

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEST)	6911	-86	-1.2
NZX 50	12668	-11	-0.1
DJIA Futures	33689	-14	0.0
S&P 500 Futures	4121	-5	-0.1
NASDAQ Futures	13740	-54	-0.4

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market opens mid-week trade with two material domestic economic reports due by late morning and an overnight drop for the \$A.

Overnight international equities trade leads are negative, and key commodity price moves mixed, for a second consecutive session.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publishes *preliminary retail sales* for March **11.30am** AEST.

Westpac and the Melbourne Institute release their monthly leading index report this morning, also.

Regionally, **South Korea** has reported March producer prices pre-trade, these rising 0.9% for the month and 3.9% higher than for March 2020.

In overnight commodities trade, **oil** seesawed lower.

US **gold** futures turned to record a moderate gain.

Qingdao **iron ore** (CFR 62% fines) jumped \$US7.81/t (4.3%) to \$US189.61/t.

Nymex iron ore (CFR China, 62% Fe) added more than 2%, trading above \$US178.50/t.

LME **copper** and most major base metals were pushed lower.

The **\$A** dropped to US77.25c after trading at ~US78.10c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets.

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	33821	-256	-0.8
S&P 500	4135	-28	-0.7
NASDAQ	13786	-128	-0.9
FTSE 100	6860	-140	-2.0
DAX 30	15130	-239	-1.6
Shanghai Comp	3473	-5	-0.1

Overseas Markets Commentary

Sentiment largely waned early across European, UK and US equities markets overnight, most key indices picking up the pace of Monday's declines.

Covid-19 – related new international travel restrictions announced by Hong Kong, the UK and US since the weekend, bruised travel sector and oil demand sentiment.

Corporate earnings reports and outlooks proved mixed and again,

Monday 26 April – ASX normal trade and settlement

Public holidays for the ACT, NT, QLD, SA and WA

* Game development listing – 11am AEST – MKL *

Today's Stock Watch
Ardent Leisure Group (ALG)

Main Event February constant centre revenue performance fell 21.5%. Excluding the unprecedented Texas weather, performance was likely down 15.8%.

March constant centre performance rose 23% on a two-year basis. 1-19 April constant centre revenue has grown 44%.

In addition, ALG has appointed theme parks and attractions COO Greg Yong as CEO of the theme parks and attractions division, due to John Osborne stepping down for personal reasons. Mr Osborne will continue with ALG as a consultant.

Nuheara Ltd (NUH)

Mass production of the HP Elite Wireless Earbuds underway, after being commissioned by HP Inc for an anticipated early May first delivery.

Resources
BHP Group (BHP)

Produced 4% less iron ore, 7% more petroleum, 15% less nickel, 9% less copper, 1% more metallurgical coal and 34% more energy coal during the March quarter than for the December quarter 2020.

For the nine months to 31 March, iron ore output was 4% higher, year-on-year, petroleum 8% lower and nickel 19% higher. Most changes are due to a mix of weather events, maintenance and Covid-19 impacts.

Boosting FY21 copper production guidance. Lowering expected coal output. Maintaining previous production guidance for iron ore and petroleum.

Northern Star Resources (NST)

Sold 368,273oz of gold during the March quarter at an \$A1598/oz AISC. Revenue tallied \$A772M from a \$A2222/oz average realised price.

\$A696M cash and bullion. \$A658M bank debt.

Vulcan Energy (VUL)

Scandinavian non-core battery metals projects spin-off and IPO plans lodged this morning.

Energy
Regeneren Ltd (RLT)

Agreement secured with DPD Laser for the manufacture and purchase of the initial 110 Cryo-Vacc cases (from up to 240 vials - up to 2400 vials), for storing vaccines.



no major US economic indicator updates were scheduled for release.

The \$US headed to ~seven-week lows early.

In overnight data releases, **Germany's** March producer prices were reported 0.9% higher for the month, following a 0.7% February increase and expectations of a 0.4% new rise.

Against March 2020, prices were 3.7% higher.

In the **UK**, unemployment claims grew by 10,100 during March, following forecasts of 150,000 and after an 86,600 February increase.

The February unemployment rate came in at 4.9% from 5.0% and against expectations of 5.1%.

February average earnings (excluding bonuses) rose 4.4% after increasing 4.3% in January and following forecasts of 4% new growth.

In the **US**, no major indicators were scheduled for release for a second consecutive day.

Tonight in the **US**, weekly mortgage applications are due.

Elsewhere, the UK reports March CPI.

In the meantime, **Bank of England** governor Andrew Bailey is scheduled to speak publicly.

Also tonight, Germany hosts a 10-year bond auction.

Companies scheduled to report earnings later today and tonight include: Akzo Nobel, ASML Holding, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Equifax, Ericsson, Halliburton, Kinder Morgan, Posco, Roche Holding and Verizon.

Antofagasta is due to provide a March quarter activities update.

In overnight corporate news, **Netflix** reported post-US trade, with new subscriber numbers and near-term outlook undershooting expectations. Hence, despite a \$US5B buy-back, the stock was pushed more than 10% lower post-settlement.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (NY) (Jun)	1778.4	oz	7.80	0.4
Silver (NY) (May)	25.84	oz	0.00	0.0
Gold (LON) (19 Apr)	1775	oz		
Platinum	1182	oz	-21	-1.8
WTI Crude (NYMEX May)	62.44	bbbl	-0.94	-1.5
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Jun)	66.57	bbbl	-0.48	-0.7
Iron Ore (NYMEX,CHN,62%)	178.54	t	3.82	2.2
Copper (LME Ind)	9326	t	-49	-0.5
Nickel	15985	t	-136	-0.8
Aluminium	2312	t	-19	-0.8
Lead	2029	t	-28	-1.4
Zinc	2805	t	-41	-1.5
Tin	26745	t	42	0.2

Commodities Commentary

Oil – India's Covid-19 surge and the nation's addition to other nations' restricted travel lists damaged crude demand hopes overnight. Early price falls appeared contained by a weaker \$US, however.

Pre-Open Announcements

Mighty Kingdom (* MKL)

Games developer scheduled to list on the ASX **11am** AEST following an \$18M IPO at 30c per share.

~96.13M quoted shares.

Michelle Guthrie independent chair.

Top 10 shareholders include HSBC Nominees, CS Third Nominees, JP Morgan Nominees, National Nominees and Citicorp Nominees.

Washington H Soul Pattinson & Co (SOL)

Trading ex-dividend (26c) today.

Bega Cheese (* BGA)

Anticipating an additional \$34.4M contractual termination fee for FY21 – FY22 following Reckitt's notice that it will terminate the access and services agreements for the operation of the MSD2 spray dryer at the Tatura facility, Victoria.

BGA was already expecting a \$21.1M contractual termination fee from Reckitt's plan to terminate the services and access agreements for the Derrimut infant formula finishing plant.

Reckitt says it is considering strategic and financial options regarding both facilities.

Splitit Payments (* SPT)

March quarter merchant sales volumes rose 247% year-on-year to \$US82M. Gross revenue grew 292% to \$US2.7M.

PointsBet Holdings (* PBH)

Banach Technologies acquisition completed.

Latitude Group Holdings (LFS)

Personal finance (loans and payments) specialist completed a successful ASX listing yesterday following a \$200M IPO at \$A2.60 per share.

Opened at \$2.96 and traded at \$2.70 - \$2.99 before settling at \$2.70.

6.08M shares were traded across 1901 transactions.

1B quoted securities.

Trading commenced on a conditional and deferred settlement basis.

Normal (T+2) trade is expected to commence tomorrow.

Resources

Regis Resources (* RRL)

RRL's gold resources have been estimated 5% higher for the nine months to 31 December, at 8.1Moz, from 258Mt @ 1.0g/t Au. Reserves have increased by 11% to 4.0Moz.

Musgrave Minerals (* MGV)

WA Cue gold project Target 14 air core drilling has returned several significant-width and/or high-grade intersections.

Assays lodged this morning.

First Graphene (* FGR)

FGR researchers at the Manchester, UK Graphene Engineering



On the flip side, Libya declared force majeure on exports from an ~180,000bbl/d oil port, and warned this could extend to other ports, due to budget argy-bargy.

A weekly US petroleum inventories report is due from government agency the EIA tonight.

Overnight, post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute published a weekly report which included a 436,000bbl increase for crude stocks last week.

Gold – some safe-haven interest on Covid-19 containment concerns, plus no major moves higher for 10-year US bond yields or the \$US, supported a moderate overnight Comex futures gain.

India's Covid-19 surge has raised fears of reduced 2021 gold demand.

Base metals –the \$US at seven-week lows in early trade, new supply-demand figures, and weak equities sentiment, in part due to Covid-19 containment, and hence economic growth concerns, pushed and pulled overnight LME trade.

The International *Nickel* Study Group and the International *Lead & Zinc* Study Group each reported international oversupply for February.

The International *Aluminium* Institute estimated March primary aluminium production at 5.725Mt, against 5.187Mt for February.

Yesterday, the People's Bank of China yesterday retained prime rates for one- and five-year loans at 3.85% and 4.65% respectively.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.7723	-0.0079	-1.01
EUR – USD	1.2031	-0.0030	-0.25

Australian Data Today

ABS	Retail sales (<i>preliminary</i>)	Mar
Wstpac/MelInst	Leading index	Mar

US Data Tonight

MBA mortgage applications	16 Apr
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Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

UK	CPI	Mar
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& Innovation Centre have demonstrated that the patented cavitation process can efficiently produce graphite materials in one step, with green hydrogen the only by-product.

Energy

Santos Ltd (* STO) / Rio Tinto (RIO)

STO has secured a new gas supply agreement with RIO, for up to 15PJ of natural gas to be supplied from later this year.

Yancoal Australia (YAL)

Produced 14.3Mt of ROM coal during the March quarter, representing 17% fewer tonnes than for the December quarter 2020.

Attributable saleable coal output fell 5% to 8.7Mt.

Production sales decline 8% to 8.6Mt.

The average realised price rose 22% however, to \$A88/t.

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
AssetOwl Ltd	AO1	21 Apr
Elixir Energy	EXR	21 Apr
Emyria Ltd	EMD	21 Apr
Greenland Minerals	GGG	21 Apr
Impact Minerals	IPT	21 Apr
Perpetual Resources	PEC	21 Apr
White Rock Minerals	WRM	21 Apr
Audalia Resources	ACP	22 Apr
AuStar Gold	AUL	22 Apr
Genesis Minerals	GMD	22 Apr
HeraMED Ltd	HMD	22 Apr
Titomic Ltd	TTT	22 Apr
Vanadium Resources	VR8	22 Apr

Suspensions (*select*)

Company	Code	Since
Tubi Ltd	2BE	8 Apr
Infinity Lithium Corporation	INF	13 Apr
Merchant House International	MHI	20 Apr
WooBoard Technologies	WOO	19 Apr

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
KPG	Today	0.33	100	2.08
SOL	Today	26	100	1.82
ACF	Tomorrow	0.75	100	2.76
MFF	Fri	3	100	2.01
CDM	29 Apr	2	100	3.64
SST	29 Apr	~28	0	2.27



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Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEST)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	ALX	Mar Q
	BHP	Mar Q (& 9mths review)
	MCY	Mar Q
	NST	Mar Q
	SPT	Mar Q (webinar 11am tomorrow)
	SYR	Mar Q
Tomorrow	API	Interim (w/cast tele 10.30am)
	DXS	AGM (3.30pm)
	EVN	Mar Q
	OZL	Mar Q
	STO	Mar Q
	WPL	Mar Q