

## Markets

<b>SFE 200 Futures</b> (9.30am AEDT)	7470	5	0.1
<b>NZX 50</b>	11803	-55	-0.5
<b>DJIA Futures</b>	37792	0	0.0
<b>S&amp;P 500 Futures</b>	4817	0	0.0
<b>NASDAQ Futures</b>	16969	0	0.0

## Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences a new week's trade with key domestic economic data due late morning, new data in hand from China, Middle East conflict geopolitical tensions broadening to encompass US allies, and the US observing a public holiday.

US equities markets again settled mixed and barely – to – slightly changed overnight Friday.

Since overnight Friday trade, **Taiwan's** presidential and parliamentary elections have resulted in a win for the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's president-elect, but not parliamentary control for the party.

The **US** administration offered congratulations but also reiterated the US did not support any formal declaration of independence from China.

**Hezbollah** yesterday declared the **Red Sea** a conflict zone, impacting the security of all shipping, citing US and UK responses to Houthi activity.

**Turkey** executed multiple air strikes against Kurdish militant targets in northern **Iraq** and **Syria**.

**Iraq** claimed three military personnel were killed overnight by **Islamic State** activity in western Iraq.

**Locally** today, Australia's foreign minister Penny Wong travels to the Middle East for a planned week-long visit.

Also today, ANZ releases December **job advertisements** at **11.30am** AEDT.

**Regionally**, Friday evening, **China** reported 1170B yuan worth of **new lending** for December against consensus for 1400B following November's 1090B.

Today, **Japan** reports November machine tool orders post-ASX trade.

In overnight Friday **commodities** trade, **oil** rose further, this time by ~1.0%.

US **gold** (Comex) futures swung greater than 1.5% higher, settling beyond \$US2050/oz.

**Iron ore** (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) dropped below \$US137.5/t. Friday, China reported an ~11% year-on-year increase for December iron ore imports and 6.6% rise for overall 2023 iron ore imports. December iron ore imports fell 1.8% for the month, to 100.86Mt.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** settled slightly lower following further intra-session volatility. **Nickel** posted a moderate decline.

**Aluminium** turned ~0.7% lower.

**\* Lithium & uranium listing – 1pm AEDT – 188 \***

## Today's Stock Watch

### Super Retail Group (SUL)

Anticipating \$2.02B 1H FY24 revenue and \$200M - \$203M pre-tax profit.

Anticipating a \$5M loyalty program provision, and \$8M for the full year.

Overall sales grew 3% year-on-year and like-for-like sales by 1%.

Breakdown figures lodged this morning.

Nil bank debt.

Planning to lodge interim results 22 February.

### Qube Holdings (QUB)

QUB has appointed former Incitec Pivot (ASX: IPL) CEO and MD James Fazzino as a non-executive director.

### Biome Australia (BIO)

BIO's Activated Probiotics range is on sale in the UK and Ireland.

## Resources

### MetalsTech Ltd (MTC)

Non-binding offer in hand from Trans Metal Fund to acquire MTC subsidiary Ortac Resources for an initial \$US36M cash followed by contingent \$US20M and \$US81M payments.

Ortac holds the Sturec gold project, Slovakia.

### Alpha HPA (A4N)

A4N has appointed Australian Aluminium Council CEO Marghanita Johnson as an independent, non-executive director.

### Pilbara Minerals (PLS)

Changes to the WA Pilgangoora project off-take agreement with Ganfeng Lithium Group lodged this morning.

Essentially, Ganfeng will take additional spodumene concentrate over 2024 – 2026 than initially planned.

### Southern Cross Gold (SXG)

Additional Victoria Sunday Creek project Apollo Deep drilling results, including several significant-width and/or high-grade assays, lodged this morning.

Four further vein sets have been identified.

### Alkane Resources (ALK)

Produced 13,182oz of gold during the December quarter, with a \$A2200/oz AISC.

Sold 14,507oz at \$A2926/oz for \$A42.4M revenue.

\$A73.4M cash, bullion and listed investments.



The \$A fell to ~US66.85c after trading at ~US66.95c - ~US67.10c early Friday evening.

### Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
<b>Dow Jones</b>	37593	-118	-0.3
<b>S&amp;P 500</b>	4784	4	0.1
<b>NASDAQ</b>	14973	3	0.0
<b>FTSE 100</b>	7625	48	0.6
<b>DAX 30</b>	16705	158	1.0
<b>Shanghai Composite</b>	2882	-5	-0.2

### Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and UK equities markets sentiment proved positive overnight Friday, better-than-expected UK economic growth supporting some of the uplift.

US equities sentiment proved weak however, key indices forfeiting most early gains on some mixed earnings reports, inflation and hence interest rate considerations, and geopolitical disquiet.

In geopolitical developments, the US and UK reported attacking multiple Houthi targets in Yemen.

The US president asserted the attacks in Yemen were a response to attacks against US personnel in the Red Sea region and also due to impediments on 'the free flow of international commerce'.

For their part, the Houthis announced UK and US interests as legitimate targets.

Australia confirmed it had assisted, with UK and US Yemen attacks, from within 'operational headquarters'. Bahrain, Canada and the Netherlands were also listed as providing support.

In the meantime the UK's PM travelled to Kyiv and announced 2024-25 military aid support, tallying £2.5B, for **Ukraine**.

Earlier Friday, **China** released a batch of December **economic data**, including international **trade** figures, inflation growth and producer prices.

Inflation rose 0.1% for the month against consensus for a 0.2% climb following 0.5% November **deflation**.

On an annualised basis, the December CPI reading represented 0.2% deflation against consensus for 0.4% deflation following November's 0.5% year-on-year deflation.

December producer prices fell 2.7% year-on-year following a 3.0% November decrease.

China's December international trade figures included a better-than-forecast year-on-year increase for exports but imports undershot expectations.

Overall imports for 2023 were estimated 5.5% lower than for 2022, at \$US2.56 trillion.

Notably, China's 2023 semiconductor (integrated circuits) imports were reported 10.8% lower for the year, by volume, and 15.4% by volume against 2022, representing 479.5B integrated circuits (ICs) worth a total \$US349.4B.

In comparison the value of China's 2023 crude oil imports fell by 7.7% to \$US337.5B.

## Pre-Open Announcements

### Avita Medical (AVH)

San Francisco conference presentation lodged post-ASX trade Friday.

AVH had been scheduled to present overnight Thursday (AEDT).

AVH traded as high as \$4.69 Friday before settling at \$4.53.

AVH had closed out the previous week at \$3.84.

### Future Generation Global (FGG)

The value of the FGG portfolio appreciated 1.9% in December and 16.7% for January through December.

Allocations lodged post-trade Friday.

### Fat Prophets Global Contrarian Fund (FPC)

Portfolio changes and 2024 market(s) outlook lodged post-trade Friday, together with December NTA change.

### Hutchison Telecommunications (Australia) (HTA)

HTA has appointed CK Hutchison Holdings general counsel, and head of mergers and acquisitions Steven Allen as a director.

## Resources

### Infini Resources (\* I88)

**Lithium- and uranium-**focused explorer scheduled to list on the ASX **1pm** AEDT, following a \$5.5M IPO at 20c per share. ~35.4M quoted shares.

Robert Martin non-executive chair; David Pevcic executive director.

Targeting eight exploration projects in Western Australia and Canada.

Presentation lodged Friday.

### Argosy Minerals (\* AGY)

The overall resource for AGY's Rincon lithium project in Argentina has grown to 686,875t of Li<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>.

The indicated resource is estimated at 606,313t.

Additional details lodged this morning.

Details lodged this morning.

### Vulcan Energy Resources (\* VUL)

VUL has appointed former Fortescue Future Industries (ASX: FMG) CFO and head of commercial Felicity Gooding as CFO.

VUL has settled lower each session for the calendar year to date, closing at \$2.16 Friday.

### Helix Resources (\* HLX)

HLX is declaring a new copper find, with the lodgement of NSW Bijoux prospect RC drilling results this morning.

### Armada Metals (AMM)

Heralding nickel and copper intersections, including some near-surface, from diamond drilling within the Bend nickel project, Zimbabwe.

In addition, AMM says the drilling has indicated platinum and



Friday evening, China reported December **new lending** that undershot expectations but which exceeded November's tally.

In other overnight Friday economic **data** releases, **US** December producer prices came in 0.1% lower for the month, the same revised rate as recorded for November.

Forecasters had anticipated a 0.1% increase.

Against December 2022, prices were up 1.0% against November's annualised 0.8%.

In the **UK**, the November GDP reading represented 0.3% growth for the month against consensus for 0.2% following October's 0.3% pull back.

Against November 2022, GDP was up 0.2%, as anticipated, following a 0.1% year-on-year decrease for October.

Average GDP for the three months to 30 November came in as a 0.2% decline, the same as for the three months to the end of October.

The NIESR GDP tracker indicated a flat result for December.

November international goods trade resulted in a £14.19B deficit from a £15.94B shortfall for October. Forecasters had anticipated a £15.7B new deficit.

November industrial production rose 0.3% for the month, on par with consensus, following a 1.3% October drop.

Against November 2022, output was down 0.1% following October's 0.5% annualised fall.

Also overnight Friday, **Russia** reported 0.7% December inflation growth for the month, and 7.4% year-on-year.

This, against 1.1% and 75% respectively for November, and 0.9% and 7.6% forecasts for December.

Earlier, a 30-year government bond auction conducted in Japan resulted in a 1.629% yield from 1.623%.

**Tonight**, Germany is expected to report 2023 GDP.

In overnight Friday and weekend corporate news, **BlackRock** advised of an ~\$12.5B cash and scrip deal to purchase Global Infrastructure Partners.

**Citigroup** reported a \$US1.8B December quarter loss and plans to cut 20,000 jobs.

As with Citigroup, **Bank of America's** December quarter headline results was impacted by charges, in this case tallying \$US3.7B.

**JPMorgan Chase's** December quarter net profit fell 15%, impacted by bank US rescues, but the group nonetheless recorded a record profit for 2023, buoyed by higher interest rates.

Meanwhile **Wells Fargo** warned of a possible 7% - 9% drop in net interest income for 2024.

Supply chain disruptions were cited by **Tesla** in revealing a temporary halt on production in Germany.

**US markets will remain closed tonight due to a public holiday.**

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
<b>Gold</b> (COMEX 100 Feb)	2051.6	oz	32.4	1.6
<b>Silver</b> (COMEX 5000 Mar)	23.33	oz	0.62	2.7
<b>Platinum</b> (NYMEX Apr)	921	oz	2	0.2
<b>WTI Crude</b> (NYMEX Feb)	72.68	bbl	0.65	0.9

palladium potential.

Assays lodged pre-trade.

### Midas Minerals (MM1)

MM1 has decided not to exercise, or extend, an option to acquire 100% of the WA Weebo gold project.

The decision was based on exploration results involving drilling plus geochemical and geophysical studies.

### Buxton Resources (BUX)

Non-executive BUX director, and former BUX CEO and MD, Eamon Buxton has resigned from the BUX board.

### Astron Corporation (ATR)

ATR executive director and Astron Titanium (Yingkou) CEO Madame Kang Rong is stepping down from executive duties.

Mme Rong will remain with ATR as an ATR non-executive director and as Astron Titanium (Yingkou) chair.

ATR MD Tiger Brown will oversee ATR operations in China on an interim basis.

## Energy

### White Cliff Minerals (\* WCN)

Resuming from a trading halt with an IOCGU project acquisition in Canada.

Details lodged this morning.

WCN last traded at 1c.

### ENRG Elements (EEL)

In response to an ASX price query, EEL has pointed out uranium prices (as quoted from *TradeTech*) rose by \$US6/lb to \$US100/lb overnight Thursday.

EEL settled at 1c Friday, up 42.86% for the session on a notable 53.75M share turnover.

EEL closed out the previous week at 0.7c, and 2023 at 0.6c.

### Gladiator Resources (GLA)

GLA settled at 3.3c Friday after closing out the previous week at 1.9c.

Post-trade Friday, GLA lodged a response to an ASX query regarding the timing of disclosure of uranium assays against the timing of their receipt.

GLA nominated laboratory delays, including due to the recent holiday season, for the Wednesday pre-trade release of updated assays from results initially lodged Wednesday 27 December.

GLA had added 42.1% Monday last week, 7.41% Tuesday, 6.9% Wednesday (on a 21.37M share turnover) and 13.79% Friday.

Trading Halts		
Company	Code	Resuming
Laramide Resources	LAM	15 Jan
Surefire Resources	SRN	15 Jan



<b>Brent Crude</b> (ICE EUR Mar)	78.29	bbbl	0.88	1.1
<b>Iron Ore</b> (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	137.22	t	-1.65	-1.2
<b>Copper</b> (LME 3mth Evening)	8343	t	-16	-0.2
<b>Nickel</b>	16358	t	-82	-0.5
<b>Aluminium</b>	2222	t	-16	-0.7
<b>Lead</b>	2093	t	-5	-0.2
<b>Zinc</b>	2516	t	11	0.4
<b>Tin</b>	24648	t	74	0.3

### Commodities Commentary

**Oil** – overnight Friday trade in part reacted to the US and UK announcement of an offensive on Houthi positions in Yemen.

Security of supply was again in focus but a stronger \$US constrained gains.

Overnight Friday considerations also included China's December trade figures, reported earlier Friday.

China's 2023 crude imports were reported 11% higher than for 2022, at a record 11.28MMbbl/d (563.99Mt).

December crude imports rose to 11.39MMbbl/d (48.36t) from 10.33MMbbl/d for November.

Also overnight Friday, the number of operational oil rigs in the US was reported at 499 from 501 the previous week, according to a weekly US petroleum drill rig report from Baker Hughes.

**Gold** – prices were pushed higher overnight Friday in part due to renewed safe-haven demand.

US bond yields fell beneath 4.00%, also on demand. The \$US index rose, constraining gold gains.

This week's expected trade influences include UK CPI and China GDP updates, together with geopolitical developments.

**Base metals** – overnight Friday base metals trade considerations included a batch of new data out of China, a stronger \$US, and Middle East developments.

China's December **international trade** statistics, reported Friday, included a 2.3% year-on-year increase in exports, against consensus for a 1.7% rise following November's 0.5% increase.

Imports rose by 0.2% on an annualised basis, but forecasters had anticipated a 0.3% turnaround following a 0.6% November fall.

2023 copper ore and concentrate imports came in at 27.54Mt, up 9.1% against 2022. 2023 copper (unwrought and products) imports were calculated 6.3% lower than for 2022, at 5.5Mt.

Overall December copper imports were calculated 16.6% lower for the month, and 10.64% lower for the year at 459,337.6t.

Aluminium and aluminium products exports tallied 490,499.8t, from 489,594.6t for November.

China also reported December **producer prices** and **CPI** Friday. On an annualised basis, China's December CPI represented a second consecutive **deflation** reading, -0.3% from -0.5%, and against consensus for -0.4%.

Producer prices were estimated 2.7% lower year-on-year from a 3.0% annualised November fall.

A **GDP** reading for China is keenly anticipated **mid-week**.

### Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Galena Mining	G1A	11 Jan
Gathid Ltd	GTH	4 Jan
Icon Energy	ICN	9 Jan

### Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
5GN	24 Jan	2	0	0.00

### Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
<b>Today</b>	<b>ALK</b>	Dec Q
<b>Thur</b>	RIO	Dec Q
<b>22 Jan</b>	DJW LYC	Interim Dec Q (w/cast 10am)
<b>24 Jan</b>	AFI	Interim (webinar 3.30pm)
<b>30 Jan</b>	ALX MP1 WOA	Dec Q Dec Q (w/cast 10.30am) Dec Q
<b>31 Jan</b>	PAC PBH SLR	FUM 31 Dec Dec Q (w/cast tele 10.30am) Dec Q (tele 11am)

**Exchange Rates**

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
<b>AUD – USD</b>	0.6687	-0.0016	<b>-0.24</b>
<b>EUR – USD</b>	1.0950	-0.0001	<b>-0.01</b>

**Australian Data Today**

ANZ	Job advertisements	Dec
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**Overseas Data Today & Tonight**

<b>Japan</b>	Machine tool orders	Nov
<b>UK</b>	Rightmove house prices	Jan
<b>Germany</b>	GDP	2023
Germany	Wholesale prices	Dec
<b>Euro zone</b>	International trade	Nov
Euro zone	Industrial production	Nov

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