MORNING REPORT

As at 9.00 a.m. 2/02/2023

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Top News KEY OVERSEAS MARKET

US markets closed lower on Wednesday in choppy trade, bouncing off session lows hit when the Federal Reserve increased interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point and said it expects "ongoing increases" in borrowing costs as it keeps battling high inflation. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed down 0.39%, while the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite were up 0.34% and 0.89% respectively.

Other key markets ended mixed. European stocks closed as follows: the FTSE100 (-0.14%), the Dax 30 (+0.35), CAC 40 (-0.07%) and the STOXX (+0.19%). In Asia, the Hang Seng and Shanghai indices closed higher. The key Asian indices ended yesterday as follows: Nikkei 225(+0.07%), HSI (+1.05%) and the Shanghai Composite (+0.90%).

The yield on the US 10 - year note was at 3.413%, while the 2 - year note was at 4.133%. Oil was up to \$76.36 per barrel, down 3.18%. The gold price was at US\$1938.10 per ounce, down 0.38%.

NZX & ASX

The S&P/ASX200 closed lower on Wednesday, -0.30% to 7,086.40 points. The worst performing stocks in this index were FLIGHT CENTRE TRAVEL GROUP LIMITED (-8.09%) and JAMES HARDIE INDUSTRIES PLC (-4.29%). The index has gained 0.45% in last five days.

The S&P/NZX 50 closed lower at 12090.929 points up 1.03%. Most sectors ended higher. The 3 worst sectors were Energy (-0.69%), SmallCap (+0.00%), Real Estate (+0.01%). The 3 best sectors were Industrials (+1.48%), Communications Services (+1.47%) and Information Technology (+1.04%).

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