US trade Tuesday, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report which included a 674,000bbl increase for US crude stocks last week.

Gold – trade volumes were again reported relatively low overnight, in the absence of traditional sentiment catalysts.

US Federal Reserve officials ventured varying comments on inflation and interest rate move views.

Base metals – overnight trade appeared influenced by commentary regarding China's economic prospects, positioning ahead of Lunar New Year and inventory updates.

Zinc stocks grew in LME-registered warehouses, reportedly pushing early prices to nine-week lows.

Cash contract discounts (against three-month prices) rose for *copper*.

China's January CPI and producer prices are anticipated today.

Tomorrow's Lunar New Year's Eve celebrations will mark the commencement of public holidays across several regional nations, including China. China's markets will remain closed next week.

Further positioning is hence anticipated tonight.

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Advanced Health Intelligence	AHI	5 Feb
DMC Mining	DMM	23 Jan
European Lithium	EUR	6 Feb
Galena Mining	G1A	11 Jan
Laramide Resources	LAM	15 Jan
Moab Minerals	MOM	5 Feb
Pan Asia Metals	PAM	1 Feb
Revasum Inc	RVS	5 Feb
Reward Minerals	RWD	7 Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
QVE	Tue	1.3	100	5.42
PL8	Wed	0.55	100	5.59
VG1	Wed	5	100	5.36
KOV	15 Feb	25	100	6.64
ARG	16 Feb	16.5	100	3.80
SYM	16 Feb	35	100	1.13

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event	
Today	AGL	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)	
	CLW	Interim	
	GDF	Interim	
	MGR	Interim	
	REA	Interim	
	RG8	Interim	
	TCL	Interim (w/cast 10am)	
Tomorrow	URW	Full year	
	BLD	Interim (w/cast 9.30am)	
	Mon	AZJ	Interim
		BPT	Interim
		CAE	Interim
		JBH	Interim
	Tue	BRG	Interim (tele 9am)
		CGF	Interim
		CQE	Interim
		CSL	Interim
HCW		Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)	
JHX		Dec Q (w/cast tele 9am)	
SEK		Interim	
SWM	Interim (w/cast tele 9am)		

**Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6521	-0.0008	-0.12
EUR – USD	1.0774	0.0014	0.13

Australian Data Today

RBA	Lending to business	Dec
RBA	Housing loan payments	Dec
ABS	Building approvals (addtnl info)	Dec

US Data Tonight

Initial jobless claims	3 Feb
Wholesale inventories	Dec

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	CPI	Jan
China	Producer prices	Jan
Japan	Bank lending	Jan
Japan	Eco watchers survey (4pm AEDT)	Jan

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	VSL	Interim (w/cast tele 8.45am)
Wed	AMP	Full year
	AUI	Interim
	CBA	Interim
	CPU	Interim
	DHG	Interim
	DOW	Interim
	EVN	Interim
	FBU	Interim (w/cast tele 9am)
	GUD	Interim (w/cast 8.45am)
	IEL	Interim
	SVW	Interim

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