

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7608	-54	-0.7
NZX 50	11911	-20	-0.2
DJIA Futures	38765	0	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	4980	0	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	17733	0	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences a new week's trade with the \$A at ~US65.10c, three material domestic economic reports due, and the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) commencing a two-day monetary policy meeting, from which outcomes will be announced tomorrow afternoon.

In addition, influential services sector indices are due for China early this afternoon and the US tonight.

US equities markets closed 0.4% - 1.7% higher overnight Friday.

Since overnight Friday trade:

- broader conflict jitters have appeared stoked by US retaliatory attacks on positions held by Iran-linked militants in Iraq and Syria, and by further US and UK offensives against the Houthis in Yemen;
- a large oil refinery in Volgograd, Russia was reported to have suffered a hit by a Ukraine attack, but owner Lukoil declared operations as normal despite an initial fire; and
- Northern Ireland's parliament appointed an Irish Nationalist as First Minister.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes December **international trade** figures at **11.30am** AEDT.

At the same time, ANZ releases national **job advertisements**.

The Melbourne Institute's January **inflation gauge** report is also due this morning, at 11am.

Regionally today, Caixin is scheduled to release its January **services PMI for China** at **12.45pm** AEDT.

A final January services PMI is expected for **Japan** at **11.30am** AEDT.

New Zealand's markets will be **closed tomorrow** due to a public holiday.

In overnight Friday **commodities** trade, **oil** traded lower for a third consecutive session.

US **gold** (Comex) futures swung lower, falling beneath \$US2055/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) dropped below \$US129/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and **aluminium** settled 0.6% lower.

Nickel closed with a \$US1/t gain.

The **\$A** fell beneath US65.15c.

Today's Stock Watch

Metcash Ltd (MTS)

Entering suspended trade, having first called a trading halt the morning after the Superior Food Group sales process was due to end. MTS says the suspension relates to 'proposed acquisitions and an equity raising'. MTS last traded at \$3.64.

Argo Investments (ARG)

Flat, 16.5c fully franked interim dividend.

8.5% lower, \$A125.273M interim NPAT.

8.3% lower, \$139.014M income. \$9.33 NTA from \$8.75.

Dexus Convenience Retail REIT (DXC)

5.175c December quarter dividend from 5.3c for December quarter 2022.

\$1.719M interim net loss from a \$3.101M net profit a year ago. 5.7% lower, \$28.952M revenue. \$3.63 NTA from \$3.94.

Fletcher Building (FBU)

Briefing scheduled to commence 10am AEDT.

Project updates, including estimated provisions, lodged pre-trade. Briefing access link and presentation also lodged.

4DS Memory (4DS)

Heralding speed and efficiency indications from further megabit array memory cell testing.

Pro Medicus (PME)

PME's Visage Ease VP has been launched for Apple Vision Pro.

Johns Lyng Group (JLG)

JLG is joining the Emergency Response and Mitigation Panel of US insurance group Allstate.

Resources

Red 5 (RED) / Silver Lake Resources (SLR)

RED and SLR have agreed a 3.434-for-one merger to produce an entity held 51.7% by RED shareholders and 48.3% by SLR shareholders. Russell Clark will be chair and Luke Tonkin MD and CEO. RED traded at 31c - 33.25c last week and SLR at \$1.17 - \$1.27.

New World Resources (NWC)

Magnetic and IP surveying have identified a strong anomaly 350m south west, and along strike of, NWC's Antler copper deposit. NWC is planning drill testing ASAP.

Energy

Marmota Energy (MEU)

Heralding the results of a review of the Bridget prospect as part of the overall Junction Dam uranium review.

MEU says two distinct uranium-bearing formations have been identified within the prospect, located immediately north of the Saffron resource.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	38654	135	0.4
S&P 500	4959	52	1.1
NASDAQ	15629	267	1.7
FTSE 100	7616	-7	-0.1
DAX 30	16918	59	0.3
Shanghai Composite	2730	-41	-1.5

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and UK equities markets opened higher overnight Friday, but sentiment ultimately waned significantly, amid a wave of high-profile companies reporting earnings and geopolitical commentary.

US equities indices however, gained steadily from cautious openings.

A robust January US employment report appeared to dash lingering hopes for near-term rate cuts, accounting for the early relatively weak US sentiment.

Headline figures included 353,000 new jobs, far exceeding consensus for 180,000.

In addition, December's initially-reported 166,000 tally was revised to 333,000.

Further, average early earnings increased by 0.6% for the month, against forecasts for half that growth rate, following 0.4% for December.

Against January 2023, earnings were up 4.5% from December's 4.4%.

Participation and unemployment rates remained steady, at 62.5% and 3.7% respectively.

Strong earnings reports from the likes of Meta Platforms and Amazon post-Thursday US trade outweighed the impact of a longer wait for interest rate cuts, Meta's price pushed ~20% higher to a record high.

Among other overnight Friday economic data releases for the US, factory orders rose 0.2% during December, in line with consensus but following a 2.6% November climb.

The University of Michigan's final reading for January consumer sentiment came in at 79.0 from 69.7 for December.

The current conditions component index jumped to 81.9 from 73.3.

Tonight in the **US**, the influential ISM non-manufacturing index is anticipated, together with the results of a senior lending officer survey and a final January services PMI reading from S&P Global.

In addition, a media interview is scheduled for Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell.

Elsewhere, the euro zone reports December producer prices.

A 20-year euro bond auction is also listed for tonight.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include: Caterpillar, Estée Lauder, Itochu, Loews, McDonald's, Mitsubishi Electric, Mitsubishi UFJ, NXP Semiconductors, ON Semiconductor, Sony, Sumitomo, Tyson Foods and Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

Pre-Open Announcements**Dotz Nano (* DTZ)**

Agreement secured to issue up to \$12M worth of convertible notes to Mercer Street Global Opportunity Fund across a minimum three tranches.

Additional details lodged this morning.

Appen Ltd (APX)

APX has appointed APX COO Ryan Kolln as CEO and MD.

Mr Kolln is taking over from Armughan Ahmad today.

PharmAust Ltd (PAA)

PAA has appointed Nemean Group founder and former Sirtex Medical (ASX: SRX) corporate development and IR head Thomas Duthy as a non-executive director.

Dr Duthy chairs Arovella Therapeutics (ASX: ALA) and is an executive director of Neurotech International (ASX: NTI) and Invex Therapeutics (ASX: IXC).

AuMake Ltd (AUK)

Investor presentation lodged post-trade Friday.

MCS Services (MSG)

MSG is proposing to sell the group's security business, MCS Security Group, for \$3M cash.

National security services group Vibrant Service is the proposed buyer.

Conditions include MSG shareholder approval, which will be sought at a meeting scheduled for 25 March.

Credit Intelligence (CI1)

Former CI1 chair and CEO Jimmie Wong and his spouse have initiated legal action against CI1 in the High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Details lodged post-trade Friday.

Resources**Castle Minerals (* CDT)**

Heralding Kambale graphite purification results.

Details lodged this morning.

BPM Minerals (BPM)

Soil sampling has identified several gold anomalies within the WA Murchison region Claw gold project.

Atlantic Lithium (* A11) / Piedmont Lithium (PLL)

Heralding Ghana Ewoyaa lithium project resource extension drilling results.

Multiple high-grade and/or significant-width intersections lodged this morning.

Arafura Rare Earths (* ARU)

ARU has appointed ARU non-executive director and management support services provider Darryl Cuzzubbo as MD and CEO.

Mr Cuzzubbo is taking over from Gavin Lockyer who has been with ARU for ~17 years.



In overnight Friday corporate news, **Exxon Mobil** and **Chevron** followed Shell from Thursday, also with significant annual profits, despite lower oil and gas prices.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Apr)	2053.7	oz	-17.4	-0.8
Silver (COMEX 5000 Mar)	23.80	oz	-0.44	-1.9
Platinum (NYMEX Apr)	902	oz	-21	-2.2
WTI Crude (NYMEX Mar)	72.28	bbbl	-1.54	-2.0
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Apr)	77.33	bbbl	-1.37	-1.7
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	128.63	t	-4.04	-3.1
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	8495	t	-54	-0.6
Nickel	16280	t	1	0.0
Aluminium	2241	t	-14	-0.6
Lead	2152	t	-7	-0.3
Zinc	2454	t	-27	-1.1
Tin	25585	t	-263	-1.0

Commodities Commentary

Oil – overnight Friday trade ensured both Brent crude and WTI closed lower for the week, following a third consecutive sessional fall.

The \$US appreciated to seven-week peaks on the strong US jobs tally. The prospect of higher US interest rates for longer, or fewer reductions over a period of time, also impacted demand views.

Among other overnight Friday crude trade considerations, power was restored mid-Friday (US time) to a 435,000bbbl/d BP refinery in Indiana, US, but BP did not offer any restart plans.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig report published overnight Friday by Baker Hughes included no change in the operational oil rig tally (499) but two fewer gas rigs in operation.

Brent crude and WTI were each calculated ~7% lower for the week on Friday's settlement.

Gold – overnight Friday sentiment was damaged early by a stronger \$US (\$US index +0.8%), in response to a buoyant US January employment report.

Comex futures did not settle at session lows, however, with some analysts pointing to the influence of challenges, including commercial real estate values, faced by the US regional banking sector. This had been underscored during the week by an anaemic earnings report from New York Community Bancorp and a bank in Japan revealing a substantial loan loss provision for US office loans.

Base metals – overnight Friday trade sentiment was in part impacted by a \$US appreciation.

The Caixin January services PMI for China is anticipated today, in the lead up to Friday's Lunar New Year's Eve celebrations.

A traditional slowing of industrial activity during this time was evident with 36% and 23% respective weekly increases reported for copper and zinc held in warehouses monitored by the Shanghai Futures Exchange.

In addition, cash prices for copper were ~\$US9/t lower than for three-month delivery contracts.

CuFe Ltd (CUF)

The WA Goldfields Highway reopened 31 January following recent storm damage, enabling renewed road access to CUF's Meekatharra region JWD iron ore project.

Steady state haulage was achieved Friday, ahead of scheduled lump ore loading at Geraldton Port this week.

CUF traded at 1.6c – 2.2c last week, settling at 1.8c Friday.

Moho Resources (MOH)

MOH has appointed Michael Pereira as a non-executive director.

MOH founding director and former MOH MD Shane Sadleir has resigned from the MOH board.

Capstone Copper Corp (* CSC)

Canadian registered **copper miner** CSC was scheduled to commence ASX trade Friday, after being admitted as a foreign exempt listing.

The company was placed in a trading halt however, ~15min prior to the company's scheduled open, and no trades were executed.

2M quoted common shares. These will be settled as CDIs on a 1:1 basis.

CSC owns two operations in the US and three in South America.

CSC's home exchange is the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX).

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Advanced Health Intelligence	AHI	5 Feb
Aurum Resources	AUE	6 Feb
BCI Minerals	BCI	5 Feb
Bluechiip Ltd	BCT	5 Feb
Capstone Copper Corp	CSC	6 Feb
EP&T Global	EPX	5 Feb
European Lithium	EUR	6 Feb
IODM Ltd	IOD	5 Feb
Jayride Group	JAY	5 Feb
Legacy Iron Ore	LCY	5 Feb
Linus Technologies	LNU	5 Feb
M3 Mining	M3M	6 Feb
Moab Minerals	MOM	5 Feb
NeuRizer Ltd	NRZ	5 Feb
RocketBoots Ltd	ROC	5 Feb
Silver Mines	SVL	5 Feb
Sultan Resources	SLZ	6 Feb
Unith Ltd	UNT	5 Feb
Viridis Mining & Minerals	VMM	5 Feb

**Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6512	-0.0081	-1.22
EUR – USD	1.0785	-0.0002	-0.02

Australian Data Today

ABS	International trade	Dec
ANZ	Job advertisements	Jan
MelbInst	Inflation gauge	Jan

US Data Tonight

ISM non-manufacturing	Jan
Senior loan officer opinion survey	Feb
S&P Global services PMI (final)	Jan

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	Caixin services PMI	Jan
Japan	Services PMI (final)	Jan
UK	New domestic vehicle sales	Jan
UK	Services PMI (final)	Jan
Germany	International trade	Dec
Germany	Services PMI (final)	Jan
Euro zone	Producer prices	Dec
Euro zone	Sentix investor confidence	Feb
Euro zone	Services PMI (final)	Jan

Need More Information?

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Suspensions *(selected)*

Company	Code	Since
DMC Mining	DMM	23 Jan
Galena Mining	G1A	11 Jan
Imricor Medical Systems	IMR	2 Feb
Laramide Resources	LAM	15 Jan
Metcash Ltd	MTS	5 Feb
Pan Asia Metals	PAM	1 Feb

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
AMH	Today	1	100	2.34
BKI	Today	3.85	100	4.25
QRI	Today	1.22	0	8.66
FSI	Wed	4.9	100	5.22
RMD	Wed	5.11	0	0.66

Reports & Events*(selected; all times AEDT)*

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ARG	Interim
	DXC	Interim
Tomorrow	AQZ	Interim
	NCK	Interim (tele 10am)
	RGN	Interim
Wed	AMC	Interim
	BWP	Interim
	CIP	Interim (w/cast 10.30am)
	CTT	Interim (webinar 10.30am)
	DXI	Interim (w/cast 10am)
	NPR	Interim (w/cast tele 10am)
	NWS	Interim (o/night US)
Thu	AGL	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
	CLW	Interim
	GDF	Interim
	MGR	Interim
	REA	Interim
	RG8	Interim
	TCL	Interim
URW	Full year	
Fri	BLD	Interim (w/cast 9.30am)



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