

**HD** Australian Index Gains 0.7% in First-Half, Bank Loans Rise 0.4% in May

**WC** 332 words

**PD** 30 June 2014

**SN** Financial Services Monitor Worldwide

**SC** FINSMEN

**LA** English

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**LP**

Australian stocks declined ahead of earnings season in two weeks and awaited announcements from European Central Bank and additional economic data from **China**.

Investors have looked to overseas markets in the absence of domestic economic news and earnings season in two weeks.

**TD**

The Reserve Bank of Australia reported total credit in May gained 0.4% with 0.5% increase in credits to household and 0.2% for businesses and personal spending slid 0.3%.

Australian dollar fell to 94.22 U.S. cents and stock trading turnover declined to 629 **million** shares worth \$4.04 **billion**.

ASX 200 index slipped 49.40 or 0.9% to 5,395.70 and the broader All Ordinaries fell 47.10 to 5,382.

For the month, ASX 200 dropped 1.8% and for the quarter gained 0.5% and for the first-half increased 0.7%.

Stocks in Review

Country Road Limited closed unchanged at \$16.80 after the Africa-based retailer Woolworths Holdings Limited today submitted its final takeover offer of \$213 **million** for the **company**.

Last week, the retailer evaluates all cash offer of \$17 per share.

Dick Smith Holdings Limited increased 1.5% to \$1.96 after the consumer electronics retailer reported pro forma sales in the year ending on June 29 edged up to \$1.23 **billion** compared to earlier estimate of \$1.226 **billion** and net profit of \$40 **million** on domestic sales improvement.

Henderson **Group** Plc gained 1.4% to \$4.30 after the investment manager agreed to **acquire** North America-based Geneva Capital Management for about US\$200 **million**.

Sydney Airport Limited slid 0.2% to \$4.22 and the New South Wales government plans to invest approx \$500 **million** to improve traffic around the airport.

Stockland Limited slipped 1.5% to \$3.88 after the property developer acquired Brownes **Dairy** head office an industrial property in Balcatta, Perth for \$53.5 **million**.

**CO** croad : Country Road Ltd | wlhdsa : Woolworths Holdings Limited | wwrths : Precient Limited

**IN** i81401 : Central Banking | i814 : Banking | ibnk : Banking/Credit | ifinal : Financial Services | i64 : Retail/Wholesale | i645 : Clothing Stores | i654 : Specialty Stores | iretail : Retail

**NS** ebklnd : Bank Loan Data | e11 : Economic Performance/Indicators | ecat : Economic News

**RE** austr : Australia | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania

**IPD** Financial Services

**PUB** Global Data Point Ltd.

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