

**HD** Australia shares seen rising as U.S. gains, **iron ore** may cap

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SYDNEY, Aug 27 (Reuters) - Australian shares are seen edging higher on Wednesday after firmer U.S. data pushed the S&P 500 above 2,000 for the first time, with local attention on a raft of earnings results.

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\* Local share price index futures rose 0.2 percent to 5,605.0, but were at a 32.6-point discount to the underlying S&P/ASX 200 index close. The benchmark eked out a gain of 0.1 percent on Tuesday.

\* New Zealand's benchmark NZX 50 index added 0.2 percent in early trade.

\* U.S. stocks edged higher on Tuesday to lift the S&P 500 just a hair above the 2,000 mark, its first close above that milestone, after data that pointed to a brighter future for the economy.

\* Spot **iron ore** prices hit their lowest since September 2012 as swelling supplies weighed, while **China's** Dalian **iron ore** futures rebounded after a six-day slide that dragged the price down to the lowest level since last year's launch.

\* BC **Iron** Ltd said its full year net profit after tax was A\$73.7 **million**, up 51 percent.

\* Flight Centre Travel Group Ltd reported its full year net profit after tax of A\$206.9 **million** versus A\$246.1 **million** last year. The **company** also said it is investing in UK-based Topdeck tours in a deal that values Topdeck at GBP 21.8 **million**.

\* Boral Ltd said it swung to an annual net profit, but missed estimates, led by a recovery in construction activity and lower losses at its U.S. business.

\* Lend Lease Corp Ltd said its annual net profit jumped 50 percent, meeting recently upgraded **company** forecasts, as it benefited from the **sale** of its **stake** in a UK shopping centre.

-----MARKET SNAPSHOT @ 2312 GMT -----

INSTRUMENT	LAST	PCT CHG	NET CHG	
S&P 500		2000.02	0.11%	2.100
USD/JPY		104.08	0.03%	0.030
10-YR US TSY YLD	2.398	--		0.000
SPOT				
<b>GOLD</b>	1280.1	-0.04%		-0.540
US CRUDE	93.82	-0.04%		-0.040
DOW JONES	17106.70	0.17%		29.83
ASIA ADRS	154.16	0.02%		0.03

\* S&P 500 scores first close above 2,000; data helps

\* U.S. crude rises on supportive data, Brent slips

\* **Gold** gains as dollar rally stalls, geopolitical risks buoy \* Aluminium hits 18-month peak, metals lifted on EU stimulus hopes

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