

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6113	-93	-1.5
NZX 50	11249	-177	-1.6
DJIA Futures	25792	-997	-3.9
S&P 500 Futures	2841	-124	-4.2
NASDAQ Futures	8172	-331	-3.9

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens a new week's trade with weak trade data in hand from China over the weekend and a GDP update from Japan this morning, following an overnight Friday oil price nosedive, and amid Monday public holidays across four Australian States and territories.

In addition, US futures have declined notably this morning.

The **\$A** traded within a relatively narrow band overnight Friday, after appreciating beyond US66.45c early-evening, but earlier this morning dropped below US66.00c.

Saturday, **China** revealed a \$US7.09B January-February **trade deficit**, against a \$US47.21B surplus at the end of 2019, and following forecasts of a \$US24.6B surplus.

Exports plunged 17.2% year-on-year, after rising 7.9% in December, and surpassing forecasts of a 14% tumble.

Imports dropped 4%, following a 16.5% December increase, and against forecasts of a 15% dive.

China's February **foreign reserves** at the end of February were reported at \$US3.107 trillion, against \$US3.115 trillion at the end of January.

Regionally today, **Japan** is scheduled to report December quarter GDP **10.50am AEDT**.

Locally today, **CTX, QUB, REA** and **SGM** are among stocks trading **ex-dividend**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed list.

In overnight Friday commodities trade, **oil** slumped.

US **gold** futures (CME April) continued to gain, settling beyond \$US1570/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) turned lower, falling below \$US89.20/t.

Saturday, China's year-on-year iron January-February ore imports were estimated to have grown by 1.5%, to 176.8Mt. Shipping data attributed most of this to January.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** declined modestly, the majority of key non-Fe base metals also trading lower in varying degrees.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	25865	-257	-1.0
S&P 500	2972	-52	-1.7
NASDAQ	8576	-163	-1.9
FTSE 100	6463	-243	-3.6

ASX – trade and settlement as normal
 Public holidays: ACT, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria

Japan – December quarter GDP – **10.50am AEDT**

Today's Stock Watch

Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield (URW)

URW, Crédit Agricole Assurances (CAA) and La Française have formed a JV over five shopping centres in France, worth a combined €2B.

URW had received an offer from CAA and La Française for a 54.2% holding in the properties.

Air New Zealand (AIZ)

Withdrawing full year 2020 earnings guidance due to uncertainty regarding the likely overall impact of Covid-19.

In association, AIZ CEO Greg Foran has volunteered to forego 15% of his \$NZ1.65M base pay.

In addition, AIZ is further reducing services.

Zenith Energy (ZEN)

Agreeing to a scheme whereby Pacific Equity Partners will pay the majority of ZEN shareholders \$1.01-cash-per-share for ZEN. Additional details lodged this morning.

ZEN traded on the ASX at 66.5c – 71.5c last week.

Monadelphous Group (MND)

Reporting a weekend fatality at the group's WA Kalgoorlie-Boulder workshop services site.

Ainsworth Game Technology (AGI)

AGI US subsidiary Ainsworth Game Technology Inc has complete the \$US26M acquisition of private company MTD Gaming Inc.

Immutep Ltd (IMM)

US FDA 'investigational new drug' approval in hand for efitlagimod alpha (IMP321), enabling IMM to commence its AIPAC-002 phase one clinical study involving patients suffering metastatic breast cancer.

Medlab Clinical (MDC)

An independent reviewer of a trial using MDC's NanaBis with patients suffering advanced cancer pain, has determined safety, tolerability and efficacy endpoints, and additional secondary endpoints, have been met.

Resources

Alkane Resources (ALK)

San Antonio and Roswell prospects resource definition drilling results lodged this morning, including a 49m @ 8.71g/t Au assay, incorporating 2m @ 60.5g/t Au.

Both prospects are located immediately south of the Tomingley gold operation, New South Wales.



DAX 30	11542	-403	-3.4
Shanghai Comp	3035	-37	-1.2

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and US equities markets fell on opening overnight Friday, but key US indices notably recovered sufficiently in late trade to settle at or near session highs.

US and UK 10-year government yields fell to new lows.

In overnight Friday data releases, US February jobs figures surprised on the upside, with 273,000 new positions created, against as few as 165,000 forecast.

In addition, January's new jobs tally was revised from 225,000 to 273,000, and December's from 147,000 to 184,000.

Average wages grew 0.3% during February and 3% year-on-year.

The unemployment rate slipped to 3.5% from 3.6%, but the participation rate remained steady.

The January trade deficit came in at \$US45.3B, against a \$US48.6B December shortfall.

Exports were valued at \$US208.6B and imports \$US253.9B.

January wholesale inventories fell 0.4% after being reported 0.3% lower for December.

Germany's January factory orders encouraged, jumping 5.5% for the month, following a 2.1% December drop.

Tonight in the US no major economic data releases are scheduled.

Elsewhere, Germany reports January trade balance and industrial production.

Companies scheduled to report earnings include Korean majors: Daewoo Engineering, Inpex, Kogas, Korean Air Lines, Samsung C&T, Ssangyong Motor.

Trading environment and outlook commentary is keenly awaited.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Apr)	1672.4	oz	4.40	0.3
Silver (NY) (May)	17.263	oz	-0.13	-0.7
Gold (LON) (5 Mar)	1660	oz		
Platinum	903	oz	38	4.4
WTI Crude (Apr)	41.28	bbl	-4.62	-10.1
Brent Crude (May)	45.27	bbl	-4.72	-9.4
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	89.18	t	-0.94	-1.1
Copper (LME,3mth,PM)	5645	t	-23	-0.4
Nickel	12855	t	-35	-0.3
Aluminium	1686	t	-32	-1.9
Lead	1842	t	10	0.6
Zinc	1992	t	-21	-1.0
Tin	16760	t	-295	-1.7

Commodities Commentary

Oil – overnight Friday, OPEC+ announced no new agreement had been reached on production curbs from when the current output restrictions expire 31 March.

Pre-Open Announcements

Perenti Global (* PRN)

Letter-of-Intent in hand for Barrick Gold to contract PRN subsidiary Barmenco for underground mining services, including mining development at Barrick's Hemlo operation, Ontario, Canada.

Barmenco expects to employ 300 people for the work, with first work expected April.

New Zealand Coastal Seafoods (* NZS)

Planning to acquire nutraceutical ingredient developer Kiwi Dreams International.

Consideration comprises 16M NZS shares.

Austal Ltd (* ASB)

ASB has delivered a sixth *Guardian* patrol boat to the Australian Department of Defence.

This one is being gifted by the Australian Government to Fiji, under a Pacific patrol boat replacement project for which the supply contract was awarded to ASB.

ASB expects to provide 21 vessels, worth a combined ~\$A335M, under the contract.

ASB settled at \$3.21 Friday, after closing out the previous week at \$3.48, and the one prior to that, at \$4.37.

Platinum Asset Management (* PTM)

\$23.785B FUM at 29 February, against \$24.649B at the end of January.

Clean TeQ Holdings (CLQ)

The Townsville City Council has requested CLQ commence a \$A920,000 initial scope of work design and procurement phase of the water treatment plant for which CLQ and the council are negotiation conditions and terms for a formal EPC contract.

BSA Ltd (BSA)

BSA has this morning confirmed the appointment of CFO Tim Harris as MD and CEO, taking over from Nicholas Yates.

BSA has promoted finance head Arno Becker to CFO.

Mr Yates is remaining with BSA as a non-executive director.

Gentrack Group (GTK)

GTK has appointed ERM Power CFO as GTK CFO, effective 1 April.

Resources

Lithium Australia (LIT)

Seeking to raise up to ~\$1.72M via a 1c-per-share call on partly paid LIT shares by 20 March.

Energy

Yancoal Australia (* YAL)

YAL has appointed YAL non-executive director, and former Centennial Coal Company MD and CEO David Moulton as CEO, taking over from Reinhold Schmidt today.



This theoretically pits Russia, Saudi Arabia and the US against each other for top international market share.

Saudi Arabia consequently cut April crude prices across destinations and grades

Kazakhstan also subsequently announced it planned to cut costs across the oil industry, to accommodate prices dropping below the government's budgeted \$US50/bbl - \$US55/bbl.

In the meantime, Qatar Petroleum reported a 16.5% drop in February prices.

The US was reported to be ready to this week announce new measures in a further attempt to stifle **Venezuela's** oil trade, as Chevron waited for a renewal of a licence enabling the US major to continue JV and trade relationships with PDVSA.

Saturday, **China's** January-February crude imports were reported 5.2% higher, year-on-year, at 10.47MMbbl/d, mostly due to stockpiling ahead of the Lunar new year which commenced 25 January.

Late-February China crude stockpiles were reported at a 782MMbb record peak.

A weekly **US** petroleum drill rig report, published overnight Friday, included four additional operational oil rigs.

The International Energy Agency's (**IEA**) Oil 2020 report is keenly anticipated **tonight**.

Gold – prices swung through overnight Friday trade, with US February employment statistics largely coming in better-than-expected, amid several COvid-19 updates.

This week, a European Central Bank policy meeting Thursday, pre-meeting expectations, and ultimate statements are expected to swing come currency trade across at least two sessions.

Base metals – **China's** February trade figures, reported Saturday, included a swing to a trade deficit.

China's January-February *unwrought copper* imports were revealed 7.2% higher year-on-year, at 846,107t, due to pre-Lunar new year buying.

Copper concentrate imports declined 1.2% year-on-year, to 3.77Mt.

February *unwrought aluminium* exports were calculated 25.3% lower, year-on-year, due to extended plant closures as COvid-19 spread.

Customs figures put *rare earths* exports 17.3% lower year-on-year, at 5489.2t.

In the meantime, Baowu *Steel* Group has maintained its steel manufacturing facilities are largely operating as usual, including those of Wuhan Iron & Steel Co.

An industry group has reported a fall in *iron ore* stockpiles, from ~131.1Mt ~four weeks ago, this attributed to the easing of transport restrictions.

Overnight Friday LME trade was impacted by the OPEC+ meetings, international stockpiles, and Covid-19 updates.

Tonight's will be influenced by China's trade figures analysis, Japan's December quarter GDP, Covid-19 news and commentary, and key data out of Germany.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
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Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Consolidated Zinc	CZL	9 Mar
Selfwealth Ltd	SWF	9 Mar
Pensana Rare Earths	PM8	10 Mar
Skin Elements	SKN	10 Mar

Suspensions *(select)*

Company	Code	Since
Collection House	CLH	18 Feb
Consolidated Tin Mines	CSD	2 Mar
Decmil Group	DCG	27 Feb
Great Northern Minerals	GNM	5 Mar
Gulf Manganese Corporation	GMC	10 Feb
Hampton Hill Mining	HHM	18 Feb
HHY Fund	HHY	27 Feb
Kalium Lakes	KLL	24 Feb
LionHub Group	LHB	24 Feb
Moreton Resources	MRV	20 Feb
Netlinkz Ltd	NET	5 Mar
Real Estate Investar Group	REV	3 Mar

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
CAA	Today	0.5	100	0.00
CRN	Today	2.65	100	7.15
CTX	Today	51	100	0.99
IMD	Today	1	100	1.55
OTW	Today	1.5	100	1.01
QUB	Today	2.9	100	2.08
REA	Today	55	100	0.65
SGM	Today	6	100	4.59
SNZ	Today	6.26	0	1.49
SRV	Today	11	25	5.64
WQG	Today	2	0	1.77
EQT	Tomorrow	47	100	3.19
LOV	Tomorrow	15	100	3.87
NWS	Tomorrow	10.36	0	1.19
NWSLV	Tomorrow	10.36	0	1.22
PRN	Tomorrow	3.5	100	5.60
PSI	Tomorrow	3.5	100	2.91
RDH	Tomorrow	2	100	3.08
RWC	Tomorrow	4.5	20	2.78
SHL	Tomorrow	34	30	2.73
SRG	Tomorrow	0.5	100	4.69
ARA	Wed	0.7	70	2.98
BGA	Wed	5	100	2.47
BWX	Wed	1.3	100	0.76



AUD – USD	0.6619	0.0021	0.32
EUR – USD	1.1358	0.0008	0.07

Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	GDP	Dec Q
Japan	Bank lending	Feb
Japan	Eco watchers survey (4pm AEDT)	Feb
Germany	Trade balance	Jan
Germany	Industrial production	Jan
Euro zone	Sentix investor confidence	Mar

Need More Information?

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BXB	Wed	13.38	30	2.49
CSL	Wed	141.6	0	0.84
FRI	Wed	2	100	3.45
ICS	Wed	4.5	0	3.07
IGL	Wed	8.6	100	9.39
KME	Wed	1.5	100	4.30
OZL	Wed	15	100	2.59
REG	Wed	4.02	50	10.76