

## Markets

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	7559	-84	-1.1
<b>NZX 50</b>	11840	-32	-0.3
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	38280	-332	-0.9
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	4871	-80	-1.6
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	17242	-346	-2.0

## Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences a new month's trade with the \$A at ~US65.65c, fresh domestic economic data in hand, and further material data to come through the day, ahead of Bank of England policy meeting outcomes tonight.

In addition later today and tonight, earnings reports and outlooks are due from several high-profile international companies, including a trio of some of the most influential US stocks.

US equities markets fell decisively overnight.

**Locally** today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases December **building approvals**, and also December quarter **export and import prices**, at **11.30am AEDT**.

At the same time the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) publishes January holdings of Australian Government securities and semis.

NAB's December quarter business survey report is also anticipated by some this morning.

Overnight, CoreLogic released its January **residential property price report**, the overall national price index rising by 0.4%. December's increase had been recorded at 0.3%.

Post-ASX trade, the RBA publishes January **commodity prices**.

**Regionally** today, Caixin's January **manufacturing PMI for China** is expected at **12.45pm AEDT**.

**South Korea** is due to report January **international trade** figures at **11am AEDT**.

**Japan** is scheduled to host a 10-year government bond auction this afternoon.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** fell 1.4% - 2.5%.

US **gold** (Comex) futures continued higher, settling above \$US2065/oz.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) tumbled almost 4.0% to settle below \$US131/t.

US (Dec) **copper** futures closed with no ultimate change, at \$US3.91/lb.

Last night's **LME final 3-mth evening price updates** were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication. These are expected to become available via IRESS by 11.30am AEDT.

The \$A fell to ~US65.60c after trading at ~US65.75c yesterday evening.

## Today's Stock Watch

### Metcash Ltd (MTS)

Trading halt called this morning amid speculation of the sales process for Quadrant's Superior Food Group.

### Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)

CBA has lodged reporting changes, including Asian Banking Investments classifications, that will impact interim results which CBA expects to lodge 14 February.

### Bapcor Ltd (BAP)

BAP has appointed recent Total Tools CEO Paul Dumbrell as CEO and MD, effective 1 May.

This follows the resignation of current BAP CEO and MD Noel Meehan, effective 5 February (Monday), for personal reasons. Mr Dumbrell is a former BAP specialist wholesale division COO, taking on that role when BAP acquired Automotive brands Group/Metcash Automotive, of which Mr Dumbrell was CEO.

BAP has appointed BAP non-executive director and former General Motors Holden Australia chair and MD Mark Bernhard as interim CEO and MD.

Further, BAP chair Margie Haseltine intends to retire from the BAP board at the conclusion of this year's AGM.

### Hazer Group (HZR)

Heralding first production of hydrogen and graphite from the commercial demonstration plant, Perth, Western Australia.

### Nufarm Ltd (NUF)

Today's AGM materials lodged.

## Resources

### Resolute Mining (RSG)

Produced 330,994oz of gold during 2023.

Revenue tallied ~\$630M, buoyed by \$155M from selling 79,480oz of gold at \$1954/oz during the December quarter.

\$14M net cash at 31 December.

Forecasting 345,000oz – 365,000oz 2024 output.

\$1300/oz - \$1400/oz AISC expected from \$1470/oz for 2023.

### Red Metal (RDM)

Heralding leach test results using North west Queensland Mount Isa region Sybella rare earth oxides (REOs).

### Brazilian Rare Earths (BRE)

High-grade intersections returned from Brazil Monte Alto project initial diamond drilling.

Assays lodged this morning.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	38150	-317	-0.8
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	4846	-79	-1.6
<b>NASDAQ</b>	15164	-346	-2.2
<b>FTSE 100</b>	7631	-36	-0.5
<b>DAX 30</b>	16904	-69	-0.4
<b>Shanghai Composite</b>	2789	-42	-1.5

**Overseas Markets Commentary**

Weakened sentiment prevailed from the start across major European, UK and US equities markets overnight, amid some key data releases and another swag of earnings and outlooks from influential stocks.

The US Federal Reserve's monetary policy meeting ended with status quo for interest rates and statements which dampened equities risk sentiment.

At a post-meeting press conference, Fed chair Jerome Powell indicated the Fed was not considering near-term interest rate cuts as likely, stating, 'We think we still have a way to go'.

The post-meeting statement had recognised a 'solid' US economy with the chair also noting a softening labour market, and ultimately declaring interest rates were likely at their 'peak for this tightening cycle'.

Treasury yields were pushed lower in response to the statements, and the \$US swung some.

Alphabet and Microsoft had reported post-US trade Tuesday, some Alphabet revenue disappointment subsequently hurting overnight large tech sentiment.

Also overnight, a US regional bank dividend cut pushed regional banking stocks lower in general.

Earlier yesterday, China released January PMIs which indicated slight improvements for the both the manufacturing and services sectors from December.

The manufacturing index continued within contraction territory, however.

Australia reported 4.1% annualised inflation growth for the December quarter from 5.4% for the September quarter. The new rate came in 0.2% beneath consensus.

December CPI growth was estimate at 3.4% from 4.3% for November.

In overnight economic **data** releases, a preliminary January CPI reading for the **Germany** represented 0.2% inflation growth for the month, in line with consensus following December's 0.1% rise.

On an annualised basis, CPI inflation was up 2.9% from the December 3.7% annualised growth rate.

Germany's December import prices dropped 1.1% for the month, against consensus for a 0.5% fall following a November's 0.1% decline.

Against December 2022, prices were down 8.5% from November's annualised 9.0% tumble.

December retail sales soundly undershot expectations, falling by 1.6% for the month, against expectations for a 0.7% rise following

**Pre-Open Announcements****Gentrack Ltd (\* GTK)**

Investing \$12M in Amber.

Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

**Origin Energy (ORG)**

ORG CFO Lawrie Tremaine is planning to retire from ORG at the end of July.

Mr Tremaine was appointed to ORG as CFO mid-2017.

**OFX Group (OFX)**

OFX has appointed Mach7 Technologies (ASX: M7T) chair and former KPMG executive Robert Bazzani as a non-executive director.

OFX non-executive director Grant Murdoch is retiring from the OFX board 23 February.

**HITIQ Ltd (HIQ)**

Broader partnership agreed with the Australian Football League (AFL), under which HIQ will provide its head impact sensor product via the Nexus mouthguard, plus concussion management assessment tool to the AFL.

Additional details lodged post-trade yesterday.

**IPD Group (IPG) / Excelsior Capital (ECL)**

IPG has completed the acquisition of cables and plugs specialist CMI Operations from ECL.

IPG paid \$91.7M cash upfront and could pay an additional up to \$8.9M, pending performance.

**Resources****Capstone Copper Corp (\* CSC)**

Canadian registered copper miner CSC is scheduled to commence ASX trade at midday AEDT **tomorrow**, after being admitted as a foreign exempt listing.

2M quoted common shares which 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.

**Mineral Resources (\* MIN)**

MIN has appointed former BHP Group (ASX: BHP) executive Jacqueline McGill AO as a non-executive director.

Non-executive MIN director Kelvin Flynn has resigned from the MIN board.

Mr Flynn was appointed as a MIN director in 2010.

**Magnetic Resources (MAU)**

Heralding a down-dip extension of the Laverton project Lady Julie North 4 deposit.

Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

**Talga Group (TLG)**

\$32.9M cash at 31 December.



a 0.8% November decline.

Against December 2022, sales were up 1.7% as they were on an annualised basis for November.

A 10-year bond auction produced a 2.23% yield from 2.19%.

In the **UK**, January house prices appreciated by 0.7% according to Nationwide. This followed no change for December and expectations for a 0.1% only new year increase.

Against January 2023, prices were down 0.2%, whereas December's prices represented a 1.8% year-on-year fall.

In the **US**, a January private sector employment report included 107,000 new jobs against forecasts for 145,000 following 158,000 for December.

The Chicago January PMI fell to 46.0 from 47.2, defying consensus for a rise to 48.0.

The December quarter cost of employment index rose by 0.9% for the three months following expectations of a 1.0% increase and the September quarter's 1.0% growth.

Weekly mortgage applications dropped 7.2%.

Mean average 30-year mortgage rates were calculated unchanged at 6.78%.

**Tonight** in the **US**, weekly new unemployment claims are due, together with the ISM's January manufacturing index, a January job cuts report and a final reading for S&P Global's January manufacturing index.

Elsewhere, the **Bank of England** convenes a monetary policy meeting from which it will announce outcomes, ahead of a press conference by governor Andrew Bailey.

Also tonight, the euro zone releases a preliminary January CPI inflation estimate.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include: Amazon, Apple, Archer-Daniels-Midland, Atlassian, BNP Paribas, Dassault Systems, Deutsche Bank, Ferrari, Hino Motors, Honeywell, Konica Minolta, Merck & Co, Meta Platforms, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial, Peloton, Roche, Sanofi, Shell, Sony, Takeda Pharmaceutical and Volvo.

### Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold</b> (COMEX 100 Apr)	2067.4	oz	16.5	0.8
<b>Silver</b> (COMEX 5000 Mar)	23.17	oz	-0.06	-0.3
<b>Platinum</b> (NYMEX Apr)	928	oz	-4	-0.4
<b>WTI Crude</b> (NYMEX Mar)	75.85	bbbl	-1.97	-2.5
<b>Brent Crude</b> (ICE EUR Mar)	81.71	bbbl	-1.16	-1.4
<b>Iron Ore</b> (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	130.57	t	-5.04	-3.9
<b>Copper</b> (LME 3mth Evening) (30Jan)	8608	t	57	0.7
<b>Nickel</b>	16477	t	70	0.4
<b>Aluminium</b>	2271	t	10	0.4
<b>Lead</b>	2190	t	4	0.2
<b>Zinc</b>	2564	t	12	0.5
<b>Tin</b>	25995	t	-352	-1.3

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – China's official January PMIs, reported yesterday, offered no solace regarding concerns for the republic's near-term economic

## Energy

### Bounty Oil & Gas (BUY)

December quarter oil revenue tallied \$833,000.

\$1.30M cash and assets.

No debt.

### Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Centrex Ltd	CXM	2 Feb
Conrad Asia Energy	CRD	2 Feb
Imricor Medical Systems	IMR	2 Feb
NSX Ltd	NSX	1 Feb
Pan Asia Metals	PAM	1 Feb
Singular Health Group	SHG	2 Feb
Vertex Minerals	VTX	2 Feb

### Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
DMC Mining	DMM	23 Jan
Galena Mining	G1A	11 Jan
Gathid Ltd	GTH	4 Jan
Haranga Resources	HAR	31 Jan
Icon Energy	ICN	9 Jan
Laramide Resources	LAM	15 Jan
Manuka Resources	MKR	31 Jan
MetalsTech Ltd	MTC	18 Jan

### Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
<b>NBI</b>	Today	<b>1.22</b>	0	9.01
AFI	Tomorrow	11.5	100	3.32
EZL	Tomorrow	1.75	100	6.82
NIC	Tomorrow	2.5	0	5.03
AMH	Mon	1	100	3.32
BKI	Mon	3.85	100	4.23
QRI	Mon	1.22	0	8.63
RMD	Wed	5.11	0	0.67

## Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
<b>Today</b>	<b>KPG</b>	Interim
	<b>NUF</b>	AGM
	<b>PNI</b>	Interim (post-ASX trade; tele 9am Fri)
<b>Mon</b>	ARG	Interim



prospects, and a US report, release overnight, also dampened crude demand expectations,

Meanwhile, Houthi militants confirmed they were not about to ease Red Sea shipping attacks, particularly against UK and US military vessels.

Also overnight, a media survey estimated OPEC January output at 26.33MMbbl/d, down 410,000bbl/d for the month.

OPEC and OPEC+ meetings remain scheduled for later today, but most analysts expect no policy change.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report, published overnight by US government agency the EIA, included a surprise 1.234MMbbl increase in stored crude. Petrol stocks rose by 1.156MMbbl.

Overnight Tuesday post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report containing an estimated 2.5MMbbl draw on US crude stocks last week.

Brent March delivery futures expired at settlement. April futures dropped \$US1.89/bbl for the session, closing at \$US80.55/bbl.

**Gold** – some continuing safe-haven demand and a rise for the \$US index swung overnight prices, Comex futures ultimately settling higher.

**Base metals** – new data out of China yesterday and currency swings pushed and pulled overnight base metals trade sentiment.

**China's** official (NBS-calculated) January PMIs, reported yesterday, generally matched expectations for a slight improvement for both the manufacturing and services sectors. The manufacturing PMI climbed to 49.2 from 49.0 and the services sector rose from 50.4 to 50.7.

The Caixin January manufacturing PMI for China is scheduled for release today.

### Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.6567	-0.0005	-0.08
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.0819	-0.0002	-0.01

### Australian Data Today

CoreLogic	Residential property prices	Jan
ABS	Building approvals	Dec
ABS	Import & export prices	Dec Q
RBA	Commodity prices	Jan
RBA	Holdings of Aus Govt Securities & Semis	Jan

### US Data Tonight

Initial jobless claims	27 Jan
ISM manufacturing	Jan
S&P Global manufacturing PMI (final)	Jan
Challenger job cuts	Jan

### Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

<b>China</b>	Caixin manufacturing PMI	Jan
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	DXC	Interim
	GDF	Interim
<b>Tue</b>	AQZ	Interim
	NCK	Interim (tele 10am)
	RGN	Interim
<b>Wed</b>	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)



<b>Japan</b>	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Jan
<b>South Korea</b>	International trade	Jan
<b>UK</b>	BoE monetary policy meeting outcomes	1Feb
<b>UK</b>	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Jan
<b>Germany</b>	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Jan
<b>Euro zone</b>	CPI inflation (prelim)	Jan
<b>Euro zone</b>	Manufacturing PMI (final)	Jan

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