

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	6984	9	0.1
NZX 50	11660	33	0.3
DJIA Futures	33249	-24	-0.1
S&P 500 Futures	4199	-2	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	13159	3	0.0

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens Friday trade with several high-cap domestic stocks trading ex-dividend, and others reporting earnings and providing outlooks, ahead of keenly anticipated economic outlook comments from the US Federal Reserve president tonight.

US equities markets rallied overnight.

Locally today, no major economic reports are due for release.

Stocks trading **ex-dividend** today include **ARG, AWC, GUD, LLC** and **NCM**. *Please see pp3-4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.*

Regionally today, no key economic data releases are anticipated.

China is expected to report July industrial profits tomorrow, however.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** swung lower, Brent falling beneath \$US100/bbl.

US **gold** futures continued this week's turn higher.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) continued a series of slight declines but remained above \$US105.0/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** and **nickel** turned higher. **Aluminium** recorded another slight gain.

The **\$A** remained within a relatively narrow range after trading at ~US69.80c - US69.90c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	33292	323	1.0
S&P 500	4199	58	1.4
NASDAQ	12639	208	1.7
FTSE 100	7480	8	0.1
DAX 30	13272	52	0.4
Shanghai Comp	3246	31	1.0

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets closed at or near session highs overnight, following key economic data releases and several central bank announcements.

European Central Bank July policy meeting minutes revealed a general view of increased inflationary pressures, and recession risks likely through to 2023.

Earlier yesterday, the **Bank of Korea** lifted its base interest rate

Today's Stock Watch
Wesfarmers Ltd (WES)

\$1.00 fully franked final dividend from 90c a year ago.
 1.2% lower, \$2.352B full year NPAT.
 8.5% higher, \$36.838B revenue. \$2.94 NTA against \$5.14.

Ramsay Health Care (RHC)

48.5c fully franked final dividend from \$1.03 a year ago.
 39% lower, \$A274M full year NPAT.
 3.1% higher, \$13.74B income.

In addition, the KKR-led consortium which presented an indicative acquisition proposal to RHC earlier this year has completed a first round of due diligence and has approached RHC with an alternatively-structured proposal involving RHC 52.8%-held Ramsay Santé.

In association, the consortium is requesting Ramsay Santé due diligence. Details lodged post-trade yesterday.

Bega Cheese (BGA)

5.5c fully franked final dividend from 5c a year ago.
 69% lower, \$24.2M full year NPAT.
 45.2% higher, \$3.0B revenue.

Costa Group Holdings (CGC)

Flat, 4c fully franked interim dividend.
 1.1% higher, \$48.64M interim NPAT.
 15.7% higher, \$708.66M revenue. \$1.2112 NTA from \$1.072.

Smartgroup Corporation (SIQ)

17c fully franked interim dividend from 17.5c a year ago.
 16% higher, \$30.91M interim NPAT.
 4% higher, \$113.58M revenue.

Resources
Lynas Rare Earths (LYC)

244% higher, \$540.8M full year NPAT.
 88% higher, \$920M revenue. \$1.8102 NTA from \$1.2019.

OZ Minerals (OZL)

8c fully franked interim dividend from 8c interim plus 8c special dividends a year ago.
 \$109.2M interim NPAT from \$268.6M. \$908.6M net revenue from \$986.1M.

Full year guidance, plus strategy and exploration releases also lodged this morning.

Riversgold Ltd (RGL)

Resuming from a trading halt with an option to acquire 80% of lithium rights in an exploration tenement located 600m of the Wesfarmers (ASX:WES)-SQM Mt Holland Lithium JV mine.
 Consideration includes \$A150,000 cash plus ~4M RGL shares.
 RGL traded at 3.5c – 3.7c this week prior to calling the halt.



0.25%, as anticipated, to 2.50%.

The central bank also raised its national 2022 inflation forecast to 5.2% from the 4.5% predicted three months ago.

2022 GDP growth was also revised, to 2.6% from 2.7%, the bank citing an exports slowdown.

Overnight, the **US Federal Reserve** opened its annual economic forum at Jackson Hole, Wyoming as a regional Fed president told a media group that he favoured a 1.50% overall hike in interest rates by year's end as he expected inflation levels to remain elevated for longer than many in the investment community were likely anticipating.

Other regional presidents delivered similar comments in media interviews, but emphasised the magnitude of next month's likely rate increase remained too early to call, due to economic indicators due to be released prior to the policy meeting.

Also earlier yesterday, the **People's Bank of China** announced one trillion yuan (~\$US146B) worth of largely infrastructure- and local government-focused support in a 19-point stimulus plan.

Among overnight **data** releases, both the US and Germany delivered June quarter GDP updates.

These included a final reading for **Germany**, revised to 1.7% growth from the initial estimate of a flat result.

The Ifo August business climate index for Germany was estimated at 88.5 from 88.7, following forecasts for a larger decline to 86.2.

Earlier yesterday, **UK** July domestic vehicle production was reported 8.6% higher than for July 2021.

Overnight the CBI distributive trades index surprised on the upside, coming in at 37 from -4 for July and defying predictions for a deterioration to -14.

In the **US**, a second June quarter GDP growth reading (of three) estimated a 0.6% contraction rather than the 0.9% contraction recorded for the initial estimate.

Weekly new unemployment claims tallied 243,000 from 245,000 the previous week, against forecasts for an increase to 267,000.

The Kansas City Fed manufacturing index dropped to -9 from seven, following predictions for a decline to -5.

Tonight in the US, **US Federal Reserve** chair Jerome Powell is due to deliver economic outlook comments befitting the Jackson Hole forum theme *Reassessing Constraints on the Economy and Policy*.

Among US data releases, July income and spending, wholesale inventories and personal consumption expenditure (PCE) are expected, together with the finalised August consumer sentiment reading calculated by the University of Michigan.

Companies expected to report earnings later today or tonight include POSCO Holdings, SAIC Motor, Tatneft and Ubiquiti.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1771.4	oz	9.90	0.6
Silver (NY) (Sep)	19.12	oz	0.21	1.1
Platinum	882	oz	7	0.8
WTI Crude (NYMEX Oct)	92.52	bbl	-2.37	-2.5
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Oct)	99.34	bbl	-1.88	-1.9
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	105.35	t	-0.20	-0.2
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	8135	t	96	1.2

Pre-Open Announcements

Unibail Rodamco Westfield (* URW)

URW has completed the \$US537.5M sale of Westfield Santa Anita, California.

URW held 49% of the centre.

URW has settled lower or flat the past seven sessions, closing at \$3.77 yesterday.

Macquarie Telecom Group (MAQ)

32% lower, \$8.456M full year NPAT.

8.5% higher, \$309.31M revenue.

Anticipating further EBITDA growth in FY23.

360 Capital Group (TGP)

498.7% higher, \$31.67M full year NPAT.

48.1% higher, \$59.13M income.

98c NTA from 89c.

Atomo Diagnostics (AT1)

5.2% lower, \$A5.71M full year NPAT.

83.7% higher, \$12.34M revenue.

3.72c NTA against 4.76c.

Actinogen Medical (ACW)

\$9.497M full year net loss from a \$3.915M FY21 net loss.

52% higher, \$41,072M revenue.

1.1c NTA from 0.9c.

Chorus Ltd (CNU)

Conducting a €500M senior notes offer and associated roadshow.

Roadshow presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

Austin Engineering (ANG)

Proposed Mainetec acquisition potential performance payments details lodged post-trade yesterday.

ANG has closed higher the past five sessions, settling at 34c yesterday.

Quickstep Holdings (QHL)

QHL added 12.2% yesterday, settling at 46c and trading as high as 48c intra-session.

QHL revealed an MoU with Northrop Grumman covering the QHL supply of fuselage components to the F-35 program had progressed to an agreed order worth \$US105M over six years.

Resources

Aeris Resources (AIS)

90.2% lower, \$6.01M full year NPAT.

10.4% lower, \$386.59M revenue.

9.1c NTA from 8.3c.

FY23 production and costs guidance lodged post-trade yesterday.

Red River Resources (RVR)

34% lower, \$3.905M full year NPAT.

2% lower, \$116.512M income.



Nickel	21670	t	321	1.5
Aluminium	2437	t	4	0.2
Lead	1978	t	3	0.2
Zinc	3557	t	35	1.0
Tin	24350	t	35	0.1

Commodities Commentary

Oil – demand fears appeared to outweigh other considerations during overnight trade.

Economic data releases continued to indicate weak economic growth at best and a focus on several central bank announcements heightened the anticipated impact of higher interest rates.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig report is due tonight.

Gold – currency moves, amid an overnight central bank policy focus, pushed prices from early session highs.

The US Federal Reserve's annual Jackson Hole economic forum began, ahead of the Fed chair's economic outlook address is tonight. In addition, a batch of other central banks released reports and/or announced policy change.

Base metals – new stimulus announced by China's central bank yesterday supported overnight copper prices.

A 19-point plan from the People's Bank of China set out the allocation of new support for infrastructure activity local governments.

China's growth prospects will remain in focus early week as July industrial profits are anticipated over the weekend.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6973	0.0019	0.27
EUR – USD	0.9971	-0.0023	-0.23

US Data Tonight

Personal income & spending	Jul
Wholesale inventories	Jul
PCE price index	Jul
University of Michigan consumer sentiment (final)	Aug

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Germany	GfK consumer confidence	Sep
Euro zone	Lending to households & businesses	Jul

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\$12.06 NTA from \$10.95.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Equus Mining	EQE	26 Aug
Elixir Energy	EXR	29 Aug
Hastings Technology Metals	HAS	29 Aug
Invictus Energy	IVZ	29 Aug
Magnum Mining & Exploration	MGU	29 Aug
Matsa Resources	MAT	29 Aug

Suspensions *(selected)*

Company	Code	Since
ColorTV Ltd	CTV	8 Aug
Complii Fintech Solutions	CF1	24 Aug
Invigor Group	IVO	25 Aug
Registry Direct	RD1	24 Aug
TEK-Ocean Group	T3K	22 Aug
The Market Herald	TMH	24 Aug

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ARG	Today	17	100	3.11
AWC	Today	6.09	100	5.41
FID	Today	14.9	100	3.75
GUD	Today	22	100	1.97
LLC	Today	11	38.89	0.49
NCM	Today	28.87	100	3.47
ANN	Mon	45.27	0	3.42
CGF	Mon	11.5	100	3.37
CRN	Mon	7.57	0	4.70
GAP	Mon	1	75	6.25
HSN	Mon	5	30	1.98
INA	Mon	5.8	0	1.14
PCG	Mon	8	100	11.11
PNI	Mon	17.5	100	3.18
SIV	Mon	6	100	0.00
VG8	Mon	5	51.4	5.51
WOR	Mon	25	0	3.28
BAP	Tue	11.5	100	3.14
BPT	Tue	1	100	1.14
CAA	Tue	20	100	8.70
DMP	Tue	1.29	70	1.35
DOW	Tue	4.56	0	4.54
EVN	Tue	3.11	100	3.13
GCI	Tue	4.85	0	4.86
MXI	Tue	0.00	100	0.00
NWL	Tue	1.40	100	1.42

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SDG	Tue	5.93	100	5.97
WTN	Tue	0.00	0	0.00

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ASB	Full year (tele 9.30am)
	AEF	Full year (webinar & Q&A 10am)
	BGA	Full year (tele 11am)
	CGC	Interim (w/cast 10am)
	JIN	Full year
	LYC	Full year (w/cast 10am)
	MYX	Full year
	MHJ	Full year (post-ASX; NB w/cast 9.30am Mon)
	MVF	Full year (tele 11am)
	NSR	AGM
	OZL	Interim (w/cast tele 11am)
	PDN	Full year
	PPE	Full year (w/cast tele 10.15am)
	PWR	Full year (w/cast 9.30am)
	PTB	Full year
	RHC	Full year (w/cast 9.30am)
	SIQ	Interim (tele 9am)
SLC	Full year (w/cast tele 10am)	
UNI	Full year (webinar & Q&A 10.30am)	
WES	Full year (w/cast midday)	
WGX	Full year (w/cast & Q&A 10am)	
Mon	ABY	Full year (tele 9.30am)
	ABB	Full year (tele 11am)
	DBI	Interim (tele 10.30am)
	FMG	Full year
	IVC	Interim (w/cast 9.30am)
	JLG	Full year (tele 10am)
	LOV	Full year (tele 10.30am)
	M7T	Full year (webinar 9am)
	MIN	Full year
	MTO	Full year (tele & Q&A 3pm)
	RMS	Full year
	SYM	Full year (webinar 9am)