

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	6198	28	0.5
NZX 50	9300	13	0.1
DJIA Futures	26508	35	0.1
S&P 500 Futures	2923	3	0.1
NASDAQ Futures	7666	9	0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens Friday trade ahead of influential regional and domestic data, and an interim report from Australia's Financial Services Royal Commission.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** turned higher.

US (December) **gold** futures fell.

Iron ore (62% Fe, China port) settled lower for a third consecutive session.

LME **copper**, **nickel** and **aluminium** dropped in chorus.

The **\$A** fell to ~US72.0c after trading at ~US72.30c early yesterday evening.

Locally today, the financial services royal commission's interim report will be delivered to the Governor General and tabled in (the national) Parliament. The report is expected to outline policy issues identified from the first four rounds of hearings.

The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) reports financial aggregates, including **private sector credit, 11.30am AEST.**

A swag of additional influential figures is scheduled for release before the RBA's policy meeting Tuesday next week

Regionally, Caixin is expected to release its **China September manufacturing PMI 11.45am AEST**, ahead of official National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) manufacturing and services readings over the weekend.

Japan is due to report August industrial production and retail sales **9.50am AEST.**

The Bank of Japan releases a summary of opinions from its September policy meeting at the same time.

Japan's August workforce statistics are also due pre-ASX trade today.

China's markets will be closed Monday and through next week, due to a national holiday season.

NB: In Australia, public holidays are scheduled for Melbourne and most of Victoria's local council regions today, and for the ACT, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia Monday.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	26440	55	0.2
S&P 500	2914	8	0.3
NASDAQ	8042	52	0.7
FTSE 100	7545	34	0.5

China – Caixin manufacturing PMI 11.45am AEST

Australia – financial services royal commission interim report

ASX – normal trade & settlement Monday

Public holidays Monday in the ACT, NSW, QLD and SA

Public holiday in **Melbourne** and much of Victoria **today**

Today's Stock Watch

Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC) / Generation Development Group (GDG)

FY 2019 cash earnings are expected to be adversely impacted by ~\$235M, mostly due to litigation provisions and planned customer recompense.

Promising further guidance second-half October.

Planning to lodge full year results 5 November.

In addition, WBC is selling Ascalon Capital Managers to GDG, in part pending Hong Kong regulatory approvals.

InvoCare Ltd (IVC)

IVC has appointed Jackie McArthur and Megan Quinn as non-executive directors, effective 1 October (Monday).

Ms McArthur is a recent Martin-Brower Australia and New Zealand MD, and was the 2016 Telstra NSW Businesswoman of the Year.

Ms Quinn co-founded Net-A-Porter. She is a director of Reece Ltd (ASX: REH) and Specialty Fashion Group (ASX: SFH).

Navitas Ltd (NVT)

Agreement secured with The Hague University of Applied Sciences.

Under the agreement, NVT will offer foundation programs and manage academic preparation courses, in particular English and study skills.

CIMIC Group (CIM)

CIM's CPB Contractors has been awarded, as a member of the Rail Infrastructure Alliance, a works contract for the Victorian government's Metro (rail) Tunnel project.

CIM estimates attributable revenue to be worth \$400M.

BOD Australia (BDA)

Resuming from a trading halt having completed a \$A6.4M oversubscribed placement at 53c per share. BDA last traded at 60c.

Resources

Sheffield Resources (↓ SFX)

Australian government environmental approval in hand for SFX's northern WA Thunderbird mineral sands project.

Production of high-grade zircon and titanium products is anticipated from 2020, for up to 42 years.

Volt Resources (VLT)

Two Tanzania Bunyu graphite project mining licence applications have been recommended for approval.

Northern Star Resources (NST)

Alaska Pogo gold project site visit presentation lodged pre-trade. NST hosted the visit overnight. NST settled at \$8.31 yesterday, after closing out last week at \$8.72.

DAX 30	12436	50	0.4
Shanghai Comp	2792	-15	-0.5

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European equities markets settled at or near session highs overnight, but while key US indices trended higher early, they mostly reversed direction in second-half trade.

Among mixed overnight data releases, **US** June quarter GDP growth was calculated at 4.2%, in a third and final reading, the same as the previous estimate. March quarter GDP grew 2.2%.

August durable goods orders came in 4.5% higher for the month, the highest rate of increase since February, and following a 1.2% July decline. Excluding transport and defence, core orders increased 0.1%.

Wholesale inventories rose 0.8% and retail stocks by 0.7%.

August pending home sales were reported 1.8% lower for the month, against forecasts of a 0.4% decline, and following a 0.8% fall in July.

The Kansas City Fed manufacturing index slipped one point to 13, 10 points lower than the July estimate.

Weekly new unemployment claims rose by ~12,000, attributed mostly to Hurricane Florence impacts.

In the **euro zone**, a consumer confidence index fell to -2.9, from -1.9 a month ago.

Germany's initial September CPI growth was estimated at 2.3% year-on-year and 0.4% for the month.

Meanwhile in **Italy**, the most recent government's budget targets, in particular relating to European Union (EU) requirements, remained under debate, pushing bond yields higher.

The **European Central Bank's** (ECB) economic bulletin revealed expectations of a near-term slowdown in international economic growth, mostly from global trade relationship and tax flux.

Tonight in the **US**, August personal income and spending, a Chicago PMI and the University of Michigan's final September consumer sentiment reading are due.

In overnight corporate news, the (US) Securities and Exchange Commission effectively charged **Tesla** CEO and executive chairman Elon Musk with fraud, alleging 'false and misleading statements', in relation to his claim of a pending private Tesla purchase.

Apple and **Amazon** gained from positive research commentary.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1187	oz	-12	-1.0
Silver (NY) (Sep)	14.3	oz	-0.14	-0.9
Gold (LON)	1194	oz		
Platinum	809	oz	-11	-1.4
WTI Crude (Nov)	72.1	bbbl	0.55	0.8
Brent Crude (Nov)	81.7	bbbl	0.4	0.5
Iron Ore (CHN port 62%)	68.7	t	-0.29	-0.4
Copper (LME, 3mth, PM)	6187	t	-95	-1.5
Nickel	12560	t	-260	-2.0
Aluminium	2030	t	-35	-1.7
Lead	2010	t	25	1.3

Pre-Open Announcements

Midway Ltd (* MWY)

Confirming a \$17M investment in Plantation Management Partners, acquired by MWY in October 2017.

MWY is funding its largely production- and infrastructure-related investment with existing debt and cash facilities.

Cadence Capital (CDM)

Non-executive director Ronald Hancock retired from the CDM board yesterday.

In association, Jenelle Webster has been appointed as a CDM director, pending shareholder approval at the company's AGM.

Resources

First Cobalt (* FCC)

Recouped ~18% higher yesterday on the company's initial cobalt resource for Iron Creek project, Idaho, US.

Energy

88 Energy (88E)

Alaska operations update lodged this morning, highlighting agreements in hand for a total additional net North Slope 45,239 acres.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Alderan Resources	AL8	28 Sep
Classic Minerals	CLZ	28 Sep
Coventry Group	CYG	28 Sep
Technology Metals Australia	TMT	28 Sep
Weebit Nano	WBT	28 Sep
BBX Minerals	BBX	1 Oct
Breaker Resources	BRB	1 Oct
Elixinol Global	EXL	1 Oct
eServGlobal Ltd	ESV	1 Oct
iSignthis Ltd	ISX	1 Oct
Korab Resources	KOR	1 Oct
Micro-X Ltd	MX1	1 Oct
NSX Ltd	NSX	1 Oct
Nufarm Ltd	NUF	1 Oct
Six Sigma Metals	SIX	1 Oct

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
AFT Corporation	AFT	11 Sep
Aurora Dividend Income Trust	AOD	21 Sep
Axesstoday Ltd	AXL	14 Sep
Black Star Petroleum	BSP	21 Sep
buyMyplace.com.au Ltd	BMP	24 Sep
Hardey Resources	HDY	10 Sep
Jacka Resources	JKA	21 Sep
MSM Corporation International	MSM	25 Sep
Reffind Ltd	RFN	26 Sep
Simavita Ltd	SVA	27 Sep
Sundance Resources	SDL	10 Sep
Victory Mines	VIC	11 Sep
Wolf Minerals	WLF	27 Sep



Zinc	2506	t	-34	-1.3
Tin	18850	t	-25	-0.1
CBT Wheat (Oct)	5.13	bshl	-0.05	-0.9

Commodities Commentary

Oil – Saudi Arabia is reported to be prepared to make available additional crude, despite uncertainty regarding how much Iranian crude will go off-market (estimates range from a daily 500,000bbl to 2MMbbl/d) and by how much the US will increase overall oil production next year.

Un-named sources estimated Saudi's daily September-October output would likely come in at 200,000bbl – 300,000bbl more than for August.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig count is due tonight. Also tonight, the Brent November contract expires. December delivery Brent rose US59c to \$US81.38/bbl overnight.

Mitsubishi UFJ warned Brent crude could trade at \$US100/bbl, but denied this was an official forecast.

Gold – \$US strength (at almost one-week peaks), in part due to 4.2% year-on-year US June quarter GDP growth, was cited as the main influence on overnight prices.

Base metals – plenty to consider overnight, ahead of a series of public holidays in China next week, and with key data in hand and to come.

The euro slid 0.7% against the \$US index, deemed to have supported some metals trade sentiment.

Rio Tinto and Freeport McMoRan were reported to have agreed a \$US3.85B sale of the majority of the giant Grasberg copper operation to an Indonesian state miner. The state company will reportedly hold 51.23%.

China's August industrial profits, reported yesterday, rose 9.2% year-on-year, following a 17.1% rise in July, and forecasts of a 15.5% increase. January-August profits were estimated 16.2% higher year-on-year, against 17.1% for January-July.

Caixin's September **manufacturing PMI** for China, due today, is expected to influence at least some of tonight's trade.

China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is scheduled to release its September manufacturing and services PMIs over the weekend, ahead of a week of Autumn season public holidays.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7203	-0.0003	-0.04
EUR – USD	1.1635	-0.0007	-0.06

Australian Data Today

RBA	Financial aggregates	Aug
RBA	Intntl reserves & forex liquidity (4.30pm)	Sep

US Data Tonight

Personal income and spending	Aug
Chicago PMI	Sep
Uni of Michigan consumer sentiment (final)	Sep

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
CII	Today	5	100	4.85
GVF	Today	3.15	70	5.68
MXT	Today	0.7	0	4.66
CCP	Mon	36	100	3.01
ED1	Mon	6	100	5.29
MCP	Mon	2.5	100	5.33
MNY	Mon	5	100	4.32
QVE	Mon	3.1	100	3.62
1AL	Tue	3.5	0	5.64
IPC	Tue	6.25	100	5.48
LCE	Tue	1.38	100	3.31
NCK	Tue	24	100	6.22

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**Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight**

China	Caixin manufacturing PMI	Aug
Japan	Industrial production	Aug
Japan	BoJ summary of opinions	Sep
Japan	Workforce	Aug
Japan	Retail sales	Aug
UK	GDP (final)	JunQ
UK	GfK consumer confidence	Sep
Germany	Unemployment	Sep
Euro zone	CPI (initial)	Sep

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