

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	7620	24	0.3
NZX 50	11811	6	0.1
DJIA Futures	38495	54	0.1
S&P 500 Futures	5138	7	0.1
NASDAQ Futures	17871	26	0.1

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences a new week's trade, on the second last trading day for April, with fresh economic data in hand from China, and a wave of quarterly reports domestic stocks lodged pre-trade, ahead of an inflation update for Germany tonight.

US equities markets settled 0.4% - 2.0% higher overnight Friday.

Since overnight Friday trade:

- **Israel** has indicated it would suspend its planned Rafah, **Gaza** ground offensive should Hamas agree to the release of all remaining hostages. Further ceasefire talks are scheduled for today, in Cairo.
- **Russia** continued to target power facilities in **Ukraine**, mostly in western and central regions, while intensifying a military offensive in Ukraine's east. Targeted facilities included some supporting Russian gas transport to the European Union (EU), according to Ukraine's president. Ukraine also confirmed a withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from some parts of the east and noted a build-up of Russia's military near Ukraine's second largest city Kharkiv. In addition over the weekend, Ukraine reportedly launched drone attacks on two further oil refineries and a military airfield within Russia.
- The **US** secretary of state concluded a three-day visit to China, including talks with **China's** president in Beijing, with both nations highlighting some issues. The US maintained the export ban on select computer chips to China was not intended to crimp China's economy or technological development. For its part, China put the case for uninterrupted and unrestricted trade with Russia, asserting it was not in any way involved in the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Locally today, a plethora of March quarter reports is anticipated through to post-trade.

Regionally today, the health of China's finance sector will be under scrutiny with several banks reporting earnings.

Over the weekend, **China** reported a 4.3% year-on-year increase for January – March **industrial profits**.

This followed a 10.2% January – February annualised increase, and expectations for a 12.0% year-on-year climb for the March quarter.

Settlements

Trades executed **Wednesday** last week settle today

*** Maintenance & engineering listing – 11am AEST – TEA ***

Today's Stock Watch

TPG Telecom (TPG)

Agreements in hand with Optus Mobile for a multi-operator core network that will boost TPG's 4G and 5G mobile coverage within Australia to 98.4%. TPG will pay Optus \$1.7B over 11 years, net of spectrum receipts. Total service fees to be paid to Optus are estimated at \$1.59B. Cash cost savings, plus FY25 EBITDA and NPAT impacts also lodged.

Megaport Ltd (MP1)

Anticipating \$56M - \$58M FY24 EBITDA, against previous \$51M - \$57M guidance. MP1 had reported \$20.2M FY23 normalised EBITDA. Further, MP1 expects \$190M - \$195M FY24 revenue, against \$153.1M reported for FY23. Operational update presentation lodged pre-trade.

Stockland (SGP)

March quarter operational statistics, including 2.0% comparable sales growth for shopping centres, lodged this morning. 'Market conditions remain uncertain'.

The Star Entertainment Group (SGR)

SGR has appointed SGR lead independent director Anne Ward as chair, taking over from David Foster, who assumed executive duties on the departure of SGR CEO and MD Robbie Cooke 22 March. Mr Foster remains an SGR director.

Resources

Sheffield Resources (SFX)

Shipped 15,882t of WA Kimberley region Thunderbird JV project zircon concentrate during the March quarter. For April to date, SFX has shipped an additional 7000t of zircon concentrate plus 22,000t of ilmenite concentrate. SFX expects to commence loading a further 25,000t of ilmenite concentrate this week. March quarter mineral sands concentrate production (including leucogene) tallied 101,700t. SFX 50%. SFX's JV partner is Yansteel.

Webinar scheduled for 4.30pm AEST **tomorrow**.

Energy

Boss Energy (BOE)

South Australia Honeymoon uranium project ramping to 2.45Mlb/year of U₃O₈ underway. US Alta Mesa JV uranium project expected to commence production in May. BOE's 30% share is expected to be 500,000lb/year. \$A100M cash and equivalents. No debt.



Further, March profits were reported 3.5% lower year-on-year.

Singapore is due to report March producer prices plus import and export prices at 3pm AEST.

Japan's markets are closed today due to a public holiday.

China's markets will be closed from Wednesday through Friday this week.

In overnight Friday **commodities** trade, **oil** continued higher, prices appreciating by 0.3% - 0.6%.

US **gold** (Comex) futures closed with a slight gain, beyond \$US2335/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) was again pushed modestly higher, settling above \$US110.00/t.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** rallied further. **Nickel** turned slightly lower and **aluminium** slightly higher.

The **\$A** varied little after trading at ~US65.35c early Friday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	38240	154	0.4
S&P 500	5100	52	1.0
NASDAQ	15928	316	2.0
FTSE 100	8140	61	0.8
DAX 30	18161	244	1.4
Shanghai Composite	3089	36	1.2

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and UK equities markets opened positively overnight Friday, sentiment improving yet further in subsequent trade.

In the US, most equities markets gained on opening and continued higher, settling at or near session highs. DJIA trade proved the most variable.

Overnight Friday trade considerations included new US economic data, which was keenly analysed, ahead of this week's US Federal Reserve monetary policy meeting.

Corporate earnings and outlooks from post-US trade Thursday buoyed the S&P 500 to its greatest weekly gain in more than five months.

Alphabet and Microsoft had each bettered expectations, post-US trade Thursday, and Alphabet had announced its first dividend.

Intel's outlook appeared to undershoot expectations, however.

Also in the US, regulators confirmed they had seized (August 2023 delisted) Republic First Bancorp and were planning to sell it to Fulton Bank.

Earlier Friday, the **Bank of Japan** retained status quo for the short-term interest rate 0% - 0.1%, raised from negative territory in March, but revealed some significant changes to forecasts.

The new quarterly outlook report from the central bank contained a 2.8% FY2024 CPI prediction, following the 2.4% forecast in the quarterly outlook report published in January.

The national GDP forecast was cut by one third, from 1.2% to 0.8%.

Pre-Open Announcements

Pacific Smiles Group (** PSQ)

Agreed \$1.90 cash-per-share takeover plan by National Dental Care lodged this morning.

PSQ traded at \$1.62 - \$1.67 last week.

Auckland International Airport (* AIA)

Mulling a fixed-rate bonds offer to both retail and institutional investors, for notes maturing November 2023.

Associated presentation lodged this morning, ahead of further details, expected to be released next week.

ResMed Inc (* RMD)

March quarter documents, as lodged in the US overnight Thursday last week, lodged this morning.

RMD traded as high as \$31.58 Friday, after revealing results to the ASX pre-trade, settling with a 9.6% gain for the session, at \$31.50.

Genex Power (* GNX)

March quarter operational statistics and presentation lodged this morning.

\$56.4M cash at bank.

Vista Group International (VGL)

Conference presentation lodged pre-trade.

VGL is presenting in Sydney today.

Tasmea Ltd (* TEA)

WA-headquartered maintenance and engineering specialist TEA is scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEST, following a \$59M IPO at \$1.56 per share.

217.755M quoted shares.

GR Engineering (ASX: GNG) co-founder and former CFO and company secretary Giuseppe (Joe) Totaro is TEA's non-executive chair, while remaining a GNG director.

Resources

Western Mines Group (* WMG)

\$318,000 worth of Government grants received for the WA Mulga Tank Ni-Cu-PGE project.

Southern Cross Gold (* SXG)

Victoria Sunday Creek project diamond drilling has delivered several high-grade and/or significant-width intersections.

Assays lodged pre-trade.

Adriatic Metals (* ADT)

March quarter operational summary, including first Vares project silver concentrate production, Bosnia & Herzegovina, lodged pre-trade.

\$US46.7M cash balance.

Emerald Resources (* EMR)

Produced 28,500oz of gold during the March quarter, selling the same volume at \$US2069/oz.



In overnight Friday economic data releases, lending to businesses and households in the **euro zone** increased by 0.4% and 0.2% respectively in March. Annualised lending growth for February had been reported at 0.3% for both companies and households.

In the **UK**, the GfK April consumer confidence index was reported (earlier Friday) at -19 from -21 for March, the first improvement recorded in three months.

Russia's central bank announced no change to the 16% benchmark interest rate for a third consecutive month.

As with the Bank of Japan, forecasts were revised, however.

CPI growth for 2024 is expected at 4.3% - 4.8% (from the previously predicted ~4%) and GDP at 2.5% - 3.5% (from 1.0% - 2.0%).

In the **US**, March personal income and spending rose by 0.5% and 0.8% respectively. Personal income was in line with forecasts but spending had been anticipated to grow by only 0.6%.

The new spending figure bolstered views the next estimate for US March quarter GDP growth would prove greater than one released this past week.

February income and spending had been recorded respectively as increasing by 0.3% and 0.8%.

The March personal consumption expenditure (PCE) price index rose by 0.3%, the same as for February and on par with consensus.

Against March 2023, the index was up 2.7% against consensus for 2.6% following the 2.5% February annualised increase.

The University of Michigan's final April consumer sentiment reading was reported at 77.2 against forecasts for 77.8 following 79.4 for March.

The consumer expectations component index fell by 1.4 to 76.0.

The current conditions component index declined to 79.0 from 82.5.

Tonight in the **US**, the Dallas Fed manufacturing index is due.

Elsewhere, Germany is scheduled to release a preliminary April inflation reading.

Companies listed to report earnings later today or tonight include: Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of China, China Construction Bank, China Everbright Bank, China Merchants Bank Co, Domino's Pizza, Ganfeng Lithium, Industrial & Commercial Bank of China, Kumho Tire, NXP Semiconductors, ON Semiconductor Corporation, PetroChina and Sony.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Jun)	2347.2	oz	4.70	0.2
Silver (COMEX 5000 May)	27.25	oz	-0.10	-0.4
Platinum	913	oz	-1	-0.1
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jun)	83.85	bbbl	0.28	0.3
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jun)	89.50	bbbl	0.49	0.6
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	110.16	t	0.48	0.4
Copper (LME 3mth Evening)	9960	t	101	1.0
Nickel	19103	t	-58	-0.3
Aluminium	2569	t	6	0.2
Lead	2210	t	-0.7	-0.0
Zinc	2845	t	-4	-0.1
Tin	32426	t	-481	-1.5

\$A137M worth of cash and bullion on hand.

Turaco Gold (TCG)

Corporate presentation lodged post-trade Friday.

Impact Minerals (IPT)

50M IPT shares are due for release from escrow 4 May.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Antilles Gold	AAU	30 Apr
Avira Resources	AVW	29 Apr
Elixir Energy	EXR	29 Apr
First Lithium	FL1	30 Apr
Iron Road	IRD	30 Apr
Matsa Resources	MAT	29 Apr
Maximus Resources	MXR	29 Apr
RLF AgTech	RLF	30 Apr
Talisman Mining	TLM	30 Apr
West Cobar Metals	WC1	30 Apr

Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Ardea Resources	ARL	24 Apr
Clean TeQ Water	CNQ	19 Apr
HeraMED Ltd	HMD	5 Apr
Lithium Universe	LU7	29 Apr
Nexion Group	NNG	26 Apr
Scout Security	SCT	19 Apr
TTA Holdings	TTA	19 Apr

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
ACF	Today	2.85	100	3.95
GCI	Today	1.46	0	8.45
KKC	Today	1.67	0	7.93
PCI	Today	0.67	0	7.45
TCF	Today	3.5	0	8.27
MOT	Tomorrow	1.4	0	9.01
MXT	Tomorrow	1.49	0	8.87
DRA	Wed	11	0	0.00
NBI	Wed	1.22	0	9.84
ACQ	Thu	2.75	100	9.55
BOQ	Thu	17	100	6.74
WAR	Thu	2.25	100	1.78
WAT	Thu	7	100	1.93



Commodities Commentary

Oil – since overnight Friday trade, at least one oil refinery in Russia has suspended operations following attacks on two such facilities.

Prices were ultimately pushed higher during overnight Friday trade, this mostly attributed to a seemingly impending Israeli ground offensive in Rafah, Gaza, plus intensified Hezbollah-Israeli retaliatory activity.

Meanwhile, an article by the OPEC general secretary, published overnight Friday, promoted a focus on emissions reduction rather than commentary espousing an immediate drop in oil use and hence exploration and production.

Some overnight Friday price vacillations were put down to new US data which appeared to support the US treasury secretary's assertion the previous session that an initial US March quarter GDP reading hadn't been truly indicative of the nation's economic strength.

In addition, the \$US moved higher, containing oil and metals price increases.

Also overnight Friday, a weekly US petroleum drill rig report from Baker Hughes included five fewer operational oil rigs, pegging back the tally of oil rigs in action to 506.

Gold – prices swung overnight Friday, an early \$US25/oz push higher soundly contained by settlement.

This was attributed in part to commentary on US data releases, a move higher for the \$US and improved equities risk sentiment.

Among demand news, China's gold consumption was reported to have grown by 5.94% year-on-year during the March quarter. Gold production (including from some imported raw material) within China during the March quarter, was calculated 21.16% higher than for the March quarter 2023.

Gold trade sentiment throughout this week is expected to be largely influenced by the US Federal Reserve monetary policy meeting, from which outcomes will be known early Thursday (AEST). Judging from weekend commentary, speculation will continue through until the post-meeting statement.

Earnings reports from the likes of Amazon (overnight tomorrow) and Apple (overnight Thursday) also could move sentiment in general.

Base metals – since overnight Friday trade, China has released fresh economic figures that have undershot expectations.

China's January – March industrial profits, reported Saturday, represented a slowing for profit growth against the first two months of the year.

The industrial profits data covers companies achieving annual (main operations) revenue of at least 20 million yuan (~\$US2.76M).

During overnight Friday base metals trade, currency moves (the \$US at a 34-year high against the yen), economic data (including a US PCE update) and the wait for fresh economic figures for China, appeared to produce some caution.

Intra-session however, copper was pushed above \$US10,000/t for the first time in ~two years.

China is expected to publish official (NBS) April PMIs tomorrow.

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ADT	Mar Q
	BOE	Mar Q
	EMR	Mar Q
	GNX	Mar Q
	MP1	Update (webcast 10am)
	SFX	Mar Q
	SGP	Mar Q
Tomorrow	ALD	Mar Q
	COL	Mar Q
	CRN	Mar Q (tele 10am)
	IGO	Mar Q
	IPD	Mar Q (tele 11am)
	NIC	Mar Q (w/cast tele 11am)
	ORG	Mar Q
	SFR	Mar Q
	SYR	Mar Q (tele 11am)
	URW	AGM (Paris)
Wed	MGR	Mar Q
	WOW	Mar Q
Thu	BOC	AGM
	IRE	AGM
	NAB	Interim
	RIO	AGM (RIO Ltd)
	SQ2	Mar Q (o/night Thu 2 May in US)
	WES	Investor day
Fri	JRV	AGM
	MQG	Full year
	TPG	AGM
6 May	WBC	Interim
7 May	ANZ	Interim

**Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6538	0.0001	0.02
EUR – USD	1.0705	0.0002	0.02

US Data Tonight

Dallas Fed manufacturing	Apr
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Other Overseas Data Today and Tonight

Singapore	Producer prices	Mar
Singapore	Import & export prices	Mar
Germany	CPI inflation (initial)	Apr
Euro zone	Economic confidence	Apr

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