

Top News

NZ dollar gains within narrow range after Fed minutes; government awaited

The New Zealand dollar gained, although it remains within this week's narrow trading range pending an announcement on the next government, after minutes of the last Federal Reserve meeting showed concerns about weak inflation.

The New Zealand dollar has traded in a range of less than half a US cent this week, remaining near its lowest levels in more than four months as the market awaits the decision of the NZ First Party that will determine the next government.

Meanwhile, the minutes of the Fed's Sept. 19-20 meeting said many of those at the policy meeting "expressed concern that the low inflation readings this year might reflect not only transitory factors, but also the influence of developments that could prove more persistent."

Fed worries about inflation

Wall Street inched higher, with the Dow touching another record high, amid optimism that the latest round of US corporate earnings will justify valuations.

The Dow rose, led by gains in shares of Wal-Mart Stores and those of Johnson & Johnson, recently up 2.2% and 2% respectively. Limiting the advance were slides in shares of General Electric and those of Walt Disney, recently down 1.7% and 1.4% respectively for the biggest percentage declines in the Dow.

Shares of Kroger rallied after the US grocer said it plans to explore strategic alternatives for its convenience store business, including a potential sale.

NZ shares rise as growth stocks A2, Xero, Synlait extend gains; CBL drops

New Zealand shares rose as the export-orientated growth stocks A2 Milk and Xero extended recent gains, while insurer CBL Corp declined.

Stocks which have enjoyed recent gains extended that run with Synlait Milk up 3.8% to \$7.04, Xero gaining 3.1% to \$33.95, and A2 Milk Co rising 2% to \$7.75. This year, the stocks have respectively gained 118%, 88% and 257%, ahead of the benchmark index's gain of 17%. All three are export-focused businesses and have benefited from recent pressure on the kiwi dollar.

Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, another exporter, gained 1.3% to \$13.05 and Z Energy rose 1.3% to \$7.11. CBL Corp was the worst performer, down 2.3% to \$2.98. It has made a technical adjustment to its minimum solvency capital, lifting it to \$121 million from \$107 million.

New Zealand Refining Co fell 1.6% to \$2.48 and Metro Performance Glass declined 1% to \$1.02.

Outside the benchmark index, Pushpay Holdings rose 8% to \$2.96. The mobile payments app company said annualised committed monthly revenue (ACMR) has jumped 96.8% and reiterated its target to break even on a monthly cash-flow basis before the end of 2018.

NZX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
S&P/NZX All Index	8,728.03	23.04	↑	0.26%
S&P/NZX 50 Index	8,060.98	23.17	↑	0.29%
S&P/NZX Mid Cap Index	23,979.39	113.94	↑	0.48%
S&P/NZX Small Cap	54,012.20	6.87	↑	0.01%
S&P/NZAX All Index	576.08	0.95	↑	0.17%

ASX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
ALL ORDINARIES	5,840.80	33.70	↑	0.58%
S&P/ASX 200	5,772.10	34.00	↑	0.59%
S&P/ASX SMALL ORD	2,539.60	19.00	↑	0.75%
S&P/ASX MIDCAP 50	6,233.30	46.80	↑	0.75%
S&P/ASX 20	3,245.60	17.10	↑	0.53%

Foreign Markets Index				
	Last		Change	
S&P 500	2,554.63	3.99	↑	0.16%
DJIA	22,866.65	35.97	↑	0.16%
Nasdaq	6,603.75	16.50	↑	0.25%
FTSE 100	7,533.81	4.46	↓	0.06%
ALL ORDINARIES	5,840.80	33.70	↑	0.58%
Nikkei 225	20,881.27	57.76	↑	0.28%
Hang Seng	28,389.57	101.26	↓	0.36%

Currencies (per NZ\$ 1.00)				
	Last		Change	
AUD	0.9098	0.0002	↑	0.02%
USD	0.7091			
CNY	4.6710			
EUR	0.5976	0.0003	↑	0.05%
CAD	0.8833	0.0002	↑	0.04%
GBP	0.5360	0.0002	↑	0.04%
JPY	79.6715	0.0020	↓	

NZ Interest Rates		
	Last	Change
NZ OCR	1.75	
3-month Bank Bill	1.93	
5-year Swap	2.74	
10-year Swap	3.26	

Commodities				
	Last		Change	
Spot Gold \$US	1,292.73	5.05	↑	0.39%
Spot Silver \$US	17.21	0.11	↑	0.61%
Oil(WTI)	51.25	0.43	↑	0.85%

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