

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	5693	5	0.1
NZX 50	7813	-4	-0.1
DJIA Futures	21976	26	0.1
S&P 500 Futures	2472	2	0.1
NASDAQ Futures	5998	7	0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens a new month's trade on a Friday with positive international equities and commodities leads, ahead of further influential domestic and regional economic indicators, as several large-cap stocks trade ex-dividend.

A Caixin August manufacturing PMI for **China** is due **11.45am AEST**.

A final manufacturing PMI for **Japan** is expected **10.30am**.

Locally pre-trade, AiG is due to release an August manufacturing PMI.

CoreLogic provides an August house price report and post-trade, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) publishes monthly commodity prices.

Companies trading ex-dividend today include **ALU**, **CGF**, **FMG**, **GUD**, **LLC**, **REG** and **TTS**. Please see p3 for a detailed list.

In overnight commodities trade, US **gold** futures and **oil** swung higher. **Iron ore** (China port, 62% Fe) also turned and rallied. LME **copper** settled a little higher following Wednesday's fall, but other key base metals were pushed higher into rally mode.

The **\$A** appreciated to ~US79.50c after slipping below US78.90c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	21948	56	0.3
S&P 500	2472	14	0.6
NASDAQ	6429	60	1.0
FTSE 100	7431	65	0.9
DAX 30	12056	53	0.4
Shanghai Comp	3361	-3	-0.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and US equities markets mostly headed higher on opening again, with much to consider during end-of-month trade, as the US headed towards a favourite, end-of-summer Monday public holiday weekend.

Among **US** data releases, July personal income rose 0.4% and spending 0.3%.

July pending home sales fell 0.8%, against expectations of a 0.5% rise, and after increasing 1.3% in June.

Weekly new unemployment claims rose 1000 but the four-week average declined 1250.

An ISM-estimated Chicago PMI came in flat, at 58.9. Meanwhile, US treasury secretary Steven Mnuchin

S&P/ASX indices rebalance - released this morning

Please see p2 for details

China - manufacturing PMI (Caixin) **11.45am AEST**

Today's Stock Watch

Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)

In response to media reports regarding international regulatory compliance, including transaction monitoring, CBA says it has spent \$230M to bolster financial crime compliance policy and process.

Sonic Healthcare (SHL)

Three-year blood test supply and services contract secured with the Australian government for the national bowel screening program.

Slater & Gordon (SGH)

Excising all UK operations into a new holding company, as part of an amended recapitalisation agreement. Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Further, SGH's lenders will hold 95% of SGH equity and existing shareholders the balance.

Debt will be released, refinanced and restated. In addition, an SGH working capital facility will be increased from \$A40M to \$A50M.

CFO Bryce Houghton is stepping down.

Full-year results and presentation also lodged post-trade yesterday.

AMP Ltd (AMP)

\$250M notes issue to more than 44 investors. Additional details lodged this morning.

CIMIC Group (CIM)

\$A300M Mahakam Sumber Jaya coal mine operational contract extension secured by CIM's Thiess. The mine is owned by Harum Energy and is located in East Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Boart Longyear (BLY)

Recapitalisation underway. Associated board changes lodged this morning. Marcus Randolph remains BLY chairman.

Resources

BHP Billiton (BHP)

BHP's euro bond buy-back plan resulted in ~\$US1.94B worth of notes accepted for purchase. BHP sought to repurchase six different notes under offers which expired overnight Wednesday AEST.

In addition, BHP has raised the US bond repurchase plan caps for three different notes to a total ~\$US2.94B. Initially, BHP proposed outlaying \$US2.5B in the US offers.

Medusa Mining (MML)

\$US62.1M full-year net loss, following a \$US44.3M net profit a year ago. 22% lower, \$US100.1M revenue. US92.7c NTA. \$US11.2M cash and equivalents.

Energy

Rio Tinto (RIO) / Yancoal Australia (YAL)

YAL is the manager of the Coal & Allied Industries NSW Hunter Valley thermal coal operations as from today after completing the \$2.69B purchase of the RIO subsidiary.

talked of 'very detailed' tax plans being parsed by members of parliament.

In other activity, the US ordered the closure of one Russian consulate and other administrative offices in the US.

Earlier, US-South Korea-Japan military exercises had turned more demonstrative in the Korean peninsula region, with aerial activity led by US F-35B craft.

In the **euro zone**, an initial August CPI reading represented 1.5% annual growth, following 1.3% for July. This raised further interest in next Thursday's European Central Bank (**ECB**) policy meeting.

Tonight in the US, monthly national employment figures are due, together with ISM's August manufacturing index, July construction spending, a final August University of Michigan consumer sentiment reading, and Markit's manufacturing PMI. Major vehicle manufacturers also report August US sales.

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) leaders are in the meantime preparing for their annual summit, commencing Sunday and continuing through Tuesday in Xiamen, Fujian province, China.

US markets will be closed Monday due to a public holiday.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1324	oz	10	0.6
Silver (NY) (Sep)	17.6	oz	0.1	0.8
Gold (LON)	1312	oz	3	0.3
Platinum	998	oz	8	0.8
WTI Crude (Oct)	47.2	bbl	1.3	2.8
Brent Crude (Aug)	52.4	bbl	1.5	3.0
Iron Ore (CHN port 62%)	78.9	t	2.8	3.7
Copper	6788	t	19	0.3
Nickel	11800	t	215	1.9
Aluminium	2117	t	30	1.4
Lead	2394	t	24	1.0
Zinc	3146	t	51	1.7
Tin	20670	t	70	0.3
CBT Wheat (Sep)	4.10	bshl	0.07	1.4

Commodities Commentary

Oil – additional US petroleum sector distribution and crude refining capacity was reported shut down in Texas and Louisiana.

US September petrol (gasoline) futures were propelled 13.2% higher for the session (the most in a session for 17 months), as the monthly contract expired with a 28% gain.

A weekly US petroleum drilling rig count is due tonight.

Gold – end-of-month prices strengthened to 10-month highs as the \$US weakened on some housing and spending data considered less-than-optimal.

Comex futures closed 3.8% higher for August.

Base metals – China's official August PMIs, reported yesterday, represented a manufacturing sector improvement but a slip for the services sector. A softening \$US also supported overnight trade.

Manufacturing PMIs for China (Caixin), Japan, the US and euro zone could influence some of tonight's trade.

Pre-Open Announcements

Ante Diagnostics (* ADO)

Selling subsidiary DIAsource ImmunoAssays for €15.873M under a restructure plan. In association, ADO CEO Jef Vangenechten is stepping down. Chairman John Hurrell will assume executive responsibilities, effective immediately.

In addition, ADO has this morning reported a €5.7M full-year net loss and 40% lower, €284,100 revenue.

Webjet Ltd (WEB)

In response to an ASX query, WEB has confirmed it supplied embargoed information to *The Australian Financial Review* post-ASX trade Wednesday. WEB released its full-year results to the ASX in time for yesterday's ASX open, ultimately adding ~5.5% for the session, settling at \$11.91.

Spark New Zealand (* SPK)

A 2020 maturing revolving facility with Westpac NZ has been boosted \$NZ75M to \$NZ200M. In addition, SPK has secured a new 2022-maturity \$NZ125M facility with The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ.

Resources

Troy Resources (* TRY)

In breach of an Investec Bank revolving facility requirement that the company maintain a minimum \$A10M liquidity.

In addition, TRY has reported a \$148.2M full-year loss this morning.

Hastings Technology Metals (* HAS)

Second WA Yangibana project rare earth carbonate off-take MoU secured with China Rare Earth Holdings (CREH). CREH is proposing to purchase 2000tpa.

Beadell Resources (BDR)

Director Glen Masterman has resigned, due to his Evolution Mining (ASX: EVN) responsibilities. Dr Masterman is EVN's chief geologist and VP discovery.

S&P / ASX Indices Re-balance

The following changes will be effected as trading opens 18 September ...

S&P/ASX100

Out: PRY

In: CHC

S&P/ASX200

Out: ISD, SKT, VRT

In: CLW, NHF, SOL

S&P/ ASX300

Out: CSV, DRM, MGC, MHJ, QIN, TRS

In: APT, APX, BIN, CLQ, CMA, COE, HUB, IMD, NCK, XRO

S&P/ASX All Australian 200

Out: ASB, QIN, RCG

In: CLW, NHF, SOL

**Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7941	-0.0005	-0.07
EUR – USD	1.1912	0.0002	0.02

Australian Data Today

AiG	PMI manufacturing	Aug
RBA	Commodity price index	Aug
CLogic	House price index	Aug

US Data Tonight

Employment	Jul
ISM manufacturing	Aug
Markit manufacturing PMI	Aug
Construction spending	Jul
Uni of Michigan consumer sentiment (final)	Aug
Vehicle sales	Aug

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Caixin PMI manufacturing	Aug
Japan	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Aug
Japan	Consumer confidence	Aug
Japan	Vehicle sales	Aug
UK	Manufacturing PMI	Aug
Germany	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Aug
Euro zone	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Aug

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Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Bubs Australia	BUB	1 Sep
Crater Gold Mining	CGN	1 Sep
Geopacific Resources	GPR	1 Sep
Kingston Resources	KSN	1 Sep
Peak Resource	PEK	1 Sep
Estrella Resources	ESR	4 Sep
Lindian Resources	LIN	4 Sep
Orinoco Gold	OGX	4 Sep
Peppermint Innovation	PIL	4 Sep
Venus Metals Corporation	VMC	4 Sep

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
AnaeCo Ltd	ANQ	31 Aug
BBX Minerals	BBX	23 Aug
Capital Mining	CMY	14 Aug
Eastern Goldfields	EGS	16 Aug
Empire Oil & Gas	EGO	30 Aug
iBuyNew Group	IBN	30 Aug
LWP Technologies	LWP	14 Aug
NMG Corporation	NMG	28 Aug
YPB Group	YPB	1 Sep
ZipTel Ltd	ZIP	11 Aug

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Fr (%)	Yield (%)
ABC	Today	8.5	100	3.48
AFG	Today	5.5	100	6.34
ALU	Today	12	0	2.31
APX	Today	3	100	1.28
AVJ	Today	3.5	100	6.37
CGF	Today	17.5	100	2.75
CYC	Today	0.5	0	1.29
DWS	Today	5	100	6.45
FMG	Today	25	100	7.49
GUD	Today	25	100	tbc
HLO	Today	8	100	3.11
HT1	Today	3	100	3.11
IFM	Today	1.2	100	3.74
IRI	Today	3.5	100	1.97
LLC	Today	33	0	3.98
MNF	Today	4.5	100	1.59
OPG	Today	1	100	3.92
QIP	Today	5.3	100	6.12
REG	Today	10.04	100	6.05
SLC	Today	0.5	100	0.20
TTS	Today	8	100	4.26
ABA	Mon	17	100	5.77
AMC	Mon	29.85	0	3.44
AWQ	Mon	3.5	100	5.5
FWD	Mon	5	100	1.59
HSN	Mon	3	100	1.88
MTR	Mon	6	100	3.68
NEC	Mon	5	100	6.96
PBP	Mon	1.5	100	4.17
PHI	Mon	5	100	0.48
PPG	Mon	1	100	5.88



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PWH	Mon	4.7	100	2.25
SKT	Mon	~11.54	0	11.09
SUL	Mon	25	100	5.74
VLW	Mon	10.5	100	7.43