

Markets

SFE 200 Futures (9.30am AEDT)	7104	27	0.4
NZX 50	11343	-14	-0.1
DJIA Futures	36189	-79	-0.2
S&P 500 Futures	4575	-1.5	0.0
NASDAQ Futures	15909	40	0.3

Local Markets Commentary

The Australian market commences mid-week trade with key domestic economic data in hand pre-trade, and two material data reports due late morning.

US equities markets settled mixed and little changed overnight.

Locally today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases its **September quarter GDP** growth estimate.

This is at **11.30am** AEDT, when the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) publishes a series of graphs depicting **economic trends and outlooks**, this known as the 'chart pack' and utilised to help support RBA guidance and decisions.

Pre-trade, AiG (Ai Group) has released November **industry indices**.

The **manufacturing** index dropped to **-25.3** from **-20.9**

The **construction** index plunged to **-22.2** from **18.5**.

The **all over industry** index came in at **-22.4** from **-9.9**.

Regionally today, the December Tankan **manufacturing sentiment** index for **Japan** is due as the ASX opens.

In overnight **commodities** trade, **oil** settled lower for a fourth consecutive session, this time by a further ~1%.

US **gold** (Comex Feb) futures extended Monday's drop, but slightly, settling below \$US2040/oz.

Iron ore (Nymex CFR China, 62% Fe) recorded a slight gain, trading above \$US130.5/t.

US (Dec) **copper** futures declined by a further US6c/lb, closing at \$US3.78/lb.

Last night's LME final 3-mth evening price updates were unavailable from IRESS at time of publication. These are expected to become available via IRESS at ~11.30am AEDT.

The **\$A** was pushed below US65.55c after trading at ~US65.75c - ~US65.80c early yesterday evening.

Overseas Markets

INDEX	CLOSE	+/-	%
Dow Jones	36125	-80	-0.2
S&P 500	4567	-3	-0.1
NASDAQ	14230	44	0.3
FTSE 100	7490	-23	-0.3
DAX 30	16533	128	0.8
Shanghai Composite	2972	-51	-1.7

Today's Stock Watch
Endeavour Group (EDV)

Today's investor day presentations lodged.

Perpetual Ltd (PPT)

Investigating separating the group's corporate trust and wealth management businesses, and establishing an asset management business.

Imugene Ltd (IMU)

Notice of intention in hand for a European Patent Office patent, *Human PD1 Peptide Vaccines and Uses Thereof*, for IMU's PD1-Vaxx cancer vaccine

The patent covers both manufacturing and method of treatment.

Findi Ltd (FND)

90% total merchants growth in the five months to 30 November. Additional details lodged this morning.

Lumos Diagnostics Holdings (LDX)

Operations update webinar presentation lodged this morning. LDX traded as high as 7.9c Monday, and settled with a 20.97% gain for the session.

Resources
Rio Tinto (RIO)

Simandou iron ore project update, including resource and reserve estimates, lodged this morning.

In addition, RIO has lodged updated guidance and a presentation for an investor seminar scheduled to commence at 4pm AEDT.

Evolution Mining (EVN)

Resuming from a trading halt having raised A\$25M in a \$3.80-per-share fully-underwritten share placement.

EVN is proposing to outlay up to \$US475M cash to purchase 80% of the NSW Northparkes copper-gold project.

A \$60M SPP at a yet-to-be-determined price is scheduled for 13 December – 16 January.

In addition, EVN has secured a new \$A200M five-year debt facility.

Sumitomo Group is retaining 20% of Northparkes.

Also in association with the acquisition, EVN lodged updated FY24 production guidance when calling the trading halt.

EVN traded at \$3.75 - \$4.23 over the five sessions immediately prior to calling the halt.

Magmatic Resources (MAG)

Myall project Corvette-Kingswood diamond drilling results lodged this morning, including high-grade Corvette assays.



Overseas Markets Commentary

Trade diverged markedly across major European, UK and US equities markets overnight, amid a batch of mixed economic data releases.

Overnight, Moody's revealed it had changed the outlook for its A1 debt rating for China to 'negative' from 'stable', citing local government and State company debt and a shrinking, ailing property sector.

Earlier yesterday, Caixin's 51.5 November services PMI for **China** represented a 1.1-point rise for the month, the most in a month since August.

In other data releases earlier yesterday, South Korea reported 0.6% deflation for November following 0.3% inflation growth for October.

Further, Australia revealed a surprise September quarter current account deficit, representing the first quarterly shortfall since the September quarter 2022 and defying consensus for a \$3.2B surplus.

For the June quarter, Australia had reported a \$7.8B current account surplus.

Yesterday afternoon (AEDT), at the conclusion of a monetary policy meeting, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) announced it was retaining the 4.35% cash rate. The next RBA monetary policy meeting is scheduled for 6 February.

In overnight **data** releases, **euro zone** October producer prices rose 0.2% for the month, on par with consensus, following a 0.5% September appreciation.

Against October 2022, prices were down 9.4%.

September's prices were down 12.4% year-on-year.

An October consumer inflation expectations report revealed survey participants expect 4% inflation over the next 12 months, as they had in the previous monthly survey.

The finalised November services PMI reading for the euro zone came in at 48.7, 0.5 higher than the initial estimate and 0.9 higher for the month.

Germany's 49.6 final October services PMI estimate represented a 0.9-point increase on the initial reading and a 1.4-point rise for the month.

In the **UK**, earlier yesterday, the BRC retail sale monitor indicated a 2.6% year-on-year increase in November like-for-like sales, the same rate of increase as reported for October.

November new domestic vehicle sales were reported 9.5% higher than for November 2022.

The UK's November services PMI was finalised at 50.9, up 0.4 from the initial estimate and hence further into expansion mode, following October's contractionary 49.5.

Also in the UK, a 10-year index-linked treasury gilt auction delivered a 0.724% yield from 0.831%.

Yesterday afternoon, a 10-year government bond auction in Japan had notably resulted in a 0.697% yield from 0.910%.

In the **US** overnight, the ISM's November non-manufacturing index rose to 52.7 from 51.8.

A December economic optimism index dropped however, from

Pre-Open Announcements

Insurance Australia Group (IAG)

Recent IAG general counsel and company secretary Peter Horton no longer holds these roles, effective today.

QBE Insurance Group (QBE)

QBE has appointed former Direct Line CEO Penny James as an independent director.

National Australia Bank (NAB)

Issuing \$A300M worth of notes due December 2043.

Whispir Ltd (WSP)

Recommending in a formal Target's Statement that shareholders reject the 48c cash-per-share off-market takeover offer by Soprano Design Technology (Australia).

WSP added 11.2% yesterday, settling at 54.5c after revealing a LoI from Soprano to submit a non-binding indicative proposal.

WSP had traded at 48.5c – 50.5c across the five sessions leading into yesterday's trade.

Soprano Design Ltd holds ~15.8% of WSP.

Resources

St George Mining (SGQ)

WA Destiny rare earths project air core drilling has returned significant-width and high-value total rare earth oxide (TREO) results.

Assays lodged this morning.

West Cobar Metals (WC1)

Heralding south east Western Australia Salazar rare earths project beneficiation results.

The testing was completed using a sample from the O'Connor deposit.

Avenira Ltd (AEV)

AEV is scheduled to resume from a trading halt.

When calling the halt pre-trade Monday, AEV revealed Shanghai Stock Exchange-listed Sichuan Hebang Biotechnology Corporation (Hebang) is subscribing for \$2M AEV shares at 1.1c each.

Further, AEV and Hebang have negotiated a strategic co-operation and off-take MoU covering AEV Wonarah phosphate project mining and the potential production of yellow phosphorus.

AEV traded at 1.15c – 1.5c last week, last trading at 1.4c.

Valor Resources (VAL)

Resuming from suspended trade with exclusive options to acquire three lithium projects in north-west Ontario, Canada.

Details of the projects, including some early exploration assessment, lodged post-trade yesterday.

Consideration for each option also lodged post-trade yesterday.

In association, VAL has secured commitments for a \$A1M 0.4c-per-share placement.



44.5 to 40.0, defying expectations for an improvement to 45.2.

An October job openings report included 8.733M job opportunities, the lowest recorded since March 2021.

Forecasters had anticipated 9.3M following September's 9.35M.

The S&P Global November services PMI was finalised at 50.8, the same as the initial estimate, from 50.6 for October.

Tonight in the US, a private sector November employment report, and October international trade figures are due, together with weekly mortgage applications.

Elsewhere, the Bank of Canada convenes a monetary policy meeting and announces outcomes.

Also tonight, the Bank of England (BoE) publishes a financial stability report. Following this, BoE governor Andrew Bailey is scheduled to speak publicly. The BoE's last policy meeting for 2023 is listed for Thursday next week.

In addition tonight, the UK hosts a 10-year green gilt auction.

Commodities

COMMODITY	CLOSE	\$US/	+/-	%
Gold (COMEX 100 Feb)	2036.3	oz	-5.9	-0.3
Silver (COMEX 5000 Mar)	24.55	oz	-0.36	-1.5
Platinum	901	oz	-15	-1.6
WTI Crude (NYMEX Jan)	72.32	bbbl	-0.72	-1.0
Brent Crude (ICE EUR Feb)	77.20	bbbl	-0.83	-1.1
Iron Ore (NYMEX CHN port;62%Fe)	130.77	t	0.31	0.2
Copper (LME 3mth Evening) (4 Dec)	8624	t	-170	-2.0
Nickel	16771	t	-330	-1.9
Aluminium	2191	t	-27	-1.2
Lead	2096	t	-25	-1.2
Zinc	2454	t	-57	-2.3
Tin	24119	t	316	1.3

Commodities Commentary

Oil – \$US strength and demand fears based on generally weak international economic outlooks appeared the major influences on overnight trade.

Both Brent and WTI crude closed at lows not seen since 6 July.

Saudi Arabia was reported to have lowered its January price for light Arab crude to customers in Asia, the first such price decline in seven months.

In the meantime, Russia's deputy PM maintained OPEC+ members were ready to cut production further if deemed necessary.

Russia's president is scheduled to meet with key OPEC members in Dubai later today and to welcome Iran's president to Moscow tomorrow.

Tonight, a weekly US petroleum inventories report is due from government agency the EIA.

Overnight, post-US trade, the American Petroleum Institute (API) published a weekly report which included an estimated 594,000bbl rise for US crude stocks last week.

Gold – the \$US index (+0.2%) at two-week peaks damaged overnight gold sentiment.

A November US private sector employment report could swing some sentiment tonight, given the national November

VAL will pay a 6% fee and 137M VAL shares to the placement lead manager.

Post the fundraiser, pending shareholder approval, VAL intends to consolidate the company's share capital on a 25-for-one basis.

In addition, VAL will seek shareholder approval for a name change to Thunderbird Resources.

The meeting is expected to be convened during the March quarter.

VAL traded at 0.3c – 0.4c the five sessions before calling a halt and subsequently entering suspended trade.

Sayona Mining (SYA)

When added to the S&P/ASX 300 March 2022, SYA was required to establish an audit and remuneration committee, plus audit and risk committee, by 1 July 2022.

Following a subsequent suspended trading warning from the ASX, SYA is establishing the two committees, also complying with their required composition.

SYA has appointed independent non-executive director Philip Lucas to chair the committees and fellow SYA independent non-executive director Allan Buckler as a member of each committee.

SYA is seeking to appoint an additional independent director to the SYA board and to the audit and risk committee. To also meet listing rules, this must be done prior to 29 February 2024.

SYA will also appoint to the board an independent chair.

SYA has settled lower nine of the past 10 sessions, closing at 5.3c yesterday.

American West Metals (AW1)

~58.22M shares will be released from mandatory escrow 13 December (Wednesday next week).

Trading Halts

Company	Code	Resuming
Avenira Ltd	AEV	6 Dec
Beacon Minerals	BCN	6 Dec
Desert Metals	DM1	6 Dec
Gold Hydrogen	GHY	6 Dec
Newfield Resources	NWF	6 Dec
Blackstone Minerals	BSX	7 Dec
Cohiba Minerals	CHK	7 Dec
Elixir Energy	EXR	7 Dec
Emu NL	EMU	7 Dec
Future Metals	FME	7 Dec
Indiana Resources	IDA	7 Dec
Invictus Energy	IVZ	7 Dec
MRG Metals	MRQ	7 Dec



employment statistics are due overnight Friday and a US Federal Reserve monetary policy meeting scheduled for next week.

Base metals – overnight trader considerations included new China data in hand, more to come this week, and general international economic outlook concerns and a stronger \$US.

Caixin's November services PMI for China, published yesterday, indicated improving activity.

China's November international trade figures are expected tomorrow.

Exchange Rates

CURRENCIES	LAST	+/-	%
AUD – USD	0.6554	-0.0030	-0.45
EUR – USD	1.0796	-0.0048	-0.44

Australian Data Today

ABS	GDP	Sep Q
AiG	Manufacturing, construction, industry indices	Nov
RBA	Chart pack	Dec

US Data Tonight

ADP private employment	Nov
International trade	Oct
MBA mortgage applications; 30-year rates	1 Dec

Other Overseas Data Today & Tonight

Japan	Tankan manufacturing sentiment index	Dec
UK	BoE financial stability report	Dec
UK	Construction PMI	Nov
Germany	Factory orders	Oct
Germany	Construction PMI	Nov
Euro zone	Retail sales	Oct
Euro zone	Construction PMI	Nov

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Suspensions (selected)

Company	Code	Since
Australian Mines	AUZ	5 Dec
BOD Science (in administration)	BOD	28 Nov
Enova Mining	ENV	23 Nov
Rectifier Technologies	RFT	29 Nov
Respiri Ltd	RSH	1 Dec
Roots Sustainable Agricultural Technologies	ROO	24 Nov
VDM Group	VMG	21 Nov

Ex-Dividends

Code	Ex-Div	Div (c)	Franking (%)	Yield (%)
HNG	Tomorrow	1	100	1.20
MWY	Tomorrow	5	100	0.00
MTS	14 Dec	11	100	6.39
PL8	14 Dec	0.55	100	5.87
WQG	14 Dec	1.68	100	5.24
CHC	28 Dec	22.09	44.99	4.18
RFF	28 Dec	2.93	0	6.02
DNK	29 Dec	14.72	0	0.00

Reports & Events

(selected; all times AEDT)

When	Company	Report/Event
Today	EDV	Investor day
	RIO	Investor seminar (4pm AEDT)
Fri	SOL	AGM

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