

**Markets**

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	7330	28	0.4
<b>NZX 50</b>	12773	-17	-0.1
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	35796	0	0.0
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	4655	0	0.0
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	15596	0	0.0

**Local Markets Commentary**

The Australian market opens the last full week of trade in January with a batch of influential data due out of China early this afternoon, an ongoing focus on domestic Covid-19 management and business impacts, and the US observing a Monday public holiday.

Overnight Friday equities and commodities trade sentiment proved mixed.

Since overnight Friday trade, a major winter storm has caused travel and power disruptions down the south-east Canadian and eastern US coasts.

**Locally** today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes **final** additional information for the **November building approvals** report released Monday last week, at 11.30am AEDT.

**Regionally** today, **China** is scheduled to release December quarter **GDP, 2021 fixed asset investment, December industrial production** and December **retail sales** at 1pm AEDT.

Over the weekend China reported a 2.6% year-on-year December increase in **house prices** following a 3.0% annualised rise for November.

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

US **gold** futures settled moderately lower for a second consecutive session.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) picked up the pace of Thursday's decline, closing below \$US126.3/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** fell, **nickel** settled with a slight gain and **aluminium** rallied.

The **\$A** fell to ~US72.05c after trading at ~US72.85c early Friday evening.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	35912	-202	-0.6
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	4663	4	0.1
<b>NASDAQ</b>	14894	87	0.6
<b>FTSE 100</b>	7543	-21	-0.3
<b>DAX 30</b>	18883	-148	-0.9
<b>Shanghai Comp</b>	3521	-34	-1.0

\* **Gold exploration** listing – 10.30am AEDT – **VTX** \*

\* **Pay-on-demand** listing – 11am AEDT – **B4P** \*

**Today's Stock Watch**
**Praemium Ltd (PPS)**

Record 43% higher year-on-year, \$49.0B FUA at 31 December, following \$1.25B worth of inflows.

Breakdown statistics lodged this morning.

**Adbri Ltd (ABC)**

ABC subsidiary Cockburn Cement has agreed terms with Alcoa of Australia to supply quicklime until 31 January 2023 after the 31 January 2022 expiry of the current supply arrangement. Under the new agreement, \$25M - \$35M revenue is anticipated, based on contracted minimum and maximum volumes.

**Pendal Group (PDL)**

PDL director Deborah Page AM has been appointed PDL chair, effective today, following the retirement of James Evans.

In addition, PDL has appointed former UBS Global Asset Management Australia MD Ben Heap as an independent non-executive director, effective 1 March.

Mr Evans had been a PDL director since 2010 and PDL's chair since 2013.

**Resources**
**Green Technology Metals (GT1)**

Heralding results from the first drill hold of an extensional diamond drilling program within the Ontario, Canada Seymour lithium project North Aubry deposit.

**Lunnon Metals (LM8)**

Resuming from a trading halt with significant-width, high-grade intersections from Kambalda nickel project Baker Shoot 'emerging discovery' RC drilling. Assays lodged pre-trade. LM8 last traded at 53.5c.

**Anax Metals (ANX) / Develop Global (DVP)**

Whim Creek copper - zinc JV project scoping study updated statistics lodged this morning.

\$A50M - \$A65M funding is indicated, based on an estimated \$55M pre-production capex.

In addition, the project's Evelyn deposit resources has been estimated at 550,000t @ 2.19% Cu, 3.49% Zn, 0.8g/t Au and 35g/t Ag. ANX 80%; DVP 20%.

**Firefinch Ltd (FFX)**

Produced 11,115oz of gold during the December quarter, 4788oz of this in December. Anticipating March quarter output to tally 10,000oz – 11,500oz.



## Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets mostly fell on opening overnight Friday, amid some mixed and surprising data releases and corporate earnings reports, and as the US commenced a Monday public holiday weekend.

In the US, the NASDAQ and S&P ultimately settled higher, despite vacillating sessional sentiment.

Late Friday, the UK was reported to be considering introducing a bill smoothing plan for energy costs, which will be impacted by an anticipated April price cap increase.

Upfront loans to energy companies and emergency funding to businesses were also reported under consideration, this likely to be funded by the **Bank of England** (BoE).

**European Central Bank** (ECB) president Christine Lagarde reiterated the ECB expected regional inflation to fall this year, but also offered the bank would facilitate a return to a stable 2.0% over the medium term.

Earlier Friday, the **Bank of South Korea** raised its base interest rate by 0.25% to 1.25%. This represented a third rise in six months and positioned the base rate at a pre-Covid level.

In addition Friday, **China** reported December trade figures, these including a larger-than-anticipated, record \$US94.46B trade surplus and year-on-year imports that undershot expectations by up to 7.5%.

China's overall \$US676.43B 2021 trade surplus also represented a record.

The December slowdown in year-on-year imports was attributed mostly to a weaker property sector.

Imports rose 30.1% during 2021 and exports by 29.9%, following 2020's respective 1.1% fall and 3.6% increase.

**Japan's** December producer prices, also reported Friday, fell 0.2% for the month, rather than rising 0.4% as anticipated.

Against December 2020, prices were up 8.5%.

A swag of overnight Friday **data** releases included **UK** November GDP growth which came in at 0.9% for the month and up 8.0% year-on-year.

The monthly increase put UK GDP 0.7% larger than for February 2020.

The NIESR's GDP tracker in the meantime estimated 1.2% growth for December, in line with expectations.

UK December trade statistics included a £626M trade surplus, against forecasts for a £2.7B deficit following November's £151M surplus.

Industrial production exceeded expectations also, rising 1.0% rather than the 0.3% forecast after falling 0.5% in November.

Against November 2020 however, output was just 0.1% higher.

In **Germany**, 2021 GDP growth was estimated at 2.7% following 2020's 4.6% drop.

Forecasters had anticipated 3.0% 2021 growth.

Meanwhile, the **euro zone's** November trade balance came in as a €1.5B deficit against expectations for an €11.5B surplus.

A €3.3B surplus had been estimated for October.

In the US, December retail sales also well undershot expectations,

## Pre-Open Announcements

### Beforepay Group (\* B4P)

Pay-on-demand specialist scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEDT, following an ~\$35M IPO at \$3.41 per share. 31.675M quoted shares.

### Marley Spoon (MMM)

MMM has appointed former MMM US COO Michael Hester as MMM interim US CEO.

Mr Hester takes over from Julie Marchant-Houle, who is leaving after two years with MMM, in favour of other opportunities.

In addition, MMM plans to lodge December quarter results 31 January and to host a conference call that day, at 6pm AEDT.

### MACA Ltd (MLD)

MLD has completed the final deferred payment for the Mining West acquisition.

In addition, MLD's Bluff Mine divestment has been completed.

### ClearVue Technologies (CPV)

CPV has pointed to recent media commentary in response to an ASX price query.

CPV traded as high as 52c Friday before settling at 48c, 33.3% higher for the session and against the previous week's 27c close.

CPV had settled 5.66%, 21.43% and 5.88% higher respectively for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

### FirstWave Cloud Technology (FCT)

FCT has completed its acquisition of Opmantek.

Details of associated share issues lodged post-trade Friday.

Notably, FCT CEO and Opmantek shareholder Danny Maher will hold 16% of FCT.

## Resources

### Vertex Minerals (\* VTX) / Peak Minerals (PUA)

PUA gold exploration spinoff VTX is scheduled to list on the ASX **10.30am** AEDT, following a \$5.5M IPO at 20c per share. 44.1M quoted shares.

### Firebird Metals (\* FRB)

Heralding initial metallurgical test work completed on WA East Pilbara Oakover manganese project samples.

Details lodged pre-trade.

### Strandline Resources (STA)

WA Coburn project update lodged this morning, ahead of initial heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) production, anticipated by year's end.

### OreCorp Ltd (ORR)

Proposing to demerge the company's WA exploration holdings and to focus on the development of the Nyanzaga gold project, Tanzania.

Pending approvals, ORR plans to list Solstice Minerals, the ORR



dropping 1.0% for the month, rather than improving by the 0.3% forecast following by November's 0.2% increase.

Sales were 16.9% higher than for December 2020, however.

December industrial production slipped 0.1% for the month, also defying forecasts. 0.4% growth had been anticipated following November's 0.7% increase.

Against December 2020, output was up 3.7%.

December manufacturing fell 0.3% for the month.

December import and export prices were reported 0.2% and 1.8% lower, against expectations of 0.5% increases for both imports and exports.

Prices were respectively 10.4% and 14.7% higher than for December 2020.

November business inventories rose by 1.3%, the same rate as calculated for October. A 1.0% increase had been expected.

The initial January consumer confidence reading, as estimated by the University of Michigan, was estimated at 68.8 from 70.6. Forecasters had anticipated a slighter decline to 70.4.

In overnight Friday corporate news, **Netflix** announced price increases for subscribers in North America.

**Citigroup** and **Wells Fargo** rose following the release of quarterly earnings reports, but JPMorgan Chase was pushed lower on a profit warning.

Dogecoin was temporarily propelled higher when **Tesla's** Elon Musk confirmed the company would accept Dogecoin as a payment option.

**US markets will remain closed tonight due to a public holiday.**

### Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$/US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold (NY)</b> (Feb)	<b>1816.5</b>	oz	-4.90	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Silver (NY)</b> (Mar)	<b>22.92</b>	oz	-0.24	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>Gold (LON)</b>	<b>1823</b>	oz		
<b>Platinum</b>	<b>969</b>	oz	-1	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>WTI Crude</b> (NYMEX Feb)	<b>83.82</b>	bbbl	1.70	<b>2.1</b>
<b>Brent Crude</b> (ICE EUR Mar)	<b>86.06</b>	bbbl	1.59	<b>1.9</b>
<b>Iron Ore</b> (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	<b>126.24</b>	t	-1.60	<b>-1.3</b>
<b>Copper</b> (LME 3mth Evening)	<b>9919</b>	t	-239	<b>-2.4</b>
<b>Nickel</b>	<b>22179</b>	t	17	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Aluminium</b>	<b>2975</b>	t	24	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Lead</b>	<b>2357</b>	t	-2	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Zinc</b>	<b>3520</b>	t	-42	<b>-1.2</b>
<b>Tin</b>	<b>40346</b>	t	-164	<b>-0.4</b>

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – a turn higher for the \$US, China's December trade figures, US comments regarding a potential attack on Ukraine by Russia, and some weaker-than-anticipated US and euro zone economic data releases provided a cocktail of influence for overnight Friday traders.

Further, the US had revealed Thursday that 18MMbbl of crude from strategic reserves had been sold, as reports also emerged China was planning a reserves release, potentially in the approach to the 31 January – 6 February Lunar New Year holiday season.

subsidiary holding the WA exploration assets, on the ASX. Additional details lodged this morning.

### Mamba Exploration (M24)

WA greater Southern region Calyerup Creek gold project initial RC drilling has delivered high-grade, shallow intersections. Assays lodged pre-trade.

Eight holes have been completed of a 50-hole program which is scheduled to resume this week.

### Minerals 260 (MI6) / Liantown Resources (LTR)

MI6 December quarter activities report lodged pre-trade.

MI6 listed on the ASX in October 2021, following an LTR (non-lithium) spinoff.

### Genmin Ltd (GEN)

GEN settled at 26c Friday after closing out the previous week at 23.5c.

Wednesday last week, GEN announced a third off-take MoU for the Baniaka iron ore project, Republic of Gabon.

The latest MoU, with Jianlong Group, covers 1.5Mtpas of fines and 0.5Mtpa of product over two years.

GEN and Jianlong are working towards a binding off-take agreement by 30 June 2023.

Jianlong produces some of its iron from iron ore using hydrogen instead of coking coal.

### Legend Mining (LEG)

LEG settled at 8.4c Friday, 31.25% higher for the session, after trading as high as 8.7c intra-session.

LEG had closed out the previous week at 6.2c.

In response to an ASX price query, LEG pointed out the company is exploring for nickel and copper.

LEG also noted last week's nickel price appreciation.

In addition, last week, copper traded beyond \$US10,000/t on the LME.

While copper had turned lower on the LME overnight Thursday, nickel had continued to settle higher.

21.1M LEG shares were traded Friday, across 606 transactions.

### Aurumin Ltd (AUN)

Chasing ~\$4.96M in a non-renounceable one-for-four entitlement offer at 20c per share, as part of a capital raising announced in December in support of the proposed Sandstone gold project acquisition.

AUN traded at 16.5c – 18c last week.

### Eclipse Metals (EPM)

106M shares were released from voluntary escrow Friday.

### ChemX Materials (\* CMX) / Archer Materials (AXE)

Kaolin/Halloysite and manganese explorer CMX (formerly NextGen Materials) and proposed high purity alumina processor scheduled to list on the ASX **tomorrow** 2.30pm AEDT, following an \$A8M IPO at 20c per share.

46.34M quoted shares.

AXE holds ~12.75%.



China's December crude imports, reported Friday, were reported at 46.14Mt, the highest daily equivalent increase since March.

Overall 2021 crude imports dropped 5.4% to 512.98Mt (10.26MMbbl/d), representing the first annual fall since 2001.

Refined fuel exports from China were estimated 2.4% lower for 2021, at 60.31Mt. December exports tumbled 45% against those for December 2020, to 3.23Mt.

Overnight Friday, a US weekly petroleum drill rig count included 11 additional operational oil rigs, bringing the tally to 492.

For the coming week, OPEC's monthly oil market report is anticipated tomorrow night.

A monthly report from the International Energy Association (IEA) is expected overnight Wednesday.

For this past week, Brent crude gained 5.4% and WTI 6.3%.

**Gold** – Comex futures settled lower for a second consecutive session overnight Friday, but remained above \$US1815/oz.

The \$US turned higher and some key economic indicators came in weaker-than-expected.

Major influences on this week's trade are expected to include geopolitical developments, Covid-19 management perceptions, inflation updates and commentary out of a Bank of Japan policy meeting. In addition, major earnings reports and trading updates are expected to influence equities sentiment, which could ultimately swing gold trade.

**Base metals** – overnight Friday LME trade appeared mostly influenced by a \$US turn higher and a swag of key data releases, including China's headline China trade statistics.

**Nickel** rallied further in early trade, reportedly trading as high as \$US23,935/t, a greater than 10-year peak. Cash prices rose to as much as \$287/t above those for three-month contracts.

**Aluminium** also traded higher in early LME trade, but **copper** declined slightly.

**China's December trade** figures, reported earlier Friday, included a record \$US94.46B surplus, from a \$US71.72B surplus for November and following forecasts for a new \$US73B surplus.

Year-on-year, exports rose 20.9%, in line with expectations for a 20% - 21% increase.

Imports were 19.5% higher than for December 2020, but forecasters had anticipated a 27% rise.

Among individual metals data, December **copper imports** jumped 15.4% for the month to 589,165.3t.

China's 2021 **iron ore imports** were reported 4.3% lower, at 1.2Bt.

December iron imports fell 18% for the month, to 86.07Mt.

**Steel** product exports were revealed to have grown 24.6% during 2021 to 66.9Mt.

Steel imports fell 29.5% to 14.3Mt.

China data also indicated December **aluminium and aluminium products exports** had tallied 562,975.3t, against 509,318.5t during November.

China is expected to release December quarter **GDP** growth, December **retail sales**, 2021 **fixed asset investment** and December **industrial production today**.

## Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Gladiator Resources	GLA	17 Jan
MRG Metals	MRQ	17 Jan
Asaplus Resources	AJY	18 Jan
Carnavale Resources	CAV	18 Jan
Critical Resources	CRR	18 Jan
Zuleika Gold	ZAG	18 Jan

## Suspensions *(selected)*

Company	Code	Since
Cradle Resources	CXX	13 Jan
Emerald Resources	EMR	12 Jan
IRIS Metals	IR1	10 Jan

## Reports & Events

*(selected; all times AEDT)*

When	Company	Report/Event
<b>Today</b>	<b>B4P</b>	IPO
	<b>VTX</b>	IPO
<b>Tomorrow</b>	CMX	IPO
	RIO	Dec Q
<b>Wed</b>	BHP	Dec Q
	LYC	Dec Q (w/cast 9am)
<b>Thu</b>	API	AGM
	AVA	Dec Q; FY22 update
	GCY	AGM
	IHL	AGM
	LMG	AGM
	NST	Dec Q (w/cast tele 9am)
	STO	Dec Q
<b>24 Jan</b>	WPL	Dec Q
	AFI	Interim (webinar 1.30pm)
<b>25 Jan</b>	CHL	Dec Q (tele 9.30am)
	PAR	AGM (11am)
	VBS	AGM
<b>31 Jan</b>	LIT	AGM

**Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.7217	0.0011	0.16
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.1417	0.0001	0.01

**Australian Data Today**

ABS	Building approvals (addtl info)	Nov
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**Overseas Data Today & Tonight**

<b>China</b>	GDP	Dec Q
China	Industrial production	Dec
China	Fixed asset investment	Jan-Dec
China	Retail sales	Dec
<b>Japan</b>	Machinery orders	Nov
Japan	Tertiary industry index (3.30pm AEDT)	Nov

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