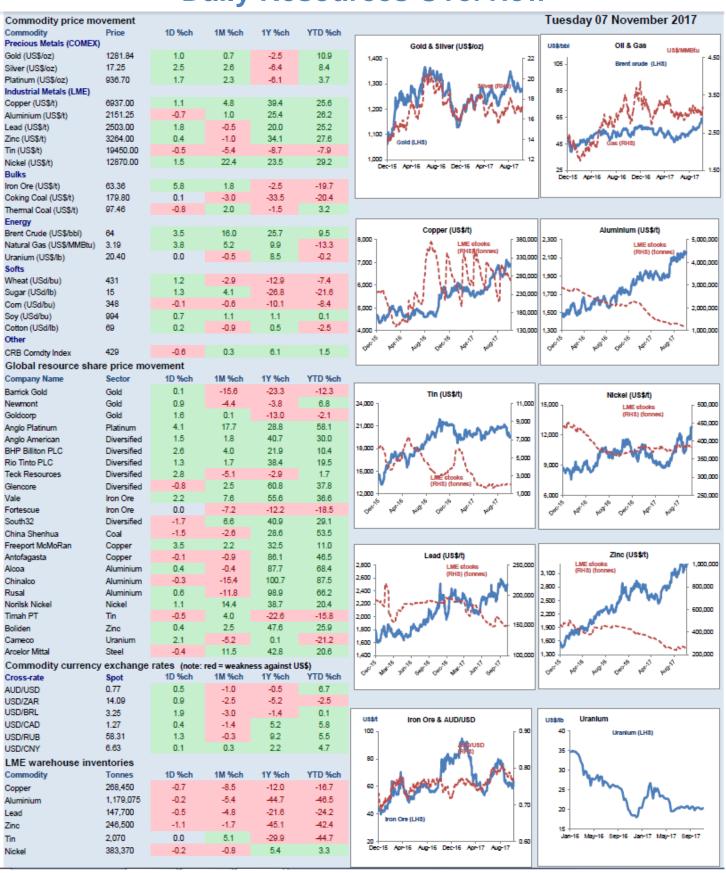
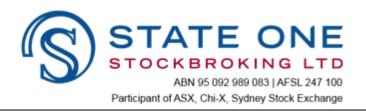


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Daily Resources Overview





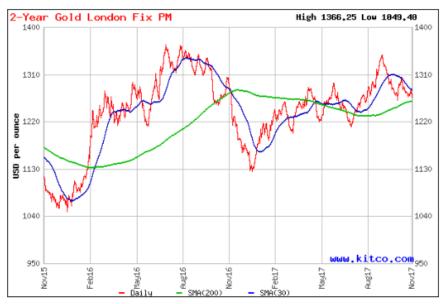
PRECIOUS METALS COMMENTARY

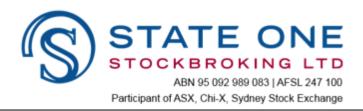
Gold and **silver prices** were ending the U.S. day session with good gains Monday. The metals were supported by a combination of safe-haven demand and surging crude oil prices that have hit a two-year high. The marketplace is just a bit unnerved to start the trading week, as a <u>major shake-up occurred in Saudi Arabia's ruling system over the weekend</u>. Saudi princes and businessmen were arrested to weed out corruption, according to the Saudi Kingdom. The news helped to lift gold and silver, also gave oil prices a boost.

Nymex and Brent **crude oil** futures prices rallied sharply today and hit two-year highs. The rally in the oil market, arguably the leader of the raw commodity sector, is an underlying bullish element for the metals markets. If oil prices continue to rally, many raw commodity markets, including the precious metals, will be pulled along for the ride. However, the sledding will get much tougher for the oil market bulls as WTI prices push toward \$60.00 a barrel.

The other key "outside market" on Monday saw the **U.S. dollar index** weaker. The greenback bulls have the slight overall near-term technical advantage. The U.S. currency has been boosted recently on the prospects of the U.S. government passing tax-cuts legislation that would give a boost to businesses and the economy. If the U.S. dollar continues to appreciate it will be a drag on the precious metals markets. Reason: Most metals on the world markets are priced in U.S. dollars. A rising dollar makes those metals more expensive to purchase in non-U.S. currency. Source: Kitco

2 Year Gold London Fix PM Daily with 30 and 200-day moving averages





AUSTRALIA MARKET COMMENTARY

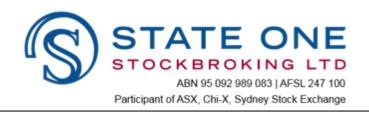
Gloom over Westpac's disappointing earnings spread to the rest of the banking sector on Monday, pulling the index marginally lower as it retreated from the key 6000 level it came close to breaching last week. The S&P/ASX 200 index eased 6 points to 5953, while the All Ordinaries index lost 3 points to 6027. The Australian market is nearing the psychologically significant 6000 level as other markets hit record highs.

Gains in the US at the end of last week had set the Australian market up for a firmer start on Monday but that was before Westpac announced a profit figure that just missed analyst expectations. The news sent its shares down 2.2 per cent, while CBA and ANZ shares fell 0.5 per cent, while NAB lost 0.7 per cent.

Orica was another earnings-related loser, dropping 9.8 per cent after revealing that higher gas and ammonia prices cost it an extra \$59 million in 2017, alongside slightly lower revenues and underlying profits than last year. Analysts also detected the potential for an earnings downgrade following management comments.



Westpac Daily Chart (Source: Thomson Reuters)



US MARKET COMMENTARY

Geopolitical risk was once again back on investors' radar, with gold and US government bonds in demand on Monday after Saudi Arabia's leadership moved over the weekend to consolidate power around its young crown prince. Uncertainty over the geopolitical fallout from the kingdom's arrests of dozens of princes and business tycoons pushed yields on the benchmark 10-year Treasury down nearly 3 basis points to 2.3127 per cent, its lowest level in over two weeks. Yield moves inversely to price.

Walt Disney has held talks with Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox about acquiring most of the company — including its stake in Sky — in a potentially controversial combination that would reshape the media landscape if it leads to a deal, people briefed on the talks said. The talks, which were first reported by CNBC, are currently not active, one person who was involved in the negotiations said.

JCPenney shares were poised for their best day since February 2016 after the department store chain's announcement late on Friday that it was realigning its merchandising operations. JCPenney shares jumped 10.1 per cent to \$2.61 on Monday. That positioned them for their best day in more than 20 months after the company said that the position of chief merchant has been eliminated and that current merchandising chief John Tighe, who was promoted to the role in 2015, will be leaving the company to "pursue other opportunities".

Oil surged above \$64 a barrel to the highest level in two years on Monday after Saudi Arabia's crackdown on dozens of princes and business tycoons raised concerns about stability and policymaking in the world's largest crude exporter. The sharp move in Brent crude, the international benchmark, came shortly after Saudi officials warned that they had found "widespread corruption" among the suspects detained in the weekend sweep and threatened to freeze assets of those being held.

At mid-afternoon in New York, the S&P 500 was up 0.1 per cent at 2,591, after touching an all-time intraday peak of 2,592.32. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite, up 0.3 per cent, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average, 0.1 per cent higher, also hit record peaks.

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