

## International Markets – Morning Summary

Indices	Current	+/-	%	Previous	WkClose	MthClose
Dow Jones	10444.14	47.38	0.4557	10396.76	10325.26	10325.26
NASDAQ	2292.31	11.63	0.5099	2280.68	2238.26	2238.26
S & P 500	1122.97	4.18	0.3736	1118.79	1104.49	1104.49
FTSE 100	5527.16	-6.05	-0.1093	5533.21	5354.52	5354.52
Nikkei 225	10145.72	-107.42	-1.0477	10253.14	10126.03	10126.03
Shanghai Composite	3023.373	0	0	3023.373	3051.943	3051.943
US Bond (10 Yr)	3.6019	-0.0173	-0.478	3.6192	3.6179	3.6179
US Bond (30 Yr)	4.556	-0.03	-0.6542	4.586	4.557	4.557
COMEX Gold - Apr 10	1133.7	-9.6	-0.8397	1143.3	1118.5	1118.5
COMEX Silver - May 10	17.23	-0.099	-0.5713	17.329	16.5	16.5
COMEX Copper - May 10	337.6	-5.9	-1.7176	343.5	324.7	324.7
WTI Spot	80.4	-0.29	-0.3594	80.69	79.69	79.69
\$A/\$US	0.9007	-0.0047	-0.5191	0.9054	0.8957	0.8957
STG/\$A	1.669	0.0012	0.072	1.6678	1.7022	1.7022
Euro/\$US	1.3581	-0.0116	-0.8469	1.3697	1.3628	1.3628
Euro/\$A	1.5078	-0.005	-0.3305	1.5129	1.5216	1.5216



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## Dividends Today

ExDivDate	Security	DivAmt	Frk(%)	Exch	PayDate	Description
5-Mar-10	AEF	50	100	ASX	26-Mar-10	Australian Ethical
5-Mar-10	AGG	2.0801	0	ASX	19-Mar-10	AngloGold Ashanti
5-Mar-10	BFG	6	100	ASX	26-Mar-10	Bell Financial Group
5-Mar-10	BSA	1	100	ASX	16-Apr-10	BSA Limited
5-Mar-10	CCP	3	100	ASX	1-Apr-10	Credit Corp Group
5-Mar-10	CDD	14	100	ASX	26-Mar-10	Cardno Limited
5-Mar-10	CLH	2.8	100	ASX	26-Mar-10	Collection House

5-Mar-10	COF	7.5	100	ASX	26-Mar-10	Coffey International
5-Mar-10	CSV	2.5	100	ASX	30-Mar-10	CSG Limited
5-Mar-10	FAT	3	100	ASX	26-Mar-10	FAT Prophets
5-Mar-10	FLT	26	100	ASX	1-Apr-10	Flight Centre
5-Mar-10	GPG	1.6858	0	ASX	17-May-10	Guinness Peat Group
5-Mar-10	LAU	0.75	100	ASX	31-Mar-10	Lindsay Australia
5-Mar-10	NHF	2	100	ASX	8-Apr-10	NIB Holdings Limited
5-Mar-10	PPG	1	100	ASX	9-Apr-10	Pro-Pac Packaging
5-Mar-10	PRY	15	100	ASX	29-Mar-10	Primary Health Care
5-Mar-10	SFH	4	100	ASX	23-Mar-10	Specialty Fashion
5-Mar-10	SRV	5	100	ASX	29-Mar-10	Servcorp Limited
5-Mar-10	TDI	1.5	100	ASX	26-Mar-10	Tidewater Investment
5-Mar-10	TGR	4	0	ASX	1-Apr-10	Tassal Group Limited
5-Mar-10	TOL	11.5	100	ASX	2-Apr-10	Toll Holdings Ltd
5-Mar-10	UCW	1.25	100	ASX	9-Apr-10	Undercoverwear Ltd
5-Mar-10	WBB	32	100	ASX	26-Mar-10	Wide Bay Aust Ltd
5-Mar-10	WHC	2.8	100	ASX	31-Mar-10	Whitehaven Coal
5-Mar-10	ZGL	0.35	0	ASX	26-Mar-10	Zicom Group Limited

## Dividends Tomorrow

### No Dividends Tomorrow

## US Markets

US markets were choppy as better-than-expected retail sales were offset by lower energy prices and an unexpected fall in home sales.

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment fell to 469,000 last week from a revised 498,000 the previous week. The weekly jobs data comes one day ahead of Friday's monthly jobs report. Friday's employment report is expected to show a loss of 50,000 jobs in February, compared with 20,000 job cuts in January. The unemployment rate, generated by a separate survey, is expected to have risen to 9.8% from 9.7% in the previous month.

Blue chips advanced on positive brokerage reports. Boeing, Walt Disney and Coca-Cola were the Dow's top three gainers.

Retail shares advanced on better-than-forecast February retail sales. Total retail sales advanced 4%. Analysts had expected sales to be subdued due to severe weather during the period. Of 28 retailers reporting sales, 76% topped analysts' expectations. Among notable movers, shares in Abercrombie & Fitch surged 12%.

AK Steel Holding Corp. climbed 7% on renewed speculation that the company may be acquired.

Dendreon Corp gained over 4% on positive test results from its drug Provenge, which is used to treat patients with metastatic castrate-resistant prostate cancer.

DivX advanced 17%. The maker of software to download Web videos posted profit that was three times higher than the average analyst estimate.

Pending home sales unexpectedly fell 7.6% in January, according to the National Association of Realtors. Economists expected sales to rise 1%.

A separate report showed factory orders rose 1.7% for the month, just shy of forecasts for a rise of 1.8%.

### US Economic Calendar

- Mar-05 - Unemployment Rate (For: Feb, F/Cast: 9.8%, Prior: 9.7%)
- Mar-05 - Nonfarm Payrolls (For: Feb, F/Cast: -63K, Prior: -20K)
- Mar-05 - Hourly Earnings (For: Feb, F/Cast: 0.2%, Prior: 0.2%)
- Mar-05 - Average Workweek (For: Feb, F/Cast: 33.7, Prior: 33.9)
- Mar-05 - Consumer Credit (For: Jan, F/Cast: -\$4.5B, Prior: -\$1.7B)

### International Markets

European shares rose for a fifth consecutive session as positive results from Vinci and Royal Ahold overshadowed disappointing results at AP Moeller-Maersk.

National benchmark indexes increased in 9 of the 18 western European markets today. The UK's FTSE 100, France's CAC 40 and Germany's DAX lost between 0.1% and 0.4%.

The Bank of England maintained its benchmark interest rate at 0.5% and kept its bond-purchase program on hold for a second month.

The European Central Bank phased out some of the emergency tools used to ease the financial crisis, tightening the terms of its regular three-month market operations and returning to the pre-crisis practice of offering the funds at a variable rate. The ECB left its benchmark interest rate at a record low of 1.0%.

Vinci, the world's biggest builder, advanced 2.6%. The company reported 2009 profits that beat analysts' estimates and said sales may rise this year, helped by acquisitions.

Ahold, the owner of Stop & Shop supermarkets, surged 4.8%. The company raised its dividend by 28% and said it plans to buy back 500M Euros in shares.

Schroders jumped the most in 10 months after the money manager reported record inflows for 2009. Other financial services stocks also gained.

Maersk slumped 3.9% after posting an annual loss that was worse than expected.

Celesio, Europe's biggest publicly traded drug wholesaler, rallied 9% on speculation it was a takeover target.

Allied Irish Bank jumped 20% two days after the Irish lender said it plans to raise capital by selling assets or finding a strategic investor before turning to shareholders or the government. Rival Bank of Ireland rallied 9.6%.

Earnings-per-share for companies in the Stoxx 600 that have reported since 11 January have beaten analyst estimates by an average of 12%.

## Commodities

Natural gas futures fell to a three- month low in New York after an Energy Department report showed that stockpiles dropped less than anticipated last week, indicating slowing demand for the heating fuel.

## Australian Stock Prices Overnight

In New York, News Corp fell by US\$0.03 to US\$15.82, equivalent to A\$17.57, A\$0.05 above its last close on the ASX.

ResMed rose by US\$0.34 to US\$55.79, equivalent to A\$6.20, A\$0.09 above its last close on the ASX.

In London, Rio Tinto rose 32.56 pence to £33.91, A\$0.54 higher in Australian currency terms.

BHP-Billiton rose 10.49 pence to £19.84, A\$0.18 higher in Australian currency terms.

Henderson Group Plc rose 3.56 pence to £1.21, A\$0.06 higher in Australian currency terms.

## Local Commentary

The Australian dollar opened lower as risk averse investors sought safe haven assets overnight, lending strength to the US dollar.

At 0700 AEDT, the Australian dollar was trading at \$US0.9002/05, down 0.14 per cent from Thursday's close of \$US0.9015/18.

Since 1700 AEDT, the local unit traded between \$US0.8980 and \$US0.9040.

## Australian Company Updates

04-Mar-10

03:28



### **ANZ Bank (ANZ) - In-principle approval for Indian bank licence**

ANZ announced the in-principle approval for a foreign bank licence in India from the Reserve Bank of India that will enable ANZ to establish a foreign bank branch in Mumbai in the next 12 months. Expansion into India is a key component of ANZ's super regional bank strategy focused on Australia, New Zealand and Asia Pacific. The foreign bank licence will enable ANZ to provide retail and wholesale banking services in India subject to regulatory approval of the branch in Mumbai.

04-Mar-10

01:34



### **Aquila Resources (AQA) - Commences legal action against Vale**

AQA has commenced proceedings in the Supreme Court of Queensland against Vale's wholly owned subsidiary Bowen Central Coal (BCC) seeking damages. This follows the default notice issued to BCC by AQA in relation to the infrastructure arrangements for the Eagle Downs Hard Coking Coal Project. BCC does not agree that it is in default.

04-Mar-10  
10:47

 **Exco Resources (EXS) - High grade Mt Colin resource adds to Cloncurry Project**

An updated resource model at the Mt Colin deposit, located between Mt Isa and Cloncurry, has led to an increase in overall resource tonnage which is now 1.49Mt @ 2.47% Cu, an increase of 123% on the previous resource. The Mt Colin deposit has been incorporated into the overall Cloncurry Copper Project resource which now stands at 52.4Mt @ 0.88% Cu and 0.22g/t gold. A mining study is well underway at Mt Colin with full results expected shortly.

04-Mar-10  
10:19

 **Wesfarmers Ltd (WES) - WES raises EUR 500M (A\$755M) under its Euro medium term note (EMTN) programme**

WES has raised EUR500M (A\$755M) of EURO denominated notes, maturing in July 2015 at a 135bps spread over the EURO five year mid swap rate. The EURO proceeds have been fully swapped into A\$ at an all up swapped margin of 228bps over the three month bank bill rate. Proceeds are intended to retire short-term borrowings, and will result in FY10 hedge close-out costs of \$30M to \$40M. The notes will be listed in Singapore and will not be offered for sale in Australia.

04-Mar-10  
09:10

 **Macarthur Coal Ltd (MCC) - Independent Directors of GCL recommend MCC offer**

The independent directors of Gloucester Coal (GCL) have confirmed their recommendation to accept the MCC offer in the absence of a superior proposal. This follows the receipt of their appointed independent expert releasing a report which will be contained in GCL's Target's Statement.

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