

MORNING REPORT

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Web: www.equity.co.nz / E-mail: Info@equity.co.nz / Tel: +64 (9)304 0145 / Address: Level 7, 12-26 Swanson Street, Auckland, NZ

Top News

NZ shares rise, boosted by Sky TV-Spark deal

New Zealand shares rose, boosted by gains in Sky Network Television and Spark New Zealand after they cut a deal that will let the pay-TV operator's commercial customers access the rugby world cup using a Sky decoder.

The S&P/NZX 50 Index increased 27.59 points, or 0.3 percent, to 10,878.95. Within the index, 24 stocks rose, 19 fell and seven were unchanged. Turnover was \$106.6 million with six companies trading on volumes of more than a million shares.

Sky TV was the biggest gainer, adding 4.1 percent to \$1.28 on a volume of 660,990, in line with its 90-day average.

Spark was the most heavily traded stock on the index, adding 1.3 percent to \$3.95 on a volume of 1.8 million shares, lower than its 90-day average of 3.17 million shares.

Under the terms of the deal, Sky's commercial customers will be able to access a pop-up channel to access all 48 matches live at a one-off cost.

"The market has taken that quite positively," said Grant Williamson, a director at Hamilton Hindin Greene in Christchurch. He said investors are also digesting comments from chief executive Martin Stewart who this week said he would bid to keep the right to key sports, regardless of the cost. They will now be waiting to see the annual result on Aug. 22.

"It will be interesting to see what they do with the dividend this time round as they might be trying to build up a bid of a nest egg for when they do need to make these bids," he said.

Williamson noted that "growth stocks" like Ebos Group, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare and A2 Milk fared well today, possibly at the expense of electricity stocks.

NZ dollar eases against greenback on US-China jitters

The New Zealand dollar eased against the greenback after US President Donald Trump berated China on Twitter just as a new round of trade talks between the two nations kicks off.

The kiwi was trading at 66.15 US cents at 8am in Wellington from 66.28 cents at 5pm yesterday. The trade weighed index was at 72.81 from 72.97 points.

Trump tweeted that "China is doing very badly, worst year in 27 - was supposed to start buying our agricultural product now - no signs that they are doing so. That is the problem with China, they just don't come through," and "my team is negotiating with them now, but they always change the deal in the end to their benefit."

The risk-off sentiment that resulted meant "the kiwi knocked on the door of 66 US cents overnight but no-one answered that knock, so it bounced a little," Kiwibank trader Mike Shirley said.

Stronger-than-expected US consumer confidence data overnight also supported the greenback. The US Conference Board survey showed confidence surged to 135.7 in July from 121.5, compared to expectations for a reading of 125.

NZX Index				
Index	Last	Change		
S&P/NZX All Index	11,742.61	27.17	▲	0.23%
S&P/NZX 50 Index	10,878.95	27.59	▲	0.25%
S&P/NZX MidCap Index	30,520.84	22.64	▲	0.07%
S&P/NZX SmallCap Index	60,702.99	126.07	▼	0.21%

ASX Index				
Index	Last	Change		
ASX All Ordinaries	6,928.30	16.90	▲	0.24%
S&P/ASX 200	6,845.10	19.30	▲	0.28%
ASX Small Ordinaries	2,977.50	9.10	▼	0.30%
S&P/ASX MIDCAP 50	7,310.50	3.50	▼	0.05%
S&P/ASX 20	3,813.20	13.70	▲	0.36%

Foreign Markets Index				
	Last	Change		
S&P 500	3,013.18	7.79	▼	0.26%
Dow Jones	27,198.02	23.33	▼	0.09%
NASDAQ Composite	8,273.61	19.71	▼	0.24%
DAX	12,147.24	270.23	▼	2.18%
ASX All Ordinaries	6,928.30	16.90	▲	0.24%
NIKKEI 225	21,709.31	92.51	▲	0.43%
HANG SENG INDEX	28,146.50	40.09	▲	0.14%

Currencies (per NZ\$ 1.00)				
	Last	Change		
AUD	0.9622	0.0013	▲	0.14%
USD	0.66	-0.0017	▼	0.26%
CNY	4.5530	-0.0180	▼	0.40%
EUR	0.59	-0.0020	▼	0.34%
CAD	0.8696	-0.0033	▼	0.38%
GBP	0.54	0.0016	▲	0.29%
JPY	71.8375	-0.3040	▼	0.42%

NZ Interest Rates		
	Last	Change
NZ OCR	1.50	
3m Bank Bill	1.49	
5y Swap	1.31	
10y Swap	1.66	

Commodities Futures (Spot Price \$USD)			
	Last	Change	
Gold	1,443.20	9.90	▲ 0.69%
Silver	16.60	0.16	▲ 0.97%
Crude Oil	58.32	1.45	▲ 2.55%

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www.equity.co.nz E-mail: Info@equity.co.nz

Contact Equity Investment Advisers today.
 Tel: +64 (9)304 0145 / NZ: 0800 474 669