

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	6567	29	0.4
NZX 50	12526	-31	-0.3
DJIA Futures	29443	52	0.2
S&P 500 Futures	3580	15	0.4
NASDAQ Futures	11987	90	0.8

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences Friday trade with US relief funding talks reported to be resuming and additional support funding under consideration in the European Union.

Meanwhile, G20 leaders are preparing to participate in the group's annual summit, to be hosted by Saudi Arabia in Riyadh this weekend.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is scheduled to publish *preliminary* October retail sales **11.30am** AEDT.

The ABS will also release a monthly Covid-19 business impacts report.

In addition today, **SOL** trades **ex-dividend**. Please see pp3-4 for a detailed list.

Regionally, the **People's Bank of China** is due to announce its November loan prime rates (for five-and one-year loans) 12.30pm AEDT.

Japan's October **CPI** is due 10.30am.

November manufacturing and services **PMIs** are anticipated 11.30am.

Japan's markets will be **closed Monday** due to a public holiday.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** seesawed lower, but turned higher again post-settlement.

US **gold** futures (Dec) declined further.

LME **copper** again settled little changed. **Nickel** turned to post a slight gain. **Aluminium** swung lower.

The **\$A** rose to ~US72.95c after falling to US72.70c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	29483	45	0.2
S&P 500	3582	14	0.4
NASDAQ	11905	103	0.9
FTSE 100	6334	-51	-0.8
DAX 30	13086	-116	-0.9
Shanghai Comp	3363	16	0.5

Australia – October preliminary retail sales – 11.30am AEDT
Today's Stock Watch
Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA)

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has reduced CBAs operational risk capital requirement from \$1B to \$500M, effective immediately. This boosts CET1 by 0.17.

Regis Healthcare (REG) / Washington H Soul Pattinson & Co (SOL)

SOL and Ashburn, an entity controlled by REG co-founder and ~27.2% REG shareholder Bryan Dorman, have presented a non-binding, indicative proposal to acquire 100% of REG for \$1.85 per share, pending due diligence.

REG has traded at \$1.215 - \$1.565 over the past five sessions.

SOL trades ex-dividend (35c) today.

Orica Ltd (ORI)

16.5c final dividend, against 33c, 5c-franked a year ago.

31.3% lower, \$168.3M full year NPAT. 4.5% lower, \$5.61B revenue.

Mesoblast Ltd (MSB)

A webcast teleconference was scheduled to commence 9am AEDT.

Exclusive licence and collaboration agreement secured with Novartis to progress Remestemcel-L development, manufacturing and commercialisation.

Novartis is contributing \$US50M upfront, including \$US25M as an MSB equity investment. Pending milestones, MSB could receive up to \$US505M.

In addition, MSB has reported a \$US24.5M September quarter net loss, against a \$US5.5M loss a year ago. \$US1.3M revenue, against \$US17.0M.

\$US108.1M cash on hand. Operational update also lodged.

Spark Infrastructure (SKI)

Anticipating a \$23M tax refund following an October Federal Court decision against which no appeal has been lodged.

SKI also estimates 49% SKI-held SA Power Networks is due tax refund plus interest totalling \$45M.

Redbubble Ltd (RBL)

RBL has appointed former Seek (ASX: SEK) Asia Pacific & Americas CEO Michael Ilczynski as CEO, effective 27 January 2021.

Mr Ilczynski will take over from interim CEO and RBL founder Martin Hosking. Mr Hosking will remain an RBL director.

Atlas Arteria (ALX)

Lockdown traffic flow in France and Germany is 'more resilient' than during lockdowns earlier this year.



Overseas Markets Commentary

Major European and US equities markets largely fell on opening overnight.

Sentiment across key US indices improved, however, after key US senators confirmed a willingness to resume Covid-19 relief funding talks.

Broadening Covid-19 resurgence, and mitigating the economic impacts, continued to concern, and international trade relations remained in focus.

Overnight, a **European** Council (virtual) meeting reportedly considered an additional €47.B worth of Covid-19 **relief funding**, over two years, proposed during European Parliament and EC discussions earlier in the week.

For its part, the International Monetary Fund (**IMF**) released a report prepared for the **G20** weekend summit, warning nations not to withdraw Covid-19 relief support amid vaccine optimism, in particular in the face of the recent broad international resurgence in cases.

The IMF said it expected 2021 economic activity in most nations to remain below 2019 levels, but singled out China as an exception.

Yesterday, a record number of new Covid-19 diagnoses had prompted Japan to announce it was bolstering restrictions on Tokyo.

Also overnight, peer-reviewed phase two clinical trial results published in medical journal the *Lancet* indicated the potential Covid-19 vaccine under development by Oxford University and AstraZeneca could induce a 'strong immune response' in older adults.

This vaccine candidate, as with one under development by Gamaleya in Russia can be stored at standard refrigeration temperatures.

Yesterday, the **APEC** (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) virtual forum heard that **China** intended to boost its high-quality goods and services imports.

China's president Xi Jinping told forum participants that, rather than 'decoupling', China would be seeking to seal more trade pacts with a greater number of countries.

Meanwhile, in-person **UK-EU** trade negotiations in Brussels were suspended overnight after an EU team member tested positive for Covid-19.

The lead negotiators for both the UK and EU were reportedly planning to retain virtual contact.

Among overnight **data** releases, the **euro zone's** September construction output was reported to have dropped 2.5% year-on-year, but forecasters had anticipated up to a 3.8% tumble.

In the **UK**, the CBI industrial trends orders index dropped to -40 from -34, following expectations of an improvement to -26.

In the **US**, weekly new unemployment claims tallied 742,000, against the previous week's 711,000 and forecasts of a decline to 685,000.

The Philadelphia Fed manufacturing index fell to 26.3 from 32.3.

Meanwhile, the Kansas Fed manufacturing index was reported at 20, from 23.

US October existing home sales rose 4.3% for the month following

Pre-Open Announcements

Accent Group (** AX1)

Sales for the first 20 weeks of FY 21 are exceeding expectations, with digital sales up 129% year-on-year. Additional statistics lodged this morning. **AGM** today.

FlexiGroup Ltd (* FXL)

Shareholders approved FXL's proposed name change to humm group at the company's AGM yesterday. FXL added 5.6% for the session, settling at \$1.13 after trading as high as \$1.18.

Oliver's Real Food (OLI)

OLI has appointed Rob Ross-Edwards as CFO, taking over from David McMahon.

Mr McMahon has consequently as an executive OLI director, but is remaining with OLI in a new digital strategy role and will report directly to the CEO.

In addition, non-executive director Ann Brownjohn has resigned.

EVE Investments (EVE)

Wholesalers within the Yandi network reported two shipments of Meluka Australia raw honey were sold out during the China Singles' Day event.

In addition, the Jenbrook Farms tee tree oil harvest yield is estimated 13% greater than for 2019.

Sparc Technologies (SPN)

The former Acacia Coal, and now graphene technology specialist SPN, is to be reinstated to ASX quotation on today's opening. SPN has raised \$4M in a public offer, at 20c per share. 53.77M quoted shares.

Harmoney Corp (HMY)

Online personal loans provider completed its ASX listing yesterday, following a \$92.5M IPO at \$3.50 per share. Opened at \$3.41 and traded at \$3.15 - \$3.45 before settling at \$3.45.

1.26M shares changed hands across 538 transactions.

100.9M quoted shares.

Resources

First Au (* FAU)

Conditional terms agreed with 8Au for a farm-in and JV over FAU's WA east Pilbara region Talga gold-base metals project. 8Au can earn up to 80%.

Ausgold Ltd (* AUC)

WA Katanning gold project RC drilling has delivered significant-width and/or high-grade intersections along strike and beyond the current resource area.

Assays lodged this morning.

Metal Hawk (* MHK) / Western Areas (WSA)

Mineral explorer MHK completed a successful ASX listing



a 9.9% September jump and expectations of a 1.4% decline.

The Conference Board's October leading index remained flat, at 0.7%.

The US treasury conducted a 10-year TIPS (Treasury inflation-protected security) auction, this delivering a -0.867% yield, from -0.966%.

Tonight in the **US**, no major economic indicators are due.

Elsewhere, commentary out of the G20 weekend forum, hosted by Saudi Arabia, will attract attention however.

In overnight corporate news, **Verizon** Media announced it was selling the Huffington Post to BuzzFeed and acquiring a minority BuzzFeed shareholding. BuzzFeed's CEO is a co-founder of the Huffington Post.

Post-Wednesday US trade, **Apple** agreed a \$US113M settlement in Arizona following allegations of slowing older iPhone versions.

Commodities				
COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Dec)	1861.5	oz	-12.4	-0.7
Silver (NY) (Dec)	24.048	oz	-0.4	-1.6
Gold (LON) (18 Nov)	1876	oz		
Platinum	946	oz	10	1.1
WTI Crude (NYMEX Dec)	41.70	bbbl	-0.12	-0.2
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jan)	44.20	bbbl	-0.14	-0.3
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%) (18 Nov)	122.29	t	0.29	0.2
Copper (LME,3mth Ind,PM)	7087	t	-4	-0.1
Nickel	15840	t	30	0.2
Aluminium	1988	t	-11	-0.6
Lead	1969	t	19	1.0
Zinc	2758	t	10	0.4
Tin	18700	t	-150	-0.8

Commodities Commentary

Oil – prices turned lower overnight as rising Covid-19 tallies, hospitalisations and the reimplementation of containment measures underscored views of reduced short-term demand.

In addition, a media report included claims of OPEC+ membership dissent, putting in question any supply-demand adjustments out of the scheduled 30 November – 1 December meetings.

A weekly US petroleum drill rig count is due tonight.

The WTI December contract expires on tonight's settlement. The January contract ended last night's trade 0.3% lower for the session, at \$US44.20/bbl.

Gold – an early overnight turn higher for the \$US pushed Comex futures lower for a third consecutive session.

Post-settlement, the \$US turned lower again, on reports key senators had agreed to resume US relief funding talks.

Base metals – market watchers reported overnight profit-taking as the \$US swung higher in early trade amid Covid-19 containment angst.

Increased producer hedging activity was also noted.

Today, the People's Bank of China is expected to announce its November one- (3.85%) and five-year (5.65%) loan prime rates. Any change would prompt speculation and influence at least some

yesterday, following a \$5.5M IPO at 20c per share.

Opened at 25.5c and traded as high as 30.5c before settling at 26c.

13.56M shares were traded across 1116 transactions.

36.06M quoted securities. Brett Lambert non-executive chair. WSA held 6.61% on listing, and also holds a right to earn 75% of three MHK projects.

WSA settled flat for yesterday's session, at \$2.09.

WSA also hosted its AGM yesterday (early evening AEDT).

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Alicanto Minerals	AQI	20 Nov
Classic Minerals	CLZ	20 Nov
Cromwell Property Group	CMW	20 Nov
Dotz Nano	DTZ	20 Nov
Great Southern Mining	GSN	20 Nov
Hot Chili	HCH	20 Nov
Hotel Property Investments	HPI	20 Nov
Orthocell Ltd	OCC	20 Nov
Blue Star Helium	BNL	23 Nov
Carabel Minerals	CVV	23 Nov
GUD Holdings	GUD	23 Nov
Imagion Biosystems	IBX	23 Nov
Incannex Healthcare	IHL	23 Nov
Insurance Australia Group	IAG	23 Nov
NeuroScientific Biopharmaceuticals	NSB	23 Nov
Swift Media	SW1	23 Nov
Vectus Biosystems	VBS	23 Nov
Village Roadshow	VRL	23 Nov
Marenica Energy	MEY	24 Nov
VRX Silica	VRX	24 Nov

Suspensions (select)

Company	Code	Since
Emerge Gaming	EM1	30 Oct
Fremont Petroleum Corporation	FPL	3 Nov
Sagasco Ltd	SGC	18 Nov
Suvo Strategic Minerals	SUV	13 Nov
Xstate Resources	XST	18 Nov

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
SOL	Today	35	100	0.86
AMC	Mon	16.55	0	4.16
ELD	Mon	13	100	0.82
GNC	Wed	7	100	0.00
OFX	Wed	0.81	0	3.85



of tonight's trade.

November services and manufacturing PMIs are due out of Japan this morning.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7277	-0.0018	-0.25
EUR – USD	1.1873	-0.0006	-0.05

Australian Data Today

ABS	Retail sales (<i>preliminary</i>)	Oct
ABS	Covid-19 business impacts	Nov

Overseas Data Today & Tonight

China	PBoC loan prime rates	Nov
Japan	CPI	Oct
Japan	PMIs	Nov
UK	Retail sales	Oct
UK	GfK consumer sentiment	Nov
UK	Public sector finances	Oct
Germany	Producer prices	Oct
Euro zone	Consumer confidence	Nov

Need More Information?

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WHF	Wed	10.25	100	3.89
ALQ	Thu	8.5	100	1.72
CVL	Fri (27 Nov)	1	100	1.42
IFT	30 Nov	5.64	0	2.85
MEC	30 Nov	1.5	100	1.96

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	AX1	AGM
	CLV	AGM
	CNI	AGM
	CMM	AGM
	JLG	AGM
	KGN	AGM
	LLC	AGM
	LNK	AGM
	MSB	Sep Q
	ORI	Full year
	PTM	AGM
	SLR	AGM
	SO4	AGM
SPL	AGM	
TNT	AGM	
WGX	AGM	
Mon	BOT	AGM
	BUB	AGM
	CCV	AGM
	LIT	AGM
	MXI	AGM
	RIC	AGM
	WSP	AGM
Tue	APD	AGM
	BKW	AGM
	CAN	AGM
	CYP	AGM
	IMU	AGM
	KSC	AGM
	LNK	Investor Day (Syd)
	MYX	AGM
	MSB	AGM
	MND	AGM
NAN	AGM	
RHC	AGM	
TIE	AGM	