

INDICES

Table with 3 columns: Index Name, Last, Chg. Includes All Ordinaries, S&P/ASX 200, S&P/ASX Small Ords, Spot Gold (USD), WTI Spot.

WHAT YOUR DOLLAR WAS WORTH YESTERDAY

Table with 6 columns: Currency, Buy, Sell, Buy, Sell. Includes U.S. dollar, UK Sterling, Euro, NZ dollar, HK dollar, Singapore, Yen, Png Kina, SA Rand, Indon Rph, Swiss Fr, Fijian, Philippine, Malaysian, Thai Baht.

INTEREST RATES

Table with 2 columns: Term, Rate. Includes Bank Bill Rates (30 Days, 60 Days, 90 Days, 180 Days), Unofficial cash rates (11am).

INDUSTRIALS, MINING AND OILS

Main stock market table with columns: Company, Last, Chg, Vol, Buy, Sell. Lists various industrial, mining, and oil companies.

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Stocks 'rolling in neutral' towards Xmas break

MELBOURNE: The Australian share market closed lower yesterday despite better than expected unemployment figures for the month of November. The benchmark S&P/ASX200 index fell 31.2 points, or 0.67 per cent, to 4606.7 points and the broader All Ordinaries index reversed 29.7 points, or 0.64 per cent, to 4622.9 points.



change, the December share price index futures contract was off 16 points at 4614 on a volume of 25,547 contracts. The national jobless rate fell to 5.7 per cent in November, from 5.8 per cent in the prior month, according to seasonally adjusted official figures. Economists had expected

unemployment to escalate to 5.9 per cent. IG Markets market analyst Cameron Peacock said the market had moved into positive territory after the surprisingly good employment data, but lacked the energy and inspiration to hold the gains. "Once again we're seeing another day of lethargic trad-

ing, confirming our view that the market is out of gas and rolling in neutral towards Christmas break," Mr Peacock said. Mr Peacock said the materials sector seemed to have become "road blocked" by speculation that interest rates may rise in the US by mid-2010, which was head-

ing off any rises in commodity prices. In the resources sector, global miner BHP Billiton was 59c lower at \$39.96 and Rio Tinto backtracked \$1.10 to \$69.80. Oil and gas producer Woodside Petroleum dipped 9c to \$47.08 and Santos dumped 71c to \$13.59.