

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7335	46	0.6
NZX 50	13097	48	0.4
DJIA Futures	34833	49	0.1
S&P 500 Futures	4436	7	0.2
NASDAQ Futures	15063	26	0.2

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens mid-October Friday trade with a lending report due out of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) late-morning, ahead of a batch of key data releases out of the US tonight, and following positive overnight international equities sentiment.

Locally today, **RBA** publishes its September **business lending** and holdings of government securities and semis reports at 11.30am AEDT.

At the same time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases a **business activity turnover** indicator report for August.

HVN trades **ex-dividend** today. *Please see p4 for a detailed ex-dividends list.*

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** turned higher.

US **gold** futures settled higher for a third consecutive session, but just slightly so.

Iron ore (China port CFR, 62% fines) seesawed higher, approaching \$US126.0/t.

No LME price updates were available from IRESS in time for publication.

LME (3mth evening) **copper** was reported to have risen another 2%, however. **Nickel** reportedly turned to settle more than 1.5% higher. **Aluminium** was reported to have jumped more than 3%.

Comex copper added 2.6% to close at \$US4.632/lb, not seen in four months.

The **\$A** effectively trod water after trading at US74.15c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	34913	535	1.6
S&P 500	4438	74	1.7
NASDAQ	14823	252	1.7
FTSE 100	7208	66	0.9
DAX 30	15463	213	1.4
Shanghai Comp	3558	-3	-0.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European, UK and US equities markets opened decisively higher overnight, sentiment never looking threatened such that

Today's Stock Watch
Qantas Airways (QAN)

Selling 13.8ha of Mascot, Sydney land for a gross \$802M.

Funds are earmarked for debt reduction.

Crown Resorts (CWN)

The final report of the Victorian Royal Commission regarding Crown Melbourne's suitability to hold a casino licence is due to be handed to the governor of Victoria today.

The report and a response from the Government of Victoria will be released by month's end.

CWN traded as high as \$9.49 yesterday before settling at \$9.43, 3.74% higher for the session. CWN also closed higher Wednesday, adding 2.83%. ~48.4M shares changed hands across Wednesday's and yesterday's trade.

Resources
Rio Tinto (RIO)

Adjusting some guidance, in part due to Covid-19 management impacts. RIO anticipates shipping 320Mt – 325Mt of WA Pilbara iron ore for 2021, against the previously anticipated 325Mt – 340Mt.

Produced 83.3Mt of WA Pilbara iron ore, and shipped 83.4Mt, during the September quarter, respectively 4% less and 2% more than for the September quarter 2020, but 9% and 10% greater than for the June quarter 2021.

Against January – September 2020, production is down 5% and shipping down 2%.

IOC pellets and concentrate are down 6% for the January – September period, at 7.2Mt.

Aluminium production fell 5% for the quarter but is up 1% for January – September, at 2.39Mt.

Mined copper rose 8% for the quarter, to 125,200t, but is down 9% for the nine months, at 361,200t.

Essential Metals (ESS)

Heralding WA Pioneer Dome lithium project Cade deposit RC drilling results. Assays lodged pre-trade.

Diamond drilling planned to commence in November.

BCI Minerals (BCI)

Total \$740M conditional finance approvals in hand in support of WA Pilbara Mardie salt and potash project development.

Details lodged pre-trade.

BHP Group (BHP)

BHP Plc AGM speeches and presentation lodged post-trade yesterday. The Plc AGM was hosted overnight.

The BHP Ltd AGM is scheduled for 11 November.

September quarter operational statistics anticipated Tuesday next week (19 October).



key indices settled at or near session highs.

Some economic indicators and corporate earnings reports pleased, but energy supply and sector prices, and varying inflation outlooks continued in focus.

In addition, Christmas retail trade continued to appear threatened with ongoing warnings of shipping, port operations, container shortage and road transport log-jams.

Earlier yesterday, China reported a record 10.7% year-on-year rise for September producer prices, following a 9.5% August increase.

The September CPI was calculated just 0.7% higher year-on-year, however, with no change for the month.

In the UK, a small energy supplier stopped trading, the third for the week and the 12th since September, due to rising wholesale energy prices.

Among overnight **data** releases, **US** September producer prices were calculated 0.5% higher for the month, in line with expectations after a 0.7% August rise.

Against September 2020, prices were up 8.6%.

Weekly new unemployment claims rose by 293,000 against expectations for 315,000 following the previous week's 329,000.

Tonight in the US, September retail sales, import and export prices, August business inventories, the University of Michigan's initial October national consumer sentiment reading and the October New York Empire State manufacturing index are due.

Elsewhere, the euro zone reports August trade figures.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today or tonight include: Charles Schwab, Goldman Sachs, Honeywell, Prologis and Reliance Industries.

In overnight corporate news, **Bank of America**, **Citigroup** and **Morgan Stanley**, **UnitedHealth** and **Walgreens Boots Alliance** each reported better-than-anticipated quarterly result, UnitedHealth also raising an adjusted full year profit forecast.

Moderna Covid-19 booster shots were in the meantime recommended by US FDA advisers for those deemed high risk of severe illness or at increased risk of workplace exposure, and for people aged over 65.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$/US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1797.9	oz	3.2	0.2
Silver (NY) (Dec)	23.477	oz	0.31	1.3
Gold (LON)	1786	oz		
Platinum	1052	oz	37	3.7
WTI Crude (NYMEX Nov)	81.31	bbbl	0.87	1.1
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Dec)	84.00	bbbl	0.82	1.0
Iron Ore (Qingdao) (CHN;62% <i>f</i>)	125.91	t	1.74	1.4
Iron Ore (Nymex)	122.83	t	0.54	0.4
Copper (LME 3mth Evening, 13 Oct)	9644	t		
Nickel	18917	t		
Aluminium	3065	t		
Lead	2243	t		
Zinc	3400	t		
Tin	36361	t		

Pre-Open Announcements

Virtus Health (* VRT) / Healius Ltd (* HLS)

VRT's planned acquisition of the Adora fertility business and three day hospitals from HLS was scheduled to complete today.

The Federal Court has ordered a delay however, due to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) applying for an order to prevent completion.

The court plans to hear the ACCC application for the interlocutory injunction Tuesday next week (19 October).

Wesfarmers Ltd (WES)

Planning to issue €600M worth of sustainability-linked bonds. Settlement anticipated 21 October.

Additional details lodged this morning.

Pendal Group (PDL)

\$139.2B FUM at 30 September.

Planning to release full year results 5 November.

Kathmandu Holdings (KMD)

KMD has appointed professional director Abigail Foote as a director, effective today.

Vista Group International (VGL)

Movio CEO and co-founder Will Palmer plans to step down from his VGL role at the end of the year.

ikeGPS Group (IKE)

Chairman Rick Christie plans to step down from this role at the end of October.

IKE non-executive deputy chair Alex Knowles has been appointed to take over from Mr Christie.

Mr Christie will remain with IKE as an independent director until March 2022.

Quickstep Holdings (QHL)

Proposing a one-for-10 share consolidation for which shareholder approval will be sought at the 18 November AGM.

QHL added 17.39% yesterday, settling at 5.4%.

12.26M shares were traded across 238 transactions.

Nuheara Ltd (NUH)

~19% vote received against the company's remuneration report at yesterday's AGM.

NUH traded as low as 2.25c yesterday before closing at 2.5c, down 7.41% for the session.

Clime Capital (CAM)

Proposing to restructure convertible redeemable notes due to mature 30 November.

CAM will seek noteholder approval for any determinations.

Resources

West African Resources (* WAF)

Produced 81,960oz of Burkina Faso Sanbrado gold at a

Commodities Commentary

Oil – the International Energy Agency’s (IEA) monthly oil market report, released overnight, contained a warning that rising oil demand in the face of a shortage of gas and coal for power generation, and higher broader energy sector prices, could push inflation sufficiently high to hinder international economic recovery from adverse Covid-19 impacts.

The IEA raised its 2021 oil demand forecast by 170,000bbl/d and the 2022 prediction by 210,000bbl/d to 99.6MMbbl/d.

The IEA also estimated OPEC+ nations December quarter production would undershoot demand for OPEC+ crude by 700,000bbl/d.

In the meantime, OPEC major Saudi Arabia rejected the push, including recently from the US administration, to remove production curbs at a faster pace than currently, citing success at protecting crude from the exaggerated gas and coal price swings.

WTI subsequently settled for the session at a seven-year high.

In addition, India was reported to have imported 4.14MMbbl/d of crude during September, 19% more than for September 2020, and from a wider variety of sources.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report from US government agency the EIA, also released overnight, included a 6.088MMbbl increase in crude stocks.

Petrol stocks fell by 1.958MMbbl. Petrol production was estimated to have risen by 239,000bbl/d however.

Net crude oil imports fell by 1.441MMbbl/d.

Overnight Wednesday post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute had published a report estimating a 5.213MMbbl build in crude stocks last week.

Tonight, a weekly US petroleum drill rig report is due.

Gold – prices continued higher overnight, Comex futures trading at four-week peaks, reaching \$US1801.9/oz intra-session.

Gains were mostly attributed to technicals and inflation commentary.

A batch of key data out of the US tonight could toy with late-week sentiment.

Base metals – China’s September producer prices, reported yesterday, rose 10.7% year-on-year, against forecasts for a 9.8% increase. Prices had risen 9.5% during August.

China also reported the September CPI, which was flat for the month, following as 0.1% August increase and expectations of the same for September.

Against September 2020, the CPI was up 0.7%.

Later yesterday afternoon, Japan finalised August industrial production at a 3.6% drop, from the initial estimate of a 3.2% fall. Against August 2020, output was up 8.8%.

China is scheduled to release additional economic indicators for September on **Monday**.

These will include fixed asset investment, industrial production and retail sales.

In the meantime, overnight, Chile confirmed an auction for five special operating licences to explore for, and produce a total 400,000t of, *lithium* over an initial seven years.

Zinc traded yet higher, for a sixth consecutive session.

The International Lead & Zinc Study Group has forecast a 217,000t

\$US690/oz AISC during the September quarter.

Sold 95,070oz of unhedged gold at \$US1789/oz.

Output represented a 29% increase on the June quarter.

\$US8M net cash; \$A130M cash on hand; \$A23M worth of unsettled gold bullion.

WAF holds 90% of the Sanbrado gold project.

Ora Banda Mining (OBM)

Conference presentation lodged post-trade yesterday.

OBM presents **12.45pm** AEDT today.

Hot Chili (HCH)

Proposing a one-for-50 share consolidation ahead of the company’s planned dual listing in Canada.

Shareholder approval will be sought 15 November.

NickelSearch Ltd (* NIS) / Medallion Metals (MM8)

Explorer NIS is scheduled to list on the ASX midday AEDT **Monday**, following a \$10M IPO at 20c per share.

58.59M quoted shares.

MM8 divested the RAV8 nickel project, near Ravensthorpe, southern WA, to Australasian Mining, now known as NickelSearch, for ~15.71M shares.

MM8 holds 15.10%.

Energy

Whitehaven Coal (* WHC)

WHC is planning to acquire a 1% private royalty over the Narrabri coal mine held by Anglo Pacific Group.

Consideration comprises \$US21.6M plus \$US5M following the conversion of EL 6243 into a mining lease.

In addition, WHC will pay Anglo Pacific six-monthly contingent payments based on average future realised Narrabri coal prices.

WHC has traded lower the past three sessions, settling 2.1% lower for yesterday’s session, back at the \$3.23 closing price recorded for Friday last week.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Digital Wine Ventures	DW8	15 Oct
Firefly Resources	FFR	15 Oct
Titomic Ltd	TTT	15 Oct
Viagold Rare Earth Resources Holdings	VIA	15 Oct
COG Financial Services	COG	18 Oct
Dart Mining	DTM	18 Oct
Heramed Ltd	HMD	18 Oct
Podium Minerals	POD	18 Oct
Swoop Holdings	SWP	18 Oct
Torque Metals	TOR	18 Oct
Vulcan Energy Resources	VUL	18 Oct
Orbital Corporation	OEC	19 Oct



surplus for 2021 reducing to 44,000t for 2022.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7418	0.0030	0.41
EUR – USD	1.1599	0.0008	0.07

Australian Data Today

ABS	Business turnover indicator	Aug
RBA	Business lending	Sep
RBA	Holdings of government securities & semis	Sep

US Data Tonight

Retail sales	Sep
Import & export prices	Sep
New York Empire State manufacturing index	Oct
Business inventories	Aug
Uni of Michigan consumer sentiment (preliminary)	Oct

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	Tertiary industry index (3.30pm AEDT)	Aug
Euro zone	Trade balance	Aug
Euro zone	New domestic vehicle registrations	Sep

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Suspensions *(selected)*

Company	Code	Since
4DS Memory	4DS	12 Oct
Bounty Oil & Gas	BUY	14 Oct
Kalina Power	KPO	12 Oct
Murray River Group	MRG	1 Oct
Stemcell United	SCU	29 Sep
Structural Monitoring Systems	SMN	8 Oct
Wiseway Group	WWG	1 Oct

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
HVN	Today	15	100	3.94
RHP	Today	13	100	0.60
BCN	Mon	0.13	100	6.06
CDM	Mon	3	100	3.64
KSC	Mon	3.5	100	3.43
PL8	Mon	0.5	100	3.82
TRA	Mon	4.74	85	5.27
WAA	Mon	3	100	5.44
WAM	Mon	7.75	100	6.49
WLE	Mon	3.5	100	4.41
KAT	Tue	0.5	100	1.89
SNC	Tue	2.75	100	4.86
CLT	Wed	0.3	0	0.00
KPG	Wed	1.16	100	1.42

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	RIO	Sep Q (8.30am)
	TWE	AGM
	WAF	Sep Q
Mon	TPW	AGM
Tue	BAP	AGM
	BHP	Sep Q
	BXB	AGM (4pm)
	COH	AGM
	CSL	R&D briefing (9am)
	DXS	AGM
	EBO	AGM
	FBU	AGM
	IEL	AGM
	NST	Sep Q (11am)
	SGP	AGM



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	TAH	AGM
Wed	ADH	AGM
	FLT	AGM
	KOV	AGM
	MYS	AGM
	ORG	AGM
	OZL	Sep Q
	SSM	AGM
	SUL	AGM
	TRS	AGM
Thu	APA	AGM
	AIA	AGM
	CLW	AGM
	CIM	Sep Q
	CWN	AGM
	HLS	AGM
	MFG	AGM
	ORA	AGM
	PPT	AGM
	STO	Sep Q
	TCL	AGM
	WES	AGM
	WPL	Sep Q
	Fri (22 Oct)	CWY
EQT		AGM
IAG		AGM
LYC		Sep Q (w/cast tele 11am)
MAH		AGM
MMS		AGM
SDF		AGM