

Tuesday February 21, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Feb 20)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,950	+46	+0.4
Nasdaq	2,952	-8	-0.3
S&P 500	1,361	+3	+0.2
VIX	17.78	-1.44	-7.5
MSCI World	1,296	+8	+0.6

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,945	+40	+0.7
DAX	6,948	+100	+1.5
CAC	3,473	+33	+1.0
Euro Stoxx	2,550	+30	+1.2

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,256	+60	+1.4
Nikkei	9,485	+101	+1.1
Shanghai	2,364	+6	+0.3
HSI	21,425	-67	-0.3
H Shares	11,670	-42	-0.4

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	3,021	+21	+0.7
Malaysia	1,561	+3	+0.2
PSEi	4,944	+63	+1.3
SET	1,136	+6	+0.5
LSX	898	+2	+0.2
Vietnam	414	+11	+2.6
Indonesia	3,980	+4	+0.1
FTSE ASEAN	576	+5	+0.9

Currencies Rap (as of Feb 20)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	79.14	-0.19	-0.24
THB/USD	30.75	-0.05	-0.16
LAK/THB	260.10	+0.06	+0.02
LAK/USD	7,998.00	-6.00	-0.07
USD/EUR	1.3235	+0.01	+0.72
JPY/USD	79.55	0.00	0.00

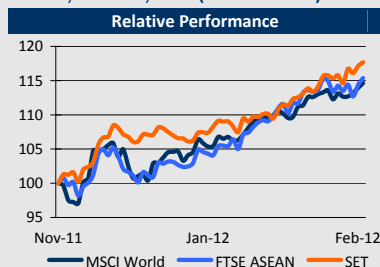
Commodities Rap (as of Feb 20)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,725.90	-2.50	-0.14
Silver	33.28	-0.16	-0.46
Copper	371.60	-8.25	-2.17
WTI	103.24	+0.93	+0.91
Brent	120.05	+0.47	+0.39
BDI	715	-2	-0.28

Source: Bloomberg

**Dow, Nasdaq, S&P 500, VIX for S&P 500 Index, Gold, Silver, Copper Futures and WTI as of Feb 17

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Feb 20)



Source: Bloomberg

MACRO NEWS

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- S&P Affirms Japan Rating At AA- But Sees Challenges Ahead
- Oil Jumps to 9-Month High Above \$105 in Europe as Iran Cuts Supply to Britain, France
- Copper and Gold Gain After China Eases

CORPORATE NEWS

- Pfizer [PFE:US] – Pfizer Plans to Float Animal Healthcare Business
- Apple's [AAPL:US] – Apple's Legal Woes in China Offer Hope to Rivals

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MACRO NEWS

GLOBAL MARKETS: European Stocks Up; Basic Resources Help Gains

European stocks were up, led higher by basic resources stocks after China's central bank eased policy over the weekend which is expected to heighten demand for commodities, while there were cautious expectations that Greece will finally receive its second bailout following a meeting of finance leaders later Monday. The Stoxx Europe 600 basic resources index was up 1.1% after the People's Bank of China said it will cut its reserve requirement ratio (RRR) by 50 basis points, effective Feb. 24, which should increase demand for commodities. This is the second RRR cut in three months. Meanwhile, euro-zone finance ministers are scheduled to meet in Brussels to discuss the implementation of Greece's rescue package. The deal is widely expected to be signed off. [\[WSJ\]](#)

China January Home Prices Post Worst Performance in a Year

China's January home prices recorded their worst performance in at least a year, with none of the 70 cities monitored by the government posting gains as Premier Wen Jiabao reiterated his determination to maintain property curbs. Prices in 47 of the cities fell, while home values in the remaining 23 were unchanged from December, the National Statistics Bureau said in a statement on its website on Feb. 18. New home prices in the nation's four major cities of Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen and Guangzhou declined for a fourth month. None of the cities posted gains in home prices for the first time since the government began releasing at the start of 2011 prices for 70 cities surveyed instead of a national average. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

S&P Affirms Japan Rating At AA- But Sees Challenges Ahead

Standard & Poor's Corp. on Monday reaffirmed Japan's sovereign debt rating at AA- but maintained a negative outlook, leaving Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda under pressure to deliver on tax increases that are seen as just the first step toward improving the country's dire fiscal state. S&P said that Japan has a number of strengths, including its more than \$1 trillion in foreign currency reserves, the second-largest in the world behind China. The country also continues to post monthly surpluses on its current account, the broadest measure of trade, giving it a continued inflow of international funds. But its analysis reflected warnings from both inside and outside Japan that the country should try to balance its books, no easy task with more than half of this year's spending under the central government's budget to come from fresh borrowing. [\[Dow Jones\]](#)

Oil Jumps to 9-Month High Above \$105 in Europe as Iran Cuts Supply to Britain, France

Oil prices jumped to a nine-month high above \$105 a barrel on Monday after Iran said it halted crude exports to Britain and France in an escalation of a dispute over the Middle Eastern country's nuclear program. By Monday afternoon, benchmark March crude was up \$2.02 to \$105.26 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest since May. The contract rose 93 cents to settle at \$103.24 per barrel in New York on Friday. Iran's announcement will likely have minimal impact on supplies, analysts said, because only about 3% of France's oil consumption is from Iranian sources. Britain had not imported oil from the Islamic republic in six months. [\[The Washington Post\]](#)

Copper and Gold Gain After China Eases

Copper and gold gained Monday after China cut reserve requirements for lenders and markets anticipated that European finance ministers would approve another loan for Greece. The policy easing by China, a major consumer of metal and other commodities, supported investor appetite for riskier assets. "We would expect Europe's finance ministers to agree to further Greek financing today and leave only relatively minor technical details to be resolved. That could see further gains in the commodity and emerging currencies this week," wrote Wells Fargo Bank in emailed research. A sliding dollar furthers the allure of commodities traded in the U.S. currency to holders of other currencies as it makes them less pricey. [\[MarketWatch\]](#)

CORPORATE NEWS

Pfizer [PFE:US] - Pfizer Plans to Float Animal Healthcare Business

Pfizer Inc plans to raise about \$3 billion this year through a part-flotation of its animal health division, the Financial Times reported. The pharmaceuticals group has been in discussions with bankers over an initial public offering that would look to place up to 19.9 percent of the unit's shares in the autumn, according to people familiar with the talks, cited by the newspaper. The giant drug company is examining the best way to spin off the division valued at about \$18 billion, the article published on the FT's website said. Pfizer will announce a decision in the coming months for its animal health business, the largest of its type in the world, the FT said. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Apple [AAPL:US] - Apple's Legal Woes in China Offer Hope to Rivals

Apple Inc's legal row over its iPad trademark in China creates a window of opportunity for rivals such as Lenovo Group Ltd and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd as they try to chip away at the U.S. firm's dominance of the potentially vast Chinese tablet market. Apple is fighting lawsuits brought by debt-laden Chinese electronics maker Proview Technology (Shenzhen), causing retailers and resellers in more than 10 Chinese cities to take iPads off their shelves, according to media reports. Apple's iPad enjoys a huge lead over rival tablet PCs in China with a 76% share. Lenovo and Samsung trail a distant second and third with about 7% and 3% respectively, data from research firm IDC showed. Last Friday, Proview won a ruling on Friday at the Huizhou court in Guangzhou to prohibit an electronics appliance chain from selling iPads, just days after authorities in Shijiazhuang city near Beijing banned sales of the tablet PCs. [\[Reuters\]](#)