

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	6860	-58	-0.8
NZX 50	11601	-48	-0.4
DJIA Futures	31765	-10	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	3984	-4	-0.1
NASDAQ Futures	12352	-6	-0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens mid-week trade on the last trading day for August with a batch of influential domestic and regional economic data due by late morning, and an avalanche of high-profile stocks trading ex-dividend, ahead of a euro zone CPI update tonight.

US equities markets fell for a third consecutive session overnight.

Locally today, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) publishes July financial aggregates, including bank lending by sector and overall **private sector credit**, at **11.30am AEST**.

At the same time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases the June quarter **construction work done** report.

Post-ASX trade, the RBA provides July **international reserves** and foreign currency liquidity.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **BKL, EDV, IRE, OZL, TWE, WES** and **WOW**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.

In addition, being the last trading day for August, a raft of earnings reports is anticipated.

Also today, a national cabinet meeting is expected to produce a Covid policy update.

Regionally today, **China's** NBI is expected to report August **PMIs** at **11.30am AEST**.

These could influence more than normal, ahead of Caixin's China manufacturing PMI estimate tomorrow, with new and extended **Covid containment** restrictions introduced these week across large centres.

Japan is scheduled to report July **industrial production** just prior to the ASX open.

South Korea has released July **industrial output** pre-trade, this rising by 1.5% for the month. Against July 2021, production was down 1.3%.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** turned and dropped.

US **gold** futures fell below \$US1750/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) continued lower with a modest decline.

The London Metals Exchange (LME) traded for the first time this week, LME (3mth evening) **copper, nickel** and **aluminium** falling in concert.

The **\$A** fell to ~US68.55c after trading at ~US69.25c early yesterday evening.

Today's Stock Watch

Atlas Arteria (ALX)

20c interim dividend/distribution (guidance) from 15.5c a year ago.

108% higher, \$A117.11M interim NPAT.

26% higher, \$54.69M continuing operations income.

\$1.27 NTA from \$1.49.

Harvey Norman Holdings (HVN)

17.5c fully franked final dividend from 15c a year ago.

3.6% lower, \$811.53M full year NPAT.

1.7% lower, \$9.56B sales revenue.

Southern Cross Electrical Engineering (SXE)

Flat 4c fully franked final dividend.

10.9% higher, \$15.27M full year NPAT.

49.5% higher, \$553.28M revenue.

Ainsworth Game Technology (AGI)

\$A11.75M full year NPAT from a \$53.4M FY21 net loss.

38% higher, \$220.157M revenue.

63c NTA from 56c. \$50.32M cash and equivalents.

Continuing operational challenges.

National Tyre & Wheel (NTD)

1.5c fully franked final dividend from 5c a year ago. 53.6% lower, \$9.398M full year NPAT. 20.9% higher, \$557.909M revenue. 48.8c NTA from 64.78c.

Dicker Data (DDR)

Resuming from a trading halt having raised \$50M in a fully underwritten \$10.30-per-share institutional placement in part to support of expanding the Kurnell warehouse by ~70% capacity.

DDR has scheduled a non-underwritten \$10M SPP, at the same price, for 7 – 20 September.

DDR traded at \$11.29 - \$11.93 the five sessions prior to calling the halt.

DDR also lodged interim results, when calling the halt, these including a 7% higher, \$34.3M NPAT and 36.5% higher, \$1.459B revenue. Supply and logistical challenges remain.

Resources

Aurelia Metals (AMI)

\$81.69M full year net loss from a \$42.92M FY21 net profit.

5% higher, \$438.815M revenue. 27.2c NTA from 34c.

Teleconference scheduled to commence **1pm AEST**.

Lithium Australia (LIT)

Resuming trade having raised \$12.1M in a 6.5c-per-share placement.

LIT traded at 7.7c – 8.3c the five sessions prior to calling the halt.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	31791	-308	-1.0
S&P 500	3986	-44	-1.1
NASDAQ	11883	-135	-1.1
FTSE 100	7362	-66	-0.9
DAX 30	12961	68	0.5
Shanghai Comp	3227	-14	-0.4

Overseas Markets Commentary

Early positive sentiment across major European, UK and US equities markets overnight mostly waned such that key indices closed at or near session lows.

UK markets were trading for the first time this week.

Ultimate overnight equities sentiment was attributed to economic growth fears amid rising interest rates in the face of persistently high inflation levels.

Geopolitical developments were also in focus, Taiwan reported to have fired on a China-controlled drone above its territory and the Solomon Islands yesterday revealing it needed to assess policy before enabling any international military vessels to berth.

Further, Russia's Gazprom announced new gas supply cuts to Europe, one (no gas to Germany via Nordstream from this morning through Saturday morning) for pipeline maintenance and another (indefinite suspension to French-headquartered utility Engie) due to a claim of an unpaid bill.

Overnight, two US Federal Reserve officials confirmed the general US Fed policy view that interest rates would need to be lifted further and to stay relatively elevated until at least through 2023.

Earlier yesterday, China had revealed new Covid management restrictions, including lockdown measures, across key centres.

Among overnight **data** releases, **Germany's** initial August CPI reading placed the annual inflation rate at 7.9%.

The CPI rose 0.3% for the month following a 0.9% July jump.

In the **euro zone**, an economic sentiment index for August was estimated 1.3 points lower than for July, at 97.6, but a 2.6-point fall had been anticipated.

An August consumer sentiment index was confirmed in a final reading at -24.9 from -27.0.

Meanwhile, **UK** July net lending to individuals was calculated at £6.476B from £7.054B in June, essentially in line with expectations.

In the **US**, the Conference Board August consumer confidence index surprised on the upside, rising to 103.2 from 95.3.

A JOLTS July job openings report estimated 11.24M opportunities against 11.04M for June. Forecasters had anticipated 10.5M openings.

The -5.7 Dallas Fed August services index represented an improvement from -10.9, defying expectations for a deterioration to -15.0.

Two June residential property price indices reported prices more than 15% higher than for a year earlier.

Pre-Open Announcements**NRW Holdings (* NWH) / MACA Ltd (MLD)**

NWH is withdrawing the non-binding merger proposal the company put to MLD, given the details and associated agreements of the increased Thiess offer for MLD.

Pro-Pac Packaging (* PPG)

PPG had been scheduled to release full year results and host a live webcast at 9.30am AEST, but posted a postponement notice yesterday after calling a trading halt pre-trade Monday. PPG had settled at 63.5c last Friday after closing out the previous week at 45.5c.

AJ Lucas Group (AJL)

\$A11.32M full year net loss against a \$3.34M FY21 net profit. 10.9% higher, \$123.23M operations. 5.3c NTA from 7.1c.

Cedar Woods Properties (CWP)

FY22 results-based investor presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

CWP lodged final results Thursday last week.

Camplify Holdings (CHL)

~1.76M CHL shares are due for release from voluntary escrow 6 September (Tuesday next week).

Flexiroam Ltd (FRX)

1M FRX shares will be released from voluntary escrow 6 September.

Resources**Strike Resources (* SRK)**

SRK has achieved its first shipment of Paulsens East lump iron ore, with 66,618t of 62% Fe DSO leaving Port Hedland Monday for a steel mill in China.

SRK intends to ship further Paulsens ore when prices and market conditions satisfy company thresholds.

SRK has closed lower or flat the past four sessions, settling at 9.8c yesterday.

SRK dropped 22.2% Thursday last week on notice of the shipment, which tallied ~2000t fewer tonnes than first foreshadowed, when SRK added 18.18%.

Energy**MC Mining (* MCM)**

Coal projects updates lodged post-trade yesterday, including plans for some early works at Makhado by year's end.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Blue Star Helium	BNL	31 Aug
Horseshoe Metals	HOR	31 Aug



Tonight in the US, a private sector employment report and the August Chicago PMI are due, together with weekly mortgage applications and mortgage rates.

Elsewhere, the **euro zone** reports an initial August inflation rate estimate.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include Baoshan Iron & Steel and Pernod Ricard.

In overnight corporate news, US retailer **Best Buy** reportedly posted better-than-feared quarterly sales.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1749.7	oz	-13.40	-0.8
Silver (NY) (Sep)	18.29	oz	-0.38	-2.0
Platinum	847	oz	-18	-2.1
WTI Crude (NYMEX Oct)	91.64	bbl	-5.37	-5.5
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Oct)	99.31	bbl	-5.78	-5.5
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	104.92	t	-0.36	-0.3
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	7869	t	-296	-3.6
Nickel	21357	t	-268	-1.2
Aluminium	2391	t	-104	-4.2
Lead	1989	t	2	0.1
Zinc	3495	t	-81	-2.3
Tin	23693	t	-1097	-4.4

Commodities Commentary

Oil – international economic growth fears, on new data and central bank commentary, a statement out of Iraq assuring petroleum sector activity had not been impacted by two days' of unrest, and uncertainty regarding the OPEC+ coming production decision combined to push prices lower overnight.

Brent crude traded as low as \$US97.55/bbl intra-sessions.

A US weekly petroleum inventories report is due tonight from US government agency the EIA.

Overnight post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report which included an estimated 593,000bbl rise in US crude stocks last week.

The Brent October contract expires after tonight's settlement, the November delivery contract closing 4.9% lower overnight, at \$US97.84/bbl.

Gold – weakened general sentiment on rate and economic growth fears pushed prices lower overnight.

In the meantime, China was reported to have imported \$US108.8M worth of gold from Russia during July, against \$US12.7M in June and \$US2.2M in July 2021.

Base metals – the LME traded for the first time this week overnight, hence considerations included China's industrial profits, reported over the weekend and various international developments since then.

Yesterday, China revealed new Covid containment curbs across sizeable hubs, including at least two key port cities, raising international supply and logistics concerns and exacerbating China economic growth fears.

Meanwhile, industrial power supplies reportedly resumed in Sichuan province following weather-related curbs.

I Synergy	IS3	31 Aug
Pro-Pac Packaging	PPG	31 Aug
Suvo Strategic Minerals	SUV	31 Aug
Tesoro Gold	TSO	31 Aug
Advanced Human Imaging	AHI	1 Sep
Alicanto Minerals	AQI	1 Sep
Bod Australia	BOD	1 Sep
MONEYME Ltd	MME	1 Sep
Nitro Software	NTO	1 Sep
West Cobar Metals	WC1	1 Sep

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Australian Pacific Coal	AQC	30 Aug
BWX Ltd	BWX	29 Aug
ColorTV Ltd	CTV	8 Aug
Invictus Energy	IVZ	29 Aug
Invigor Group	IVO	25 Aug
Registry Direct	RD1	24 Aug
Security Matters	SMX	30 Aug
TEK-Ocean Group	T3K	22 Aug

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ADA	Today	3.25	0	7.55
AEF	Today	3	100	1.11
ASH	Today	3	100	7.11
AX1	Today	4	100	3.80
BGA	Today	5.5	100	2.52
BKL	Today	32	100	1.52
CIN	Today	58	100	2.53
EDV	Today	7.7	100	2.68
HUM	Today	1.4	100	3.09
IRE	Today	16	25	4.06
MEA	Today	1	100	2.17
MOT	Today	1.28	0	6.58
MXT	Today	1.11	0	4.57
NAC	Today	1.1	100	6.98
NGI	Today	4.34	0	5.72
NSC	Today	1.05	100	7.03
OML	Today	1.5	100	0.73
OZL	Today	8	100	0.70
PFP	Today	6.25	100	2.44
PGG	Today	0.97	0	5.62
PIA	Today	1.35	100	5.12
SHA	Today	2	100	2.25
SRV	Today	10	0	5.23
TAH	Today	6.5	100	1.22
TWE	Today	16	100	2.10



China's official August PMIs, due today, are expected to influence at least some of tonight's end-of-month trade.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6857	-0.0048	-0.69
EUR – USD	1.0023	0.0022	0.22

Australian Data Today

RBA	Financial aggregates (incl private sector credit)	Jul
ABS	Construction work done	JunQ
RBA	International reserves; foreign currency liquidity	Jul

US Data Tonight

ADP employment change	Jun - Aug
Chicago PMI	Aug
MBA mortgage applications	26 Aug

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	NBS PMIs	Aug
South Korea	Industrial & manufacturing production	Jul
Japan	Industrial production	Jul
Japan	Consumer confidence (3pm AEST)	Aug
Germany	Import prices	Jul
Germany	Unemployment	Aug
Euro zone	CPI (initial)	Aug

Need More Information?

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WES	Today	100	100	3.56
WOW	Today	53	100	2.57
AGL	Tomorrow	10	0	2.07
BHP	Tomorrow	247.07	100	10.23
BTI	Tomorrow	7.4	100	0.00
CCP	Tomorrow	36	100	3.78
DBI	Tomorrow	4.57	0	8.29
EBG	Tomorrow	3.5	100	3.13
FEX	Tomorrow	5.25	100	14.58
GNG	Tomorrow	10	100	6.64
GTN	Tomorrow	1.3	0	0.00
HIT	Tomorrow	6	100	4.65
HMC	Tomorrow	6	100	2.40
IBC	Tomorrow	1.25	100	4.62
IDX	Tomorrow	3	100	3.78
IVC	Tomorrow	13.5	100	1.86
JIN	Tomorrow	20.5	100	2.94
JLG	Tomorrow	3	100	0.39
MNY	Tomorrow	7	100	5.51
NBI	Tomorrow	0.71	0	6.43
PPE	Tomorrow	6.5	100	3.54
PTM	Tomorrow	7	100	12.32
SLH	Tomorrow	6.3	100	0.94
SXL	Tomorrow	4.75	100	8.84
WHC	Tomorrow	40	100	0.99

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ALX	Interim (a/webcast 10.30am)
	FWD	Full year
	HVN	Full year
	RFF	Full year (webinar 11am)
	SXE	Full year (tele 1pm)
	WEB	AGM
Fri	CKF	AGM
	DSK	Full year (tele 11am)