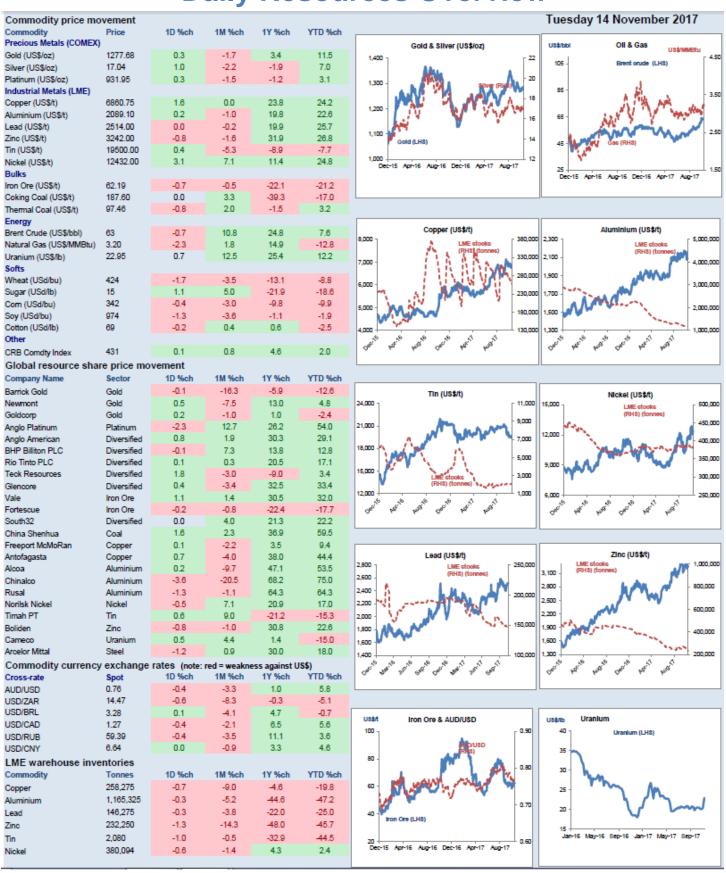
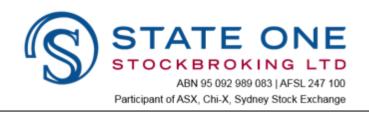


ABN 95 092 989 083 | AFSL 247 100 Participant of ASX, Chi-X, Sydney Stock Exchange Level 14 172 St Georges Terrace PERTH WA 6000 PO Box 7625 CLOISTERS SQUARE WA 6850 P: +61 8 9288 3388 Suite 606, Level 6 83 York Street SYDNEY NSW 2000 PO Box R1931 ROYAL EXCHANGE NSW 1225 P: +61 2 9024 9100

Daily Resources Overview





PRECIOUS METALS COMMENTARY

Gold prices ended the U.S. day session modestly higher Monday, on a bounce after a rapid decline in late-morning action last Friday. **December Comex gold** was last up \$4.80 an ounce at \$1,279.00. **December Comex silver** was up \$0.174 at \$17.045 an ounce.

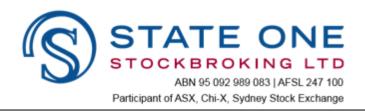
Last Friday's quick drop in gold prices began in the futures market, when a likely very large sell order hit hard a lackadaisical trading affair up to that point. Some blamed a quick move higher in the U.S. dollar index Friday morning as the culprit for the selling pressure in gold. Such inexplicable, rapid price moves are not common in the markets, but they seem to occur more often in gold than in most other markets, and are usually touched off by big moves in the futures markets.

Market traders this week are worried about progress bogging down on the U.S. tax-reform legislation working its way through Congress. That could pressure the world stock markets and in turn be a bullish development for safe-haven gold. Also, lower closes in the U.S. stock indexes last Friday produced some technical damage, to begin to suggest near-term market tops are in place. Bearish key reversals down on the daily bar charts were confirmed in the S&P and Nasdaq stock index futures.

Reports said the value of the cryptocurrency bitcoin has plunged by around 25% in just a few days' time. This development is likely lending some support to the safe-haven gold market. The key outside markets on Monday saw **U.S. dollar index** modestly higher. The greenback bulls have the slight overall near-term technical advantage. Meantime, **Nymex crude oil** futures prices traded near steady and are trading just below \$57.00 a barrel. It is still my bias that Nymex crude won't be able to sustain prices at or above \$60.00 a barrel. Source: Kitco





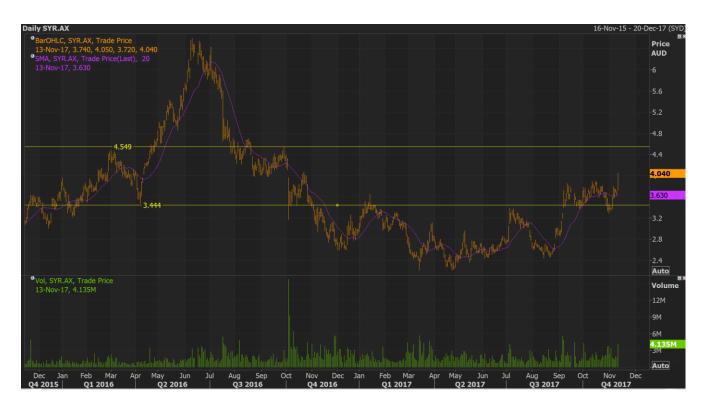


AUSTRALIA MARKET COMMENTARY

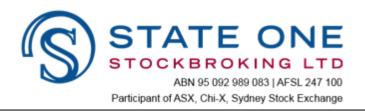
Australian shares are poised to slide at the open. The local currency has slipped closer to the US76¢ mark. Shell sold its remaining stake in Woodside. ASX futures were down 17 points. The benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index suffered a mild loss of 8 points, while the broader All Ordinaries index fell 7 points to 6097. The mood in overseas markets was gloomy going into Monday's ASX open after US, European and British shares capped a poor week.

Mining was the best performing corner of the ASX on Monday. BHP added 0.8 per cent and Rio Tinto 1.1 per cent, while Fortescue lost 0.2 per cent and South32 was unchanged. Graphite hopeful Syrah Resources the session's best among the top 200 names as it jumped 10 per cent following a presentation at an investment conference in Sydney. Syrah's is the most shorted stock on the ASX, according to ASIC data.

McGrath Real Estate shareholders received a boost on Monday on speculation that former CEO, founder and major shareholder John McGrath was planning with other major holders to take the company private. McGrath added 3.9 per cent to 54¢, still well shy of its listing price of \$2.10.



Syrah Daily Chart (Source: Thomson Reuters)



US MARKET COMMENTARY

In case investors needed another reminder: America's biggest technology stocks have been the crucial ingredient in powering Wall Street's gains this year. Earnings season in America is drawing to a close, and it is looking fairly solid overall. Profits for the benchmark S&P 500 index climbed 7 per cent year on year in the third quarter, according to Goldman Sachs data reviewing results from the 91 per cent of constituents that have reported so far. The rate of growth is 2 percentage points better than expected.

Outside of the energy sector, which is still recovering from the oil collapse in 2014, the technology sector has posted the best performance by far. Tech sector earnings grew 22 per cent, double the rate that analysts forecast. The industry as a whole has accounted for 90 per cent of the S&P 500 earnings beat rate. Perhaps more impressive, though, is that the four largest tech groups — Apple, Alphabet, Microsoft and Facebook — have driven half of the S&P 500 beat.



APPLE Daily Chart (Source: Thomson Reuters)

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Alan Hill **Executive Chairman** Phone: +61 8 9288 3388 ahill@stateone.com.au

Morris Levitzke **Equities Advisor** Phone: +61 8 9288 3315 mlevitzke@stateone.com.au

Dawn Chia Business Development Manager Phone: +61 8 9288 3336 Dawn.Chia@stateone.com.au

Ric Hevdon Equities & Derivatives Advisor Phone: +61 8 9288 3307 rhevdon@stateone.com.au

Graeme Johnson Equities & Derivatives Advisor Phone: +61 8 9288 3316 giohnson@stateone.com.au

David Zhang Equities Advisor Phone: +61 2 9024 9130 dzhang@stateone.com.au Mark Sullivan Institutional Dealer Phone: +61 2 9024 9134 msullivan@stateone.com.au

Yitz Barber **Equities Advisor** Phone: +61 2 9024 9107 vbarber@stateone.com.au

David Brennan Senior Investment Analyst Phone: +61 2 9024 9142 dbrennan@stateone.com.au Thomas Tan **Equities Advisor** Phone: +61 2 9024 9131 ttan@stateone.com.au

Tammie Wong **Equities Advisor** Phone: +61 2 9024 9133 twona@stateone.com.au

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