

Top News

NZ dollar retreats from month-high as election looms, commodity prices fall

The New Zealand dollar fell from a month-high with no clear favourite for the upcoming general election and a drop in commodity prices in New York on Friday.

An NZ Herald election forecast, taking in the latest opinion polls, projected 54 seats for Labour and 48 for National, continuing the turnaround for Labour since Jacinda Ardern took over as leader. While financial markets aren't fazed by the election outcome, the uncertainty may cap any gains in the run-up to the Sept. 23 vote, analysts said. Meanwhile, the CRB Index of 19 commonly traded commodities fell 0.9% on Friday.

Today, traders will be watching for retail spending on electronic cards for August, due for release this morning. On Friday, New York Federal Reserve President William Dudley said that major storms tended to lift economic activity over the longer term, though Hurricanes Harvey and Irma might impact the timing of the next US interest rate hike. He signalled the central bank would likely proceed with the unwinding of its balance sheet.

World Week Ahead: Eyes on Apple, impact of Irma

Investors will assess the impact of Hurricane Irma and eye the latest data on US inflation and retail sales while continuing to monitor nuclear tensions between North Korea and the US.

Also on the radar are Apple, which is set to unveil its latest products including a new iPhone model on Tuesday, and the Bank of England's latest policy announcement, scheduled for Thursday.

US economic reports scheduled for release this week include the NFIB small business optimism index, and JOLTS, due Tuesday; producer price index, due Wednesday; consumer price index, and weekly jobless claims, due Thursday; retail sales, Empire State manufacturing survey, industrial production, business inventories, and consumer sentiment, due Friday.

NZ stocks rise, F&P Healthcare reaches record as Labour seen weakening kiwi

New Zealand shares rose, with Fisher & Paykel Healthcare edging up to a record on speculation the kiwi dollar would weaken under a Labour-led government, providing a boon to companies with offshore sales. A2 Milk and Mainfreight added to the benchmark index's gains.

The kiwi fell late last month, although it is up recently, after the latest Colmar Brunton poll showed National down 2 points to 39% and Labour unchanged on 43%, while Labour's Jacinda Ardern leads National's Bill English as preferred prime minister by 34% to 33%.

F&P Healthcare, got as high as \$12.62 before the close and ended the day up 0.9% to an all-time high close of \$12.61. A2 Milk, the milk marketer that's enjoyed strong sales growth in Australia and China, rose 1.9% to \$5.91. Mainfreight, which has transport and logistics operations across the globe, rose 0.5% to \$24.58. Auckland International Airport led the market higher, rising 2.6% to \$6.60. Trustpower rose 1.9% to \$5.45 and Vista Group International increased 1.8% to \$5.55.

NZX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
S&P/NZX All Index	8,499.67	49.60	↑	0.59%
S&P/NZX 50 Index	7,851.53	46.77	↑	0.60%
S&P/NZX Mid Cap Index	22,441.14	83.65	↑	0.37%
S&P/NZX Small Cap	52,228.83	1.01	↑	0.00%
S&P/NZAX All Index	574.82	0.66	↑	0.12%

ASX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
ALL ORDINARIES	5,739.4	14.4	↓	0.25%
S&P/ASX 200	5,672.6	17.3	↓	0.30%
S&P/ASX SMALL ORD	2,462.5	1.9	↑	0.08%
S&P/ASX MIDCAP 50	6,127.1	3.5	↓	0.06%
S&P/ASX 20	3,171.9	13.8	↓	0.44%

Foreign Markets Index				
	Last		Change	
S&P 500	2,461.43	3.67	↓	0.15%
DJIA	21,797.79	13.01	↑	0.06%
Nasdaq	6,360.19	37.68	↓	0.59%
FTSE 100	7,377.60	19.38	↓	0.26%
ALL ORDINARIES	5,739.40	14.40	↓	0.25%
Nikkei 225	19,274.82	121.70	↓	0.63%
Hang Seng	27,668.47	145.55	↑	0.53%

Currencies (per NZ\$ 1.00)				
	Last		Change	
AUD	0.9014	0.0001	↓	0.01%
USD	0.7262	0.0001	↓	0.01%
CNY	4.7050			
EUR	0.6042	0.0001	↓	0.02%
CAD	0.8831	0.0001	↓	0.01%
GBP	0.5508			
JPY	78.5765	0.0075	↓	0.01%

NZ Interest Rates		
	Last	Change
NZ OCR	1.75	
3-month Bank Bill	1.94	
5-year Swap	2.56	
10-year Swap	3.04	

Commodities				
	Last		Change	
Spot Gold \$US	1,346.08			
Spot Silver \$US	17.94	0.01	↓	0.03%
Oil(WTI)	47.48	1.61	↓	3.28%

Disclaimer: The above information is provided on a best endeavours basis and Equity Investment Advisers Ltd does not accept any liability under any circumstances for errors or omissions. Parties should recheck the information before using it in any decision-making process.

Acknowledgements: Equity Investment Advisers (EIA) sincerely expresses its gratitude to the following sources for the contribution of valuable information in the production of EIA morning reports: Yahoo New Zealand, ANZ securities, ASX, Nikkei Indexes, NZX, NYSE, NASDAQ, business desk.

Tel: +64 (9)304 0145

Web: www.equity.co.nz

E-mail: Info@equity.co.nz

Address: Level 7, 12-26 Swanson Street, Auckland, NZ