

Top News

NZ dollar holds above 73 US cts as markets weigh up prospect of centre-right govt

The New Zealand dollar held above 73 US cents after Saturday's general election saw the incumbent National Party win the most votes, putting it in the box seat to negotiate the formation of a new government.

The Bill English-led National Party won 46% of the popular vote on Saturday as it seeks to win a rare fourth term in government, more than the rival Labour-Green bloc with a combined 43%.

Both groups need New Zealand First to secure a parliamentary majority, however leader Winston Peters has said he won't make a decision until Oct. 12 when the result is officially delivered to the Governor General.

Locally, investors will be watching Fonterra Cooperative Group's annual result for any update on how the dairy sector is tracking.

World Week Ahead: Tonnes of Fed speak ahead

A slew of speeches by US Federal Reserve officials including chair Janet Yellen in the coming days will be closely monitored following last week's more-hawkish-than-expected outlook from the central bank.

Last Wednesday the Federal Open Market Committee indicated it still plans to hike interest rates once more this year, predicting that the impact of recent devastating hurricanes will affect economic activity in the near term but "are unlikely to materially alter the course of the national economy over the medium term." It also flagged its unchanged intention for three rate hikes in 2018, and said it will start paring its balance sheet in October.

Shares of Hewlett Packard Enterprise closed 3.4% higher on Friday. The company is planning to cut about 10% of its staff, or at least 5,000 workers, Bloomberg reported, part of a broader effort to pare expenses.

NZ shares up, trading quiet ahead of election; Fletcher, TradeMe gain, A2 falls

New Zealand shares rose in light trading ahead of tomorrow's general election, with Fletcher Building and Trade Me Group rising while A2 Milk dipped.

Fletcher Building rose 0.3% to \$7.79, though it spent most of the day trading down, hitting a three-month low of \$7.71 on intraday trading. The stock has weakened on media reports that it has hired KPMG to audit four construction projects in its building and interiors unit.

The company dumped chief executive Mark Adamson in July amid cost blowouts at two major construction projects - the Auckland convention centre and the Justice Precinct in Christchurch - which have been said to be under KPMG audit.

Trade Me Group was the best performer, up 2% to \$4.59, while Summerset Group Holdings gained 2% to \$5.10 and Tourism Holdings gained 1.8% to \$4.60. A2 Milk Co dipped 0.3% to \$5.99. It's the best performing stock on the index this year, up 182%, and reached a record \$6.12 last Monday before bouncing around this week.

NZX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
S&P/NZX All Index	8,464.95	17.92	↑	0.21%
S&P/NZX 50 Index	7,814.78	19.37	↑	0.25%
S&P/NZX Mid Cap Index	22,479.35	31.10	↑	0.14%
S&P/NZX Small Cap	52,645.51	129.89	↓	0.25%
S&P/NZAX All Index	566.16	7.70	↓	1.34%

Index	Last		Change	
ALL ORDINARIES	5,740.6	23.9	↑	0.42%
S&P/ASX 200	5,682.1	26.7	↑	0.47%
S&P/ASX SMALL ORD	2,442.3	1.2	↑	0.05%
S&P/ASX MIDCAP 50	6,076.8	5.6	↑	0.09%
S&P/ASX 20	3,206.6	20.7	↑	0.65%

Foreign Markets Index				
	Last		Change	
S&P 500	2,502.22	1.62	↑	0.06%
DJIA	22,349.59	9.64	↓	0.04%
Nasdaq	6,426.92	4.23	↑	0.07%
FTSE 100	7,310.64	46.74	↑	0.64%
ALL ORDINARIES	5,740.60	23.90	↑	0.42%
Nikkei 225	20,296.45	51.03	↓	0.25%
Hang Seng	27,880.53	229.80	↓	0.82%

Currencies (per NZ\$ 1.00)				
	Last		Change	
AUD	0.9201	0.0002	↑	0.02%
USD	0.7311	0.0021	↓	0.29%
CNY	4.8380	0.0110	↑	0.23%
EUR	0.6142	0.0007	↑	0.11%
CAD	0.9021	0.0032	↓	0.35%
GBP	0.5424	0.0009	↓	0.17%
JPY	82.0750	0.0400	↓	0.05%

NZ Interest Rates		
	Last	Change
NZ OCR	1.75	
3-month Bank Bill	1.96	
5-year Swap	2.75	
10-year Swap	3.24	

Commodities				
	Last		Change	
Spot Gold \$US	1,296.85	0.35	↓	0.03%
Spot Silver \$US	16.99	0.02	↑	0.12%
Oil(WTI)	50.66	0.02	↓	0.04%

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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.