

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6209	-9	-0.1
NZX 50	9858	-35	-0.4
DJIA Futures	26376	-12	-0.1
S&P 500 Futures	2882	-1	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	7561	0	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences Friday trade on mixed overnight international equities and commodities trade sentiment, ahead of some key domestic and regional data releases, and US monthly employment statistics in the US tonight. Post-US trade, the US president has predicted a **US-China** trade agreement could be in hand sometime in May.

In overnight commodities trade, **Brent** crude settled a little higher, but WTI lower.

US **gold** futures (June) fell by \$US1.00.

Iron ore (China port, 62% Fe) was pushed slightly lower.

LME **copper** and **nickel** swung lower.

The **\$A** traded at ~US71.10c after dropping from ~US71.20c early yesterday evening.

Locally today, AiG releases its March **construction PMI** pre-trade. **Regionally**, Japan's average earnings and household spending figures are expected 10.30am AEDT.

China's March foreign reserves are anticipated anytime from this weekend.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	26385	167	0.6
S&P 500	2879	6	0.2
NASDAQ	7892	-4	-0.1
FTSE 100	7402	-16	-0.2
DAX 30	11988	34	0.3
Shanghai Comp	3247	30	0.9

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and US equities markets were again impacted by vacillating sentiment overnight, this time the DJIA proving the exception.

Speculation abounded the US president was planning to host China's vice premier Liu He at the White House ~4.40pm local time, given the perceived status of **China-US** trade negotiations.

European Central Bank (ECB) March policy meeting minutes revealed a proposal for a potential stay on any rate increases until at least March 2020.

Daylight saving ends early Sunday morning
 From **Monday** (8 April), **ASX trade commences** local time in:
Western Australia at 8am;
Queensland at 10am; and the
Northern Territory at 9.30am

Today's Stock Watch

Automotive Holdings Group (AHG) / AP Eagers (APE)

AHG 28.4% shareholder APE is planning a one-for-3.8 off-market bid for AHG. APE has traded at \$7.25 - \$7.41 this week, and AHG at \$1.765 - \$1.845.

SRG Global (SRG) / Evolution Mining (EVN)

EVN has awarded an initial \$78M three-year drill and blast operations contract to SRG, for the Cowal, Mt Rawdon and Mt Carlton projects. The contract value may rise to \$115M on a potential two-year extension.

THC Global Group (THC)

Mutually exclusive partnership secured with Malaysia-headquartered Heleogenics. Heleogenics plans to support THC liaison with the Malaysian Government regarding policy frameworks and legislation ahead of potentially legalising medicinal cannabis.

Evolve Education Group (EVO)

Narrowing FY 2019 underlying EBITDA guidance to \$NZ13.2M - \$NZ13.6M, from \$2M - \$14M.

Alterra Ltd (1AG)

1AG has appointed John Poynton AO as a founding member and chair of the company's advisory board.

Resources

Perseus Mining (PRU)

Produced 67,144oz of gold during the March quarter, 5% more than a year earlier and pushing the financial year-to-date tally to 07,691oz.

Planning to publish a comprehensive quarterly report 16 April.

Energy

Oil Search (OSH)

March drilling report lodged post-trade yesterday, highlighting drill stem testing and pressure data which has confirmed the PNG PDL 9 Muruk 2 well is an extension of the Muruk gas field. Well flow is planned for ~10 days prior to an extended shut-in which will enable pressure to build.

OSH holds 24.4% for Muruk 2, and is operator on behalf of Esso PNG (21.7%).

Alaska North Slope activity also detailed.



Earlier, **Germany's** factory orders had been reported as having tumbled 4.2% during February. This, after a 2.1% January drop.

A construction PMI heartened however, rising 0.9 to a healthy 55.6.

A media report claimed **Italy** would likely significantly reduce forecast 2019 economic growth and lift the controversial budget deficit target to ~2.3% of GDP.

The euro subsequently traded close to ~1.7-year lows against the \$US, as in early March.

In the **UK** parliament, debate raged within all groups after the House of Commons approved late-Wednesday, by a majority of one vote, a proposal for the PM to request from the European Union (EU) another delay for the UK's planned EU withdrawal.

This must be approved by the House of Lords to become binding, but early signs suggested another rejection.

Meanwhile, new car sales were reported to have slid 3.4% during March following a 1.4% February rise.

In **US** data releases, weekly initial jobless claims fell by 10,000 to 202,000 (lodged during the week), the least seven-day tally since first-half December 1969.

The four-week moving average declined by 4000, to 213,500, the least since first-half October 2018.

The Challenger job cuts report included a 21% fall (to 60,587) in planned layoffs during March.

Cuts rose 10.3% to 190,410 during the March quarter, the lion's share again coming from the retail sector.

Meanwhile, **India's** central bank cut its overnight deposit rate by 0.25% to 6.0%.

Tonight in the **US**, March national employment statistics are keenly anticipated. February consumer credit figures are also due.

Elsewhere, Germany reports February industrial production, ahead of trade figures Monday.

In overnight corporate news, **Deutsche Bank** was reported to be heading towards another fund raiser, due to the European Central Bank planning to include a minimal capital requirement as a condition for any approval for a potential merger with **Commerzbank** to go ahead.

In the meantime, reports also emerged that Italy's **UniCredit** was interested in lobbying a bid for Commerzbank.

Constellation Brands lodged a better-than anticipated fourth quarter, and revealed it was selling ~30 wine brands for a total ~\$US1.7B, to **E & J Gallo Winery**.

Tesla reported a 31% drop in March quarter vehicle deliveries but reaffirmed full year expectations.

Ford Motor revealed a 1.6% fall in US March quarter vehicle sales, 23.7% for cars.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Jun)	1294.3	oz	-1	-0.1
Silver (NY) (May)	15.084	oz	-0.02	-0.1
Gold (LON)	1290	oz		

Pre-Open Announcements

8IP Emerging Companies (*AEC)

Aurora Funds Management's Aurora Dividend Income Trust (ADIT) is proposing an off-market all-scrip bid for 8EC.

ADIT is planning to offer the equivalent of 75c per unit.

AEC trades minimally and has attracted 67c – 68c this week.

Kleos Space (KSS)

Scouting Mission satellites testing is underway ahead of a potential 'test readiness review' designation from GomSpace.

LiveTiles Ltd (LVT)

The Australian Government has selected LVT as a 'intelligent workplace' supplier on the government's digital marketplace.

Brickworks Ltd (BKW)

Trading ex-dividend (19c) Monday.

Resources

Talga Resources (* TLG)

Sweden Vittangi graphite project Niska prospect diamond core drilling has intersected wide zones of graphite from near surface.

Details lodged post-trade yesterday, but first assays are not anticipated until May.

Drilling continues, ahead of initial resource estimates by 30 June.

TLG fell 2.3% Wednesday and 6.35% yesterday, settling at 59c yesterday.

Prospect Resources (* PSC)

Heralding test work lithium recoveries for lithium from PSC's 87%-held Arcadia project, Zimbabwe.

Energy

Kina Petroleum Corporation (* KPE)

The re-domiciled Kina Petroleum (ASX: **KPL** – suspended from ASX quotation at close of trade yesterday) will commence trading on the ASX under the code KPE at **midday** AEDT.

Trade will commence on a deferred settlement basis.

Normal (T+2) trade is expected to commence 16 April.

Kina Petroleum is now incorporated in the British Virgin Islands rather than Papua New Guinea.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Antipa Minerals	AZY	5 Apr
Blaze International	BLZ	5 Apr
Ookami Ltd	OOK	5 Apr
Seafarms Group	SFG	5 Apr
Capricorn Metals	CMM	8 Apr



Platinum	896	oz	30	3.5
WTI Crude (May)	62.10	bbl	-0.36	-0.6
Brent Crude (Jun)	69.40	bbl	0.09	0.1
Iron Ore (CHN port 62%)	92.90	t	-0.18	-0.2
Copper (LME,3mth,PM)	6443	t	-54	-0.8
Nickel	13140	t	-210	-1.6
Aluminium	1906	t	7	0.4
Lead	1998	t	-16	-0.8
Zinc	2915	t	-20	-0.7
Tin	21075	t	-125	-0.6
CBT Wheat (May)	4.72	bshl		

Commodities Commentary

Oil – no new industry supply-demand news overnight, another disappointing economic indicator out of Germany, renewed speculation regarding Italy's economic health, little clarification of US comments regarding progress with trade talks with China, and none officially out of China, appeared to produce cautious overnight trade, ahead of key data in the US tonight.

South Korea, one of the Iranian crude customers granted a six-month sanctions waiver by the US, was reported to be checking the suitability of other supplies, including from the US, ahead of next month's waiver expiry.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig count is due tonight.

Gold – the ICE \$US index recovered ~0.2% overnight, in part due to psychologically-supportive weekly unemployment claim tallies, this detracting from any overnight gold enthusiasm ahead of US monthly employment statistics tonight.

Markets in general appeared to be waiting for any definitive announcements following a scheduled 4.30pm (US ET) meeting between the US president and China vice premier Liu He.

Base metals – Germany's factory orders surprised on the downside overnight, proving one factor in pushing overnight base metals prices lower.

Peru Las Bambas *copper* operation community protests looked to worsen after community lawyers were handed custodial sentences.

LME-warehoused copper however rose to 198,325t, the most in six months and ~double the tally reported three weeks earlier.

In *nickel* news, the Philippines Cagdianao operation reportedly commenced mining from a third area.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7112	-0.0002	-0.03
EUR – USD	1.1222	0.0001	0.01

Australian Data Today

AiG	PCI (construction PMI)	Mar
RBA	Official reserve assets (4.30pm AEDT)	Mar

iCandy Interactive	ICI	8 Apr
King Island Scheelite	KIS	8 Apr
Lake Resources	LKE	8 Apr
Linus Technologies	LNU	8 Apr
Sky & Space Global	SAS	8 Apr

Suspensions *(select)*

Company	Code	Since
AirXpanders Inc	AXP	2 Apr
Alchemia Ltd	ACL	29 Mar
American Patriot Oil & Gas	AOW	14 Mar
Environmental Clean Technologies	ECT	15 Mar
First Growth Funds	FGF	4 Apr
IAB Holdings	IAB	29 Mar
IOT Group	IOT	13 Mar
Maximus Resources	MXR	4 Apr
Mustera Property Group	MPX	20 Mar
MZI Resources	MZI	20 Mar
Orinoco Gold	OGX	2 Apr
Range Resources	RRS	20 Mar
Stemify Ltd	SF1	1 Apr
Universal Coal	UNV	21 Mar
US Residential Fund	USR	29 Mar
Vivid Technology	VIV	25 Mar
YPB Group	YPB	4 Apr

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ARQ	Today	4.5	100	3.96
CLF	Today	1.25	100	4.67
CYC	Today	0.5	0	0.91
BKW	Mon	19	100	3.18
CLV	Mon	0.63	100	0.84
GOW	Mon	5	100	4.38
MLT	Mon	2.5	100	4.33
FGX	Wed	2.3	100	3.77
WAA	Wed	2.95	100	5.52
WAM	Wed	7.75	100	6.98
WAX	Wed	4.85	100	6.88
WLE	Wed	2.65	100	4.56
WMI	Wed	2.25	100	3.47
PIA	Thu	3.5	100	6.22
SIQ	Fri	20	100	5.46
TPM	15 Apr	2	100	0.58
SOL	17 Apr	24	100	2.21
KGN	18 Apr	6.1	100	3.04
NHC	18 Apr	8	100	5.59



US Data Tonight

Employment (incl wages, jobs)	Mar
Consumer credit	Feb

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	Cash earnings	Feb
Japan	Household spending	Feb
Japan	Leading economic index (prelim, 4pm AEDT)	Feb
Germany	Industrial production	Feb

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