

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7488	19	0.3
NZX 50	12092	3	0.0
DJIA Futures	34677	-41	-0.1
S&P 500 Futures	4533	-6	-0.1
NASDAQ Futures	14818	-45	-0.3

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences a new week's trade, the only full week's trade for April, with three key domestic economic reports due by late morning, speculation building regarding likely comments out of tomorrow's Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) policy meeting, and the date of Australia's national election also keenly anticipated from anytime this week.

Vacillating sentiment featured across overnight Friday international equities and commodities trade.

International geopolitical relations and alliances remain fluid, Russia's war on Ukraine remaining forefront for most markets.

Since overnight Friday trade, a ceasefire has commenced in Yemen; Pakistan's PM has dissolved parliament while accusing the US of promoting moves to remove him from office; Sri Lankan government ministers have resigned following cost-of-living protests; and Hungary and Serbia have conducted national elections, with no leadership change indicated.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases its **finalised February retail sales** report at **11.30am AEST**.

At the same time, the ANZ publishes its monthly **job advertisements** report.

Also today, the Melbourne Institute releases its March **inflation gauge** report.

Post-ASX trade Friday, the RBA revealed March **commodity prices**, the price index coming in 40.9% higher than for March 2021.

Regionally today, no major economic releases are anticipated today. **China's** markets are **closed** and will remain so tomorrow.

Yesterday, China requested all Shanghai residents to self-test for **Covid** as the number of cargo ships waiting to enter some Chinese ports continues to grow.

In overnight Friday commodities trade, **oil** fell further.

US **gold** futures turned to settle lower.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) rose sharply, trading beyond \$US159.80/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** settled slightly lower. **Nickel** rallied. **Aluminium** fell.

The **\$A** declined to ~US74.95c after trading at ~US75.00c early Friday evening.

Daylight saving ended early yesterday

From today, ASX trade commences local time in:

Western Australia at 8am;
Queensland at 10am; and the
Northern Territory at 9.30am

* Oil & gas exploration listing – 1pm AEST – TEE *

Today's Stock Watch

AUB Group (AUB)

In response to media articles, AUB confirms the group has been discussing a potential transaction with Lloyd's wholesale insurance broker Tysers, both with senior management and Tysers owner Odyssey Investment Partners.

AUB says no transaction has been agreed on terms deemed acceptable to the parties.

Pepper Money (PPM)

Proposing to outlay ~\$78M cash for 65% of Stratton Finance, pending satisfaction of conditions including FIRB approval.

A put and call option for the balance 35% is also in place and exercisable Q1 2024 – Q1 2026.

Novatti Group (NOV) / Reckon Ltd (RKN)

NOV payment products will be integrated with RKN accounting software and the RKN invoicing app under an agreement covering both existing and new RKN products.

Telix Pharmaceuticals (TLX)

TLX's prostate cancer imaging injection Illuccix is commercially available in the US.

Resources

Iluka Resources (ILU)

FID achieved for the WA Eneabba 17.5Ktpa rare earths refinery (phase 3), designed to produce separated rare earth oxides from ILU and third party concentrate feedstock.

Construction is expected to commence during 2H 2022 with capex estimated at \$1B - \$1.2B.

ILU expects to produce dysprosium, neodymium, praseodymium and terbium. First production is anticipated in 2025.

Panoramic Resources (PAN)

Third shipment of WA Savannah nickel project nickel-copper-cobalt concentrate achieved, and on its way to Jinchuan, via Lianyungang port, China.

\$US21.8M payment for the 10,347t is expected next week.

Australian Rare Earths (AR3)

Heralding South Australia Koppamurra rare earths project metallurgical test results.

**Overseas Markets**

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34818	140	0.4
S&P 500	4546	15	0.3
NASDAQ	14262	41	0.3
FTSE 100	7538	22	0.3
DAX 30	14446	32	0.2
Shanghai Comp	3283	31	0.9

Overseas Markets Commentary

Choppy trade featured across major European, UK and US equities markets overnight Friday, traders faced with influential data, fluid international geopolitical scenarios, and international fuel supply debate.

US March employment statistics proved mixed against expectations, including 431,000 new jobs and a 0.2% fall in the unemployment rate to 3.6%.

Forecasters had anticipated 460,000 new jobs following 750,000 reported for February, and a 0.1% employment rate decline.

Earlier Friday, Caixin released a March manufacturing PMI for China which indicated a fall into contraction mode, as did China's official reading published Thursday.

Meanwhile, most of Shanghai's population was in lockdown Friday, as part of a nine-day shut-in aimed at curbing Covid spread.

A European Union – China virtual summit, convened overnight Friday, was reported to have largely focused on international security, with agreement that responsibility for restoring peace in Ukraine was a shared responsibility.

China promoted new peace talks this week and called for the 'legitimate concerns of all sides' to be considered.

In the Middle East, a Saudi Arabia-led coalition and Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis agreed to a UN-negotiated two-month ceasefire commencing as early as Saturday when Ramadan began.

Also overnight Friday, an **International Energy Agency** (IEA) extraordinary meeting produced pledges from member nations to release more oil from reserves, although no decisions were reached on amounts.

Late-Friday, the **World Trade Organisation** (WTO) cited Russia's war in Ukraine when dropping its 2022 international economic growth forecast from 4.7% to 2.5%.

The WTO said the war had caused displacement and food shortages in Ukraine and beyond, and exacerbated supply and logistics issues.

In overnight Friday **data** releases, the **euro zone's** initial March CPI reading indicated 2.5% inflation for the month, following February's 0.9% rise. Forecasters had anticipated a 1.9% new increase.

Against March 2020, inflation was up a record 7.5%.

The final March manufacturing PMI for the euro zone was estimated at 56.5, 1.7 points lower than for February.

Germany's March manufacturing PMI was finalised at 56.9, representing a 1.5-point fall for the month.

Pre-Open Announcements**Bio-Gene Technology (* BGT)**

Terms agreed for a licence and development partnership secured with Clarke Mosquito Control Products, following an option agreement announced in October 2021.

Clarke will pay licence fees to BGT over the next three years, during development of mosquito projects using BGT's flavocide and ahead of potential registration in the US.

SkyCity Entertainment Group (SKC)

SKC has completed the €25M investment in Gaming Innovation Group (GiG), acquiring 11% of GiG capital.

In association, SKC CEO Michael Ahearne is joining the GiG board.

Halo Food Co (HLF)

HLF has completed the company's \$17M acquisition of digital health and wellness business The Healthy Mummy.

HLF will also pay a \$5M earn-out, pending revenue and EBITDA performance.

Mad Paws (MPA)

MPA has completed the company's acquisition of Pet chemist Online.

Argenic Therapeutics (AGN)

AGN has appointed CEO Liz Dallimore as MD.

Microba Life Sciences (* MAP)

Human gut microbiome-focused biotech company scheduled to list on the ASX 10.30am AEST **tomorrow**, following a \$30M IPO at 45c per share.

226.31M quoted shares.

Resources**Dacian Gold (* DCN)**

WA Mt Morgans gold project Jupiter open pit Doublejay sub-pit drilling has returned additional significant results.

Assays lodged pre-trade.

Golden Deeps (GED)

Heralding an exceptional assay from diamond drilling within the Namibia Nosib copper-vanadium-lead prospect.

Assays plus metallurgical test-work and bulk trial mining plans lodged this morning.

Midas Minerals (MM1) / DiscovEx Resources (DCX)

MM1 has secured an option agreement with DCX to potentially acquire DCX's gold- and lithium-prospective Newington project, Southern Cross greenstone belt, WA.

Kore Potash (* KP2)

Reviewing a Republic of Congo Sintoukola Basin Kola potash project optimisation study, completed by SEPCO Electric Power Construction Corporation.

KP2 expects the review to take several weeks.

The Summit Consortium, of which SEPCO is the engineering



In the **UK**, the final 55.2 manufacturing PMI for March represented a 2.8-point monthly decline.

In the **US**, in addition to headline March employment figures, earnings were reported 0.4% higher for the month and 5.6% higher year-on-year.

Average earnings had increased by 0.1% in February and a 0.3% March increase had been anticipated.

The ISM's manufacturing index for March also reported overnight Friday, disappointed, falling 1.5-points to 57.1, following expectations for a 0.1-point easing to 58.5.

The new orders index dropped 7.9 points to 53.8.

February construction spending rose 0.5% after growing by 1.6% in January. Economists had anticipated a new 0.8% increase, however.

S&P's robust 59.8 final March manufacturing PMI represented a 1.5-point rise for the month.

Also in the US, two-year bond yields were recorded at 2.4503% against 2.3767% for 10-year bonds.

In Germany, 10-year bond yields rose by 0.028% to 0.58%. The overall 10-year March yield was estimated to have risen 0.39% for the month, representing the largest increase in a month since 2009.

Tonight in the US, February factory orders are due.

Elsewhere, Bank of England governor Andrew Bailey is scheduled to speak publicly.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Jun)	1923.7	oz	30.30	-1.6
Silver (NY) (May)	24.65	oz	-48	-1.9
Gold (LON)	1929	oz	-13	-0.7
Platinum	984	oz	4	0.4
WTI Crude (NYMEX May)	99.27	bbbl	-1.01	-1.0
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jun)	104.39	bbbl	-0.32	-0.3
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	159.85	t	9.01	6.0
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	10356	t	-23	-0.2
Nickel	33044	t	1040	3.3
Aluminium	3452	t	-41	-1.2
Lead	2451	t	33	1.4
Zinc	4336	t	164	3.9
Tin	44687	t	1851	4.3

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices swung intra-session overnight Friday new disappointing data out of China and Shanghai remaining mostly in lockdown, plus international demand and supply announcements and outlooks pushing and pulling sentiment.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) convened an emergency meeting Friday, with member nations determining to release further oil from reserves, in addition to the US 180MMbbl release announced overnight Thursday. No IEA member nation agreements were achieved however, the IEA promising further details from 'this week or so'.

A US weekly petroleum drill rig report, published overnight Friday, included two additional operational oil rigs, taking the oil rig tally

partner, anticipates submitting an EPC proposal to KP2 within the next two months.

Any agreement on EPC terms is expected to be followed with a Kola construction financing proposal from the consortium.

KP2 secured an MoU, covering full Kola construction financing, with the consortium early April 2021.

NeuRizer Ltd (NRZ)

NeuRizer urea project initial BFS completed, but regulatory requirements mean NRZ cannot release results until the final BFS is completed.

Final BFS outcomes are anticipated by year's end.

In addition, NRZ has assured the ASX in response to a query, that financial information and plans contained in media articles has already been lodged with the ASX, including on 2 November 2020, 12 November 2021 and 23 March 2022.

NRZ is resuming from a trading halt having last traded at 17.5c. NRZ closed out the previous week at 15.5c.

Bardoc Gold (BDC) / St Barbara (SBM)

BDC ASX trade will be suspended at the close of trade today, due to court approval of the scheme of arrangement via which SBM will acquire BDC.

Genesis Minerals (GMD)

GMD has appointed former Saracen Mineral Holdings CFO and previous BD Iron MD Morgan Ball as chief commercial officer. In addition, GMD has appointed former Saracen corporate development officer Troy Irvin as GMD corporate development officer.

Further, GMD has appointed former Saracen GM Lee Stephens as GMD GM projects and operations.

Yandal Resources (YAL)

YAL has appointed KPMG Australia part-time mergers and acquisitions principal director Gregory Evans as non-executive chair, effective today.

In addition, as pre-flagged, Tim Kennedy has taken over as MD and CEO from Lorry Hughes, this also effective today.

Mr Hughes is continuing with YAL as a non-executive director until 17 May.

Big River Gold (BRV)

Brazil Borborema gold project updated engineering cost estimate study results lodged post-trade Friday.

Plant capex is now estimated at \$US71.7M, from \$US58.2M.

Vango Mining (VAN)

\$10M funding package in support of the WA mid-west Marymia gold project expansion drilling and pre-mine planning secured with Collins St Value Fund (CSVF).

CSVF is subscribing for \$10M worth of VAN convertible notes in two tranches.

Details lodged post-trade Friday.

Emerald Resources (EMR)

Extending the period of the company's Bullseye Mining recommended and unconditional takeover bid until 15 April.



to 533.

Among the forecasters, JPMorgan concurred with the view that a market deficit was likely through to 2023, opting to keep \$US114/bbl and \$US101/bbl respective June quarter and price 2H 2022 forecasts.

In the meantime, Brent crude (front month) was estimated to have dropped by 11% for the week and WTI by ~12.8%.

Gold – \$US strength, in particular following the release of US March employment statistics, bruised overnight Friday gold interest. US bond yields also proved more attractive.

Gold lost some appeal also as an inflation hedge, with oil prices falling further on promises of further releases from different nations' strategic reserves.

Comex futures settled down ~1.5% for the week.

Base metals – China data again concerned overnight Friday, but this supported views of further stimulus, exacerbating pushes and pulls on sentiment amid \$US strength.

A Japan business confidence index also was reported to have dropped, this attributed largely to supply constraints and a jump in raw material costs.

Caixin's 48.1 March manufacturing PMI for China, reported Friday, represented a 2.3-point fall into contraction mode.

Meanwhile, London Metal Exchange (LME) *nickel* volumes were estimated to have tumbled 28% during March, following an 8 March price spike, attributed to short-covering, and technical issues when trade recommenced with new trading caps.

No metals produced in Russia were declared to be in approved LME warehouses but nonetheless a suspension on deliveries of four Russian-produced metals, exported since 25 March, was announced Friday. Nickel was not included in the suspension.

China's markets are scheduled to be closed today and tomorrow.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7490	-0.0005	-0.07
EUR – USD	1.1042	-0.0003	-0.03

Australian Data Today

Melbourne Institute	Inflation gauge	Mar
ANZ	Job advertisements	Mar
ABS	Retail sales (final)	Feb

US Data Today & Tonight

Factory orders	Feb
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Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Germany	Trade balance	Feb
Germany	Domestic vehicle registrations	Mar
Euro zone	Sentix investor confidence	Apr

Metalicity Ltd (MCT) / Nex Metals (NME)

MCT has extended the period of its off-market takeover bid for NME until 14 April.

Energy

Top End Energy (* TEE)

Oil and gas explorer scheduled to list on the ASX **1pm** AEST, following \$6.4M IPO at 32c per share.

36M quoted securities.

30 exploration permit applications in the Northern Territory. One granted permit in Queensland.

Whitehaven Coal (* WHC)

WHC is permitted to continue blasting at the Maules Creek project, but with additional conditions including independent expert approval of blasting activity.

This follows WHC having self-reported to the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) a 9 March Maules Creek blast that produced blast fume.

Meanwhile, WHC disclosed in late Friday trade that the Independent Planning Commission NSW had approved the Narrabri stage three extension project, which extends the underground mine activity from 2031 to 2044.

Carnarvon Energy (CVN)

WA North West Shelf Bedout sub-basin Apus-1 drilling is expected to commence within a week.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Akora Resources	AKO	4 Apr
Buxton Resources	BUX	4 Apr
Cannindah Resources	CAE	4 Apr
Delorean Corporation	DEL	4 Apr
Tennant Minerals	TMS	4 Apr
Zenith Minerals	ZNC	4 Apr
BPM Minerals	BPM	5 Apr
Domain Holdings Australia	DHG	5 Apr
Jaxsta Ltd	JXT	5 Apr
LawFinance Ltd	LAW	5 Apr
Ozgrowth Ltd	OZG	5 Apr
Payright Ltd	PYR	5 Apr
RPM Automotive Group	RPM	5 Apr
Sovereign Metals	SVM	5 Apr
Westoz Investment Company	WIC	5 Apr

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Sprintex Ltd	SIX	29 Mar

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Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
BCN	Today	0.13	100	3.47
CYC	Today	0.5	0	0.64
SIG	Today	1	100	3.81
WAR	Today	1	100	0.00
WAX	Today	5	100	5.48
WMA	Today	2	100	2.63
WMI	Today	5	100	4.04
CAM	Tomorrow	1.28	100	5.59
PIC	Tomorrow	2.8	100	4.12
CLV	Wed	0.5	100	0.75
TRA	Wed	5.56	85	4.67
ARB	Thu	39	100	1.66
GOW	Thu	4	100	1.99
OMH	Thu	2	0	0.00
RBD	Thu	29.7	0	0.00
RIC	Thu	3.4	100	1.17
SDI	Thu	1.5	100	3.77

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	TEE	IPO (1pm)
Thu	ERA	Mar Q
	SCG	AGM
Fri	OZL	AGM
	RIO	(Plc AGM)