

17:15 13 Oct 2020

## FTSE 100 ends underwater; US traders still waiting for stimulus news

- FTSE sheds 31 points
- US Markets mixed at midday
- Airlines continue to struggle

### 5pm: FTSE ends lower on coronavirus concerns

The FTSE 100 finished the Tuesday session down 31 points, 0.5%, at 5,969.7, and the FTSE 250 tumbled 276 points, 1.5%, to 17,891.

"Sentiment has gone from bad to worse today as traders are worried about the health crisis," CMC Markets UK analyst David Madden wrote Tuesday. "The number of new coronavirus cases has stoked fears about stricter restrictions, and that has impacted market confidence as economic activity could take a hit."

Renewed concerns over air travel have easyJet plc (LON:EZJ), Wizz Air Holdings Plc (LON:WIZZ) and Ryanair Holdings plc (LON:RYA) (NASDAQ:RYAAY) all in the red.

The lack of progress with respect to a US coronavirus relief package hasn't helped sentiment in the markets either, Madden noted.

Across the pond, markets were mixed at noon ET.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 91 points, 0.3%, to 28,746.2, and the S&P 500 fell 10 points, 0.3%, to 3,523.8. The tech-heavy Nasdaq fared better, climbing 35 points, 0.3%, to 11,911.7.

"The S&P 500 is a touch lower in the wake of the decent gains that were posted yesterday, as dealers have grown weary of the back and forth in relation to the proposed Covid-19 stimulus package negotiations," Madden wrote. "The optimism in the broad market has faded for now, but the NASDAQ 100 is slightly higher, which is impressive given its strong rally last night."

Delta Air Lines Inc (NYSE:DAL) posted a \$5.4 billion loss in its quarterly results this morning, and revenue fell 75% year-over-year to \$3.06 billion, which fell short of \$3.1 billion Street expectations.

The company saw its shares fall 3.2% to \$31.59.

### 3.50pm: Losses lengthen

London's leading shares have had a drab day and approaching the last knockings, it is getting worse.

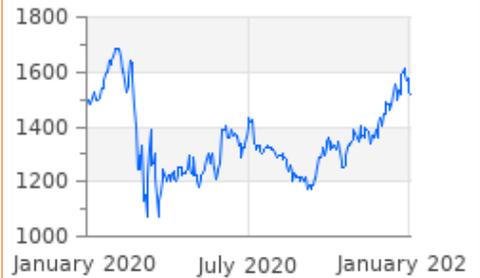
The FTSE 100 was down 40 points (0.7%) at 5,962.

Real estate investment trusts such as Land Securities PLC (LON:LAND), down 5.1% at 530.3p, and British Land Company PLC (LON:LAND), down 4.5%, were among the hardest hit of the heavyweight shares after the UK government again changed the rules on lockdown restrictions.

**Price:** 1519.5

**Market Cap:** £15.83 billion

#### 1 Year Share Price Graph



#### Share Information

**Code:** SSE

**Listing:** LSE

**52 week High Low**  
 1703 1057.5

**Sector:** Power & Utilities

**Website:** www.sse.com

#### Company Synopsis:

SSE PLC, formerly Scottish and Southern Energy PLC, is a holding company. The company is involved in the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity; the production, storage, distribution and supply of gas, and the provision of other energy-related services.

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### 3.30pm: Proactive North America headlines:

Global Energy Metals Corp (CVE:GEMC) (OTCMKTS:GBLEF) partners with SJ Geophysics to assemble data compilation and interpretation program for Lovelock Mine and Treasure Box projects in Nevada

Bam Bam Resources Corp (CSE:BBR) (OTCPINK:NPEZF) adds commercial law veteran Bradley Dixon to its board of directors adds commercial law veteran Bradley Dixon to its board of directors

Melkior Resources Inc (CVE:MKR)(OTCMKTS:MKRIF) set for induced polarization geophysical survey at Val-d'Or project ahead of drilling start

Loop Insights Inc (CVE:MTRX) (OCTMKTS:RACMF) inks contract with SG-retail as it eyes big opportunities in the UK and Europe

Esports Entertainment Group Inc (NASDAQ:GMBL) (FRA:40Y1) named the official esports tournament provider of LA Kings hockey and LA Galaxy soccer

GlobeX Data (OTCQB:SWISF) (CSE:SWIS) says Mexico's largest telecom operator to sell SekurMessenger to corporate and mass markets

Black Iron Inc (TSE:BKI) (OTCMKTS:BKIRF) updates further on offtake and construction process for its Ukraine iron ore project

Algonon Pharmaceuticals Inc (CSE:AGN) (OTCB:BTHCF) (FRA:AGW) announces 25% enrollment for its Phase 2 idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and chronic cough study of Ifenprodil

CleanSpark Inc (NASDAQ:CLSK) subsidiary p2klabs wins \$1M contract extension from LAWCLERK.LEGAL

Heritage Cannabis Holdings Corp (CSE:CANN) (OTCQX:HERTF) subsidiary receives sales license from Health Canada

### 3.10pm: Cineworld suffers another blow as Disney reorganises to focus on streaming content

The Footsie threatened to make it back to par but then turned lower again as US indices opened lower.

The FTSE 100 was down 27 points (0.5%) at 5,974.

Cineworld Group PLC (LON:CINE), down 5.4% at 28p, has suffered more than its fair share of slings and arrows of late and got another kick in the cobbles today as Disney said its major focus in future would be on streaming content.

Seeing as Disney films provide a sizeable chunk of Cineworld's revenue - when its cinemas are open - this could be another serious blow for the heavily indebted company.

Disney says its 'primary focus' for entertainment is streaming — announces a major reorg <https://t.co/eGR3Xv0xnA>

— Marc Dolan (@fozzielogic) October 13, 2020

Turning from one hard-hit sector to another, retailer French Connection Group PLC (LON:FCCN) lost around a fifth of its value as it said the boost in sales it received when its stores reopened earlier this summer has started to fade.

### 2.44pm: Mixed start for US markets

The main indices on Wall Street were something of a mixed bag on Tuesday morning, with the Nasdaq the only one of the trio to log gains in the early minutes of trading.

Shortly after the opening bell, the tech-heavy index was up 0.29% at 11,903 while the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.3% to 28,756 and the S&P 500 dropped 0.13% to 3,529.

The Nasdaq appears to have been saved by some of its larger contingents, notably Apple Inc (NASDAQ:AAPL) ahead of its iPhone launch event and Amazon Inc (NASDAQ:AMZN), which has kicked off its Prime Day sale.

Meanwhile, the third quarter earnings season continued to trundle on with figures from banking giant Citigroup Inc (NYSE:C), which shortly before the open reported profits and revenues ahead of expectations as a result of stronger business from institutional clients as stabilization of credit costs.

Back in London, the FTSE 100 had continued to head downwards and was 29 points lower at 5,972 shortly before 2.45pm.

### 1.35pm: Footsie pares its losses

With the FTSE 100 like the proverbial stopped clock, it is small wonder that many traders are peering across the pond to the start of the results season.

London's blue-chip benchmark has at least roused itself a bit in the lunchtime session to cut its deficit to 6 points (0.1%) at 5,995.

Property companies are largely responsible for the Footsie's slide, with sentiment soured by the latest lockdown rulings from the government, which appear to confirm that a return to normality -shopping, going to the office, moaning about the weather - is some way off (except for the moaning about the weather bit).

Meanwhile, in the US ... how well did JP Morgan's revenues hold up, ask Neil Wilson of markets.com, rhetorically.

"Pretty well, markets and securities revenues +29% to \$7.8bn, fixed income trading +29% to \$4.6bn, equities trading revenues +32% to \$2bn. Total markets revenues +30%. Investment banking revenues +12% to \$2.1bn, "Wilson reported.

The third-quarter provision for credit losses was just US\$610mln, which was well short of the US\$2.38bn expected. (Where do these precise figures such as US\$2.38bn come from?).

The shares were up 1.77% in pre-market trading at US\$104.25, which was north of the 200-day moving average.

Ahead of the launch of Apple's next clutch of wallet-busting products, AJ Bell's investment director, Russ Mould, asks how much good news is already baked into the Apple share price.

"Apple's shares are rolling higher again as investors get excited about the latest round of product launches, including a hotly-anticipated 5G phone, but the stock's history suggests that the markets have a classic habit of buying on the rumour and then selling (or at least pausing for breath) after the fact," Mould observed.

"In the six months before the firm's eight previous major generational product launches, dating all the way back to the original iPhone in 2007, Apple's shares have risen by an average of 20%, only to then pretty much flat-line for the six months after launch, with an average advance of just 4%. They have then tended to start motoring again in anticipation of future product upgrades and how they drive fresh sales of phones and - increasingly - consumption of apps and content," Mould said.

"The potentially tricky bit this time is the degree to which Apple has already surged ahead of the new range of launches - the shares have racked up their biggest ever six-month capital gain ahead of a product release of almost 61%, compared to that long-run average of 20%," Mould said, in a valiant attempt to introduce some logic into the way the market reacts to Apple.

"Ultimately, net profits have grown by 6% over the last five years, during which time Apple's market cap has surged by 242%. The extra \$3.3 billion in net profit has prompted investors to add \$1.5 trillion to Apple's market cap," Mould cautioned.

As the septs like to say, "go figure".

## 12.15pm: US indices to open lower (except the NASDAQ, of course)

The third-quarter earnings season has kicked off in the US but investors seem more concerned with the status of a coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine trial.

The Dow Jones industrial average is expected to give back 99 points of yesterday's gains and open at around 28,740 while the S&P 500 is see kicking off four points lower at 3,530.

The tech-heavy NASDAQ Composite, however, looks set to blaze its own trail (again) with a 310 point gain. According to Jasper Lawler at LCG, today's launch of the first 5G iPhone as well as Amazon Prime Day "has got the juices flowing for tech investors".

A pause in the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine has taken the wind out of the sails of the bulls' boats.

"Though a pause in a trial - this time due to 'an unexplained illness in a study participant' - isn't exactly out of the ordinary, it still dealt a blow to the market's faint, naïve hopes of a vaccine arriving this side of Christmas," said Connor Campbell at Spreadex.

Johnson & Johnson is one of the companies releasing an earnings update today. The shares were off in pre-market trading despite the healthcare titan topping expectations with third-quarter adjusted earnings per share of US\$2.20, versus expectations of US\$1.98.

Investment bank JP Morgan Chase was another to beat the consensus forecast, with earnings per share of US\$2.68 - 45 cents above the median forecast of analysts who follow the stock. The shares were little changed in pre-market trading.

Johnson & Johnson REPORTS 2020 THIRD-QUARTER RESULTS || Q3 ADJUSTED SHR \$2.20 || Q3 SHR \$1.33 || Q3 SHR ESTIMATE \$1.98

J&J - SEES FY ADJUSTED EPS \$7.95 TO \$8.05 || SEES FY ADJ OPERATIONAL SALES UP 0.5% TO 1.5% || SEES FY OPERATIONAL SALES \$82.0 BLN TO \$82.8 BLN

11:42:55

— Neil Wilson (@marketsneil) October 13, 2020

In London, despite sterling losing two-fifths of a cent against the US dollar, shares of big caps that might be expected to benefit from a weak exchange rate are labouring.

Never mind the pause in the Johnson & Johnson vaccine trial; the Footsie has been on pause for most of the day, residing around 5,976 (down 25 points, or 0.4%).

## 12:00pm: IG warns COVID effects will plague US reporting season

IG analyst Kyle Rodda has given an overview of the reporting season which has just begun and will continue into mid-November.

"The effects of the COVID-19 recession is tipped to plague this US reporting season," Rodda said.

"As the US economy slowly moves out of lockdown and recession, the market is positioned for another deep

contraction in earnings growth across the S&P 500 for the quarter.

"Data gathered from Fact Set suggests EPS growth ought to contract by approximately 21 per cent for the third quarter, backing up the 31.6% per cent decline recorded in the second quarter."

The analyst added: "the quarter's results will prove a major factor in how the S&P500 trades into the year's end, as the index builds momentum to challenge fresh record highs."

### 11.10am: Steepest fall on record for output per worker

Labour productivity for the second quarter, as measured by output per hour, fell by 1.8% year-on-year, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

Output per worker fell by 21.1% compared with the same quarter in the previous year, which is the steepest fall on record and is larger than that observed for output per hour because of the impact of the furlough scheme that retains employees as workers even though they work zero hours.

When compared with the previous quarter, output per hour fell by 2% while output per worker fell by 19%, again reflecting the impact of the furlough scheme.

Howard Archer, the chief economic advisor to the EY ITEM Club, returned to a familiar theme in highlighting the UK's chronic inability to boost production.

"The impact of COVID-19 has magnified existing concerns around the UK's productivity performance, which has been weak for some time. Indeed, the flat overall productivity performance over 2019 after an underwhelming 2018 extends the UK's overall poor productivity record since the 2008/9 recession," Archer said.

Well, so much for George Osborne, Dave "Trotters" Cameron and the austerity programme.

"Part of the UK's 'productivity puzzle' has undoubtedly been that low wage growth has increased the attractiveness of employment for companies. This helped employment to hold up well during the 2008/9 downturn and to pick up as growth returned.

"It also appears that, given the uncertain economic and political outlook in recent years, many companies took on labour rather than committing to costly and difficult-to-reverse investment. The low cost and flexibility of labour relative to capital has certainly supported employment over investment," Archer opined.

"Many of the new jobs that have been created in recent years are in less-skilled, low-paid sectors where productivity is limited. A report by the NIESR and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in 2018 concluded that productivity is particularly poor in low-paid jobs in the UK compared with other major economies, lagging up to 20-30% behind similar roles in Germany, France and the US," he continued.

On the plus side, the economist reckons the quarter just ended "likely saw a considerable rebound in UK productivity" if the gross domestic product numbers are any guide.

"However, this is unlikely to change the underlying concerns over UK productivity," Archer said.

The FTSE 100 was down 21 points (0.4%) at 5,981.

### 10.00am: Tesco and Morrisons get some love after strong sales performance in September

Disappointing UK jobs numbers and caution over progress on Brexit talks are deterring the bulls in London this morning.

The FTSE 100 was down 20 points (0.3%) at 5,981.

Utility SSE PLC (LON:SSE), up 3.7% at 1,374.5p, went against the trend after it agreed to sell its 50% share in energy-from-waste ventures Multifuel Energy and Multifuel Energy 2 for £995m.

Retailers were getting a bit of support after the release of the latest grocery market share figures from Kantar for the four weeks to October 4.

The survey showed take-home grocery sales growth accelerated to 10.6% as shoppers geared up for new lockdown restrictions.

Shoppers spent an extra £261m on alcohol as a 10.00pm curfew came into effect for pubs and bars and the Eat Out to Help Out scheme ended.

Online sales in the past month grew by 76% year on year, making it a strong month for Ocado Group PLC (LON:OCDO), Kantas said - although the delivery technology group's shares were down 0.8% at 2,424p this morning.

Ocado has increased sales by 41.9% in the latest 12 weeks, buoyed by its new partnership with Marks & Spencer PLC (LON:MKS) - down 1.9% this morning at 95.68p

"Shoppers are moving a greater proportion of their eating and drinking back into the home," observed Fraser McKeivitt, the head of retail and consumer insight at market research firm Kantar.

Tesco PLC (LON:TSCO), up 1.1% at 221.5p, maintained its market share at 26.9% while Wm Morrison Supermarkets PLC (LON:MRW), up 1.5% at 175p, saw its share nudge up to 10.1% from 9.9% on the back of 11.5% growth in sales.

People spent an extra £261 million on alcohol to drink at home last month, acc to @Kantar\_UK1, reflecting 10pm pub curfew and and of Eat Out to Help Out scheme. I suspect there will be more drowning of sorrows to come...

— George MacDonald (@GeorgeMacD) October 13, 2020

### 9:30am: IG charts bearish view for FTSE 100

IG analyst and chartist Joshua Mahony reckons that bearishness is in play for the FTSE 100.

"The FTSE 100 has rallied into the 76.4% Fibonacci resistance level over the course of October thus far, with the index turning lower from that key resistance level," Mahony said.

"The wider downtrend still remains intact unless we see a break through the 6127 peak established in mid-September.

"As such, a bearish outlook is in play here, with a rise through Fibonacci resistance needed as the first signal that we could start challenging this multi-month downtrend."

### 8.55am: Jobs disappointment weighs

The FTSE 100 opened lower on Tuesday after the UK unemployment rate hit 4.5% in the three months to the end of August - its highest level in over three years.

London's blue-chip benchmark opened 24 points lower at 5,977.03.

The jobless figure was up 0.4 percentage points quarter-on-quarter and was higher than the market consensus of 4.3%.

As Richard Hunter, head of markets at Interactive Investor, pointed out, the economic signals of late have been mixed. "There was some evidence of a recent improvement in consumer spending, an important constituent of the economy, although it has been suggested that some of this may have been as a result of customers stockpiling ahead of Christmas in the face of further lockdown measures," he explained.

Over in the US, the tech sector rediscovered its mojo on Monday, while the mainstream American stocks were also in demand.

Here at home traders were continuing to digest the latest 'omnishambles' that constitutes the government's guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown protocols.

It also emerged that scientific advisers called for a short lockdown in England to halt the spread of the virus, perhaps providing an early warning of further strictures.

On the market, Rolls Royce's (LON:RR.) gravity-defying run came to an end as it was marked down 6.6%, while the management upheaval and further vaccine delays grounded airline giant IAG (LON:IAG), which was down 5.4%.

Worries over the outlook for international travel (no vaccine, no return to normal) also hit TUI (LON:TUI), easyJet (LON:EZJ) and Carnival (LON:CCL).

On the FTSE 250, the fallers were dominated by constituents of the pubs, leisure and hospitality sectors.

Cineworld (LON:CINE) led the charge lower as it lost 10% and All Bar One owner Mitchells & Butlers was off 4%.

Finally, Tesco (LON:TSCO) and Morrison's (LON:MRW) made modest gains in the wake of the Kantar grocery sector monthly figures.

### 7.30am: Unemployment figures a mixed bag

Britain's unemployment rate rose to 4.5% in the June-August period, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said, versus expectations of 4.3%.

The rate was 0.6 percentage points higher than a year earlier and 0.4 percentage points more than in the previous quarter.

Early estimates for September 2020 suggest that there is little change in the number of payroll employees in the UK - up 20,000 compared with August 2020. Since March 2020, the number of payroll employees has fallen by 673,000; however, the larger falls were seen at the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the ONS said.



Job vacancies also show signs of a recovery, with a record quarterly increase in the recent period. After a record low of 343,000 vacancies in April to June 2020, there has been an estimated record quarterly increase of 144,000 to 488,000 vacancies in July to September 2020; vacancies remain below the pre-coronavirus pandemic levels and are 332,000 (40.5%) less than a year ago.

Growth in average total pay (including bonuses) among employees for the three months June to August was unchanged from a year ago, while regular pay (excluding bonuses) growth was positive at 0.8%.

Jack Kennedy, an economist at the global job site Indeed, said the pandemic's human cost "is slowly being laid bare".

"The number of people claiming benefits has surged to 2.7 million and two-thirds of a million fewer people are working now compared to March and yet for all that, this is far from a labour market in freefall. New jobs are being created, and in the three months to the end of September, the total number of vacancies jumped at a record-breaking pace," he noted.

"Indeed's data shows that the sector burning brightest is construction. A mini-boom in building has seen the number of construction jobs listed on the site jump by 267% between May and the start of October," he added.

Samuel Tombs at Pantheon Macroeconomics said the damage from COVID-19 is now becoming much clearer following revisions to the data after the ONS realised its data collection methodology, which changed as a result of lockdown restrictions, was overly favouring homeowners rather than renters.

"Following re-weighting, the ONS estimates that the three-month rolling measure of employment in August was 1.5% below its March peak, greatly exceeding the mere 0.5% shortfall in July under the old methodology. That resolves some of the discrepancy with the new PAYE data, which show that the number of payroll employees was 2.4% below its January peak in September, despite edging up by 0.1% from August's level. The remaining discrepancy appears to reflect some households still believing that they have a job waiting for them, but who have not received pay recently," Tombs said.

"Looking ahead, it remains likely that job losses will accumulate in October, ahead of the wind-down of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme at the end of the month. The ONS's Business Impact of Covid-19 found that 9.4% of employees still were on the furlough scheme in the two weeks to September 20. The successor scheme, the Job Support Scheme, will do little to hold back the tide of redundancies, as it requires firms to make up one-third of the shortfall in pay of any former full-time workers that they employ on a part-time basis, so that the employee also receives a wage contribution from the government," Tombs observed.

"Firms that are currently struggling, therefore, are better off employing only a few staff members full-time, instead of attempting to preserve headcounts by employing many workers part-time. Meanwhile, staff that are fired will struggle to find work, given that the official measure of job vacancies still was down 39% year-over-year in September, unchanged from August," he noted.

The FTSE 100, which had been expected to open around 20 points higher, is now expected to start little changed.

### Proactive news headlines:

Oncimmune Holdings PLC (LON:ONC) said it has signed a commercial agreement with the world-renowned Cedars-Sinai healthcare group to provide antibody profiling for coronavirus (COVID-19) samples. Specifically, Oncimmune will analyse serum samples from staff exposed to or infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It will then identify biomarkers of the disease and compare these to a control set of healthy patient samples.

BlueRock Diamonds PLC (LON:BRD) has confirmed a significant increase in production at the Kareevlei diamond mine, in the Kimberley region of South Africa. A production report for the third quarter reveals a 34% increase with a new company record of 123,727 tonnes sorted, up from 92,483 tonnes in the comparative period on 2019. Kareevlei yielded some 5,577 carats in the three-month period, up 40% from 3,973 in the same quarter last year. The grade was reported at 4.51 carats per hundred tonne.

Ncondezi Energy Limited (LON:NCCL) has said it is appointing Scott Fletcher, the group's largest shareholder, to its board. Fletcher has built his position in the company by primarily buying in the market and in recent fundraisings, and is uniquely placed to represent investors' interests at board level.

Capital Limited (LON:CAPD) has reported higher revenue in its third-quarter amid an uptick in the utilisation of its fleet of mining rigs. In an update for the three months to September 30, 2020, the Africa-focused mining services company reported revenues of US\$35.3m, up 20.1% year-on-year, while the company's fleet utilisation rate increased by 17.3% to 61% as a result of increased exploration drilling activities.

Immotion Group PLC (LON:IMMO) said it has reached an agreement with the Mandalay Bay resort and casino in Las Vegas to extend the contract for its Undersea Explorer virtual reality (VR) theatre from a term of 18 months from opening to 30 months. The VR entertainment specialist said the new deal will mean the contract for the 36-seat VR theatre and immersive experience centre will run until February 2023, having started operations on August 1, 2020.

MaxCyte Inc (LON:MXCT) has announced three senior appointments that it said "bolstered the leadership team". Key among them was the promotion of Brad Calvin to the role of chief commercial officer after a successful stint as the cell therapy specialist's vice president of commercial operations. MaxCyte announced two further appointments - Sarah Haecker Meeks, who has joined as vice president, business development, while Steve Nardi has been appointed vice president of the firm's manufacturing and engineering operations.

Cornish Lithium Ltd has gone live to the public on the crowdfunding site Crowdcube, with the aim of raising £1.5m to progress its work in Cornwall. The company opened up the opportunity to pre-registered investors yesterday at 9am and within 30 minutes of this opportunity being offered the amount raised had broken through the target of £1.5 million and the total continued to rise throughout the day, hitting £3 million within three hours. The company is now deciding how much additional funding to accept and when to close the funding round. Cornish Lithium believes that additional funding can further accelerate its work programme in Cornwall, thus creating additional value for shareholders.

Shanta Gold (LON:SHG) has revealed the results of a scoping study for its West Kenya gold project in Kenya. The study envisages an operation that will produce 949,000 ounces over the life of the mine at an all-in sustaining cost of US\$850 per ounce, inclusive of pre-production costs. Cash costs were set at US\$582 per ounce. The cost to construct the mine was pegged at US\$161m.

NQ Minerals PLC (AQSE:NQMI) (OTCQB:NQMLF) (OTCQB:NQMIY) has filed quarterly production and financial results for its wholly-company, Hellyer Gold Mines Pty Ltd for the quarter ending September 30, 2020. The company owns the Hellyer mine in Australia. Lead concentrate production, at 11,865 tonnes of concentrate, was up 35% from the previous quarter and up 78% compared to the same quarter last year. Zinc concentrate production was up 8% from the previous quarter, at 4,585 tonnes of concentrate, and up 38% compared to the same quarter last year. Unaudited net revenue from Hellyer for the quarter was A\$19.1m and gross profit realised for the quarter was A\$10.7m.

Feedback PLC (LON:FDBK) said the switch to focusing on its flagship Bleepa product has gone a lot more swiftly and smoothly than expected. Reporting results for the financial year to the end of May 2020, the medical imaging specialist said the period was characterised by a move away from older products, such as the TexRAD product, and towards the emerging mobile medical market which has significant potential for growth. The company's focus is now on Bleepa, an application for clinical staff to securely send and view medical images in real-time on their phones and mobile devices. The shift away from TexRAD did mean full-year revenue slipped to £450,000 from £563,000 the year before, however, while the group's loss before tax widened to £1.41m from £1.13m the previous year.

Sareum Holdings PLC (LON:SAR), the small molecule therapeutics specialist, has said it expects to hear this month whether it will receive grant funding for preliminary studies of a coronavirus (COVID-19) anti-inflammatory. An application has been submitted to the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to fund preliminary laboratory studies into whether TYK2/JAK1 inhibitors can alleviate the "cytokine storm" and other potentially fatal respiratory symptoms of COVID-19. If the grant application is successful, initial studies will begin shortly thereafter said Sareum in its statement of results for the year to end June.

Sareum also announced that, further to today's final results, Dr Tim Mitchell will deliver a live online presentation to investors via the Investor Meet Company (IMC) platform at 10.00am on Friday, October 16, 2020. Existing and potential investors wishing to participate in the presentation should register with IMC at: [www.investormeetcompany.com/sareum-holdings-plc/register-investor](http://www.investormeetcompany.com/sareum-holdings-plc/register-investor). Investors who have already registered with IMC and requested to meet the company will be invited automatically. A copy of the presentation will be made available on the company's website following the presentation.

FastForward Innovations Ltd (LON:FFWD) said it has raised additional funds in a share placing to "move swiftly into a number of new positions" to continue its investment strategy. The investment group said it has raised around £2m through the placing of 23.5m new shares at a price of 8.5p each, a 12.8% discount to its closing price last Friday, the last business day prior to the completion of the placing, and a 4% discount to its most recently published net asset value (NAV) of 8.82p. The company has also issued one warrant for every two placing shares that will allow the holder to subscribe for one further share for 12.75p.

Europa Oil & Gas Holdings PLC (LON:EOG) chief executive Simon Oddie has said he is confident that positive momentum can be carried behind its various projects. In its final results statement, for the year ended July 31, 2020, Europa noted that UK onshore production is due to double and it has refocused its Irish offshore exploration portfolio on lower risk gas targets. Meanwhile, the company also entered Morocco during the year with the receipt of an 11,228 square kilometre licence.

Solo Oil PLC (LON:SOLO) chief executive Tom Reynolds has declared the company delighted with the news that partner Aminex PLC (LON:AEX) has received approval from the Tanzanian government for its farm-out transaction for the Ruvuma project. It allows ARA Petroleum to take a 50% interest in the project and become operator of the project. Solo, which retains 25% of Ruvuma, said the transaction's approval marks a key development in the company's ongoing sales process for its assets in Tanzania.

Quixant PLC (LON:QXT), a leading provider of specialised computing platforms and monitors for gaming and slot machine applications, has said it was informed on October 12, 2020, that Jon Jayal, its chief executive officer purchased 4,191 ordinary shares of 0.1p each in the company at a price of 119.00p per each and 4,156 ordinary shares at a price of 120.0p each. Following the purchases, the group noted, Jayal is beneficially interested in 383,547 Quixant ordinary shares, representing approximately 0.58% of the company's issued share capital.

Cadogan Petroleum PLC (LON:CAD) has announced that its CEO, Fady Khallouf, on October 9, 2020, purchased 100,000 ordinary shares of £0.03 each in the capital of the company, on the London Stock Exchange at a price of £0.026 each. Following this purchase, it noted that Khallouf holds in total 8,242,031 shares representing 3.37 % of the company.

Alien Metals Limited (LON:UFO), a minerals exploration and development company, said that, following the receipt of an warrant exercise notice, it has issued 1,875,000 ordinary shares of no par value in the capital of the company at an issue price of 0.15p per share.

SDX Energy PLC (LON:SDX), the MENA-focused oil and gas company, has announced that it will be hosting a retail investor conference call at 3.00pm (BST) on Thursday October 22, 2020. The call will provide an update on operations and guidance while also providing a question and answer session for investors. Should investors wish to participate in the event, they should email: [sdx@camarco.co.uk](mailto:sdx@camarco.co.uk)

Eden Research PLC (LON:EDEN) has announced that its registered office address has changed with immediate effect to 67C Innovation Drive, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, England, OX14 4RQ. Going forward, all formal notices and general correspondence should be sent to the new address. The change follows Eden's recently reported move to its new laboratory and office facilities in Milton Park, one of Europe's leading science and technology communities.

Power Metal Resources PLC (LON:POW) the AIM-listed metals exploration and development company has announced the launch of a website gallery providing images and videos of the Molopo Farms Complex project in south-west Botswana. The gallery, which currently hosts images of the preparation of the site for drilling commencement, may be viewed through the following link: <https://www.powermetalresources.com/gallery/7/molopo-farms-complex-botswana>. Further images and videos will be added to the gallery as the drill programme progresses.

## 6.50am: Footsie to rally

The FTSE 100 is expected to enjoy a rebound at Tuesday's open tracking gains by US stocks, though UK unemployment numbers could sour the mood.

London's blue-chip benchmark was called 20 points higher to 6,023 by traders at spread-betting platform IG, a day after the index fell 15 points or 0.25%.

Overnight on Wall Street, the Dow Industrials Average Jones added over 250 points, or 0.9% to 28,837.52, with the S&P 500 jumping 1.6% and the Nasdaq Composite surging 2.6%.

The US stock indices are not far off their all-time highs hit early last month.

"Yesterday's move higher in US markets appears to be predicated on the belief that whoever wins in next month's Presidential election, there will be a sizable fiscal stimulus package coming down the pipe, with the only unknown being around the size of any deal," said Michael Hewson at CMC Markets

"While this seems an eminently sensible point of view, after all whoever takes over will have enormous challenges to deal with, the reality is that a Biden presidency will in all likelihood see a lot of new regulation and red tape, which could well hit the Big Tech sector disproportionately, something that investors appear content to ignore for the time being."

For investors focused on the UK, at 7am the **latest snapshot of the UK labour market** will land.

It's likely to be "a sobering read", said Hewson, with unemployment numbers showing show more of the fallout effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

The ILO unemployment rate is expected to rise to 4.1% from 3.9% and the Office for National Statistics has also said that a change of methodology in the latest numbers could well see the headline number jump quite sharply, with a number above the 4.3% consensus a real possibility.

### Around the markets:

- Pound: down 0.1% to US\$1.3051
- Gold: down 0.4% to US\$1,916.54
- Oil: Brent crude down 0.4% to US\$41.88

### 6.45am: Early Markets - Asia/Australia

Asia-Pacific markets were mixed on Tuesday even as China's exports hit a record in September by rising 9.9% compared to a year ago.

However, the Shanghai composite had shed about 0.23% by noon as the growth in exports fell short of analyst expectations of a 10% year-on-year growth as per a Reuters poll.

Hong Kong's stock market were closed today as a tropical storm prompted authorities to shutter businesses and close schools.

In Japan, the Nikkei 225 added 0.11% while South Korea's Kospi declined 0.33%.

Australia led gains among the region's major markets, with the S&P/ASX 200 rising about 1.2% to hit a new seven-month intra-day high.

[READ OUR ASX REPORT HERE](#)

### Proactive Australia news:

Anson Resources Ltd (ASX:ASN) has been as much as 25% higher after identifying three major targets at The Bull Project in Western Australia, which adjoins the high-grade Julimar nickel-copper-PGE discovery made by Chalice Gold Mines (ASX:CHN).

Twenty Seven Co Ltd (ASX:TSC) has finished drilling of 33 holes for 2,043 metres testing four main areas for gold at the Rover Project in WA's Goldfields.

Predictive Discovery Ltd (ASX:PDI) has hit up to 92 metres at 1.9 g/t gold in diamond drilling at the flagship Bankan Project in Guinea, demonstrating a large gold mineralised body which may contribute to a planned mineral resource estimate in mid-2021.

Comet Resources Limited (ASX:CRL) has revealed a maiden 88,600-ounce JORC-compliant mineral resource estimate for Santa Teresa High-Grade Gold Project in Baja California, Mexico.

Auroch Minerals Ltd (ASX:AOU) has detected a strong off-hole conductor coincident with the base of the modelled

channel after completing down-hole electromagnetic (DHEM) surveys on reverse circulation (RC) drill holes at Valdez prospect, which is part of the Leinster Nickel Project in Western Australia.

American Rare Earths Ltd (ASX:ARR) is focused on transforming from explorer to developer with its world-class La Paz Rare Earth Project in Arizona, USA, as the sector continues to evolve and domestic supply is prioritised in the US.

Marvel Gold Ltd (ASX:MVL) is confident of the potential of its advanced exploration projects in West Africa, with the recent release of the JORC mineral resource estimate for Tabakorole Gold Project and a 3,800 metre systematic drilling program underway at Lakanfla Gold Project.

King River Resources Ltd (ASX:KRR) continues to enhance a pre-feasibility study (PFS) assessing the production of high-purity alumina (HPA) from Speewah Specialty Metals Project in the Eastern Kimberley region of Western Australia.

Tempest Minerals Ltd (ASX:TEM) expects to begin drilling this week at its 100%-owned Warriedar West Gold Project in Western Australia targeting intrusion-related gold system (IRGS) mineralisation.

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