

August 1, 2012

Stock Markets Rap

	Close	Chg	(%)
MSCI World	1,253.90	3.9	0.3%
Dow	13,008.68	-0.0	-0.5%
Nasdaq	2,939.52	-6.3	-0.2%
S&P 500	1,379.32	-6.0	-0.1%
Euro Stoxx	2,864.84	-2.0	-0.1%
FTSE 100	8,829.92	-104.5	-1.2%
DAX	8,333.94	27.6	0.3%
CAC	4,050.72	-21.1	-0.5%
ASX 200	4,443.85	31.8	0.7%
Nikkei	111.28	0.9	0.8%
Shanghai	330.61	-0.1	-0.0%
Hang Seng	2,552.98	27.6	1.1%
H Shares	1,247.58	19.6	1.6%
	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE ASEAN	573.88	5.2	0.9%
Singapore	2,363.87	-35.9	-1.5%
Thailand	1,188.62	1.0	0.1%
Malaysia	1,631.60	-0.8	-0.0%
Indonesia	4,142.34	43.2	1.1%
Philippines	5,307.66	29.8	0.6%
Vietnam	414.48	-0.5	-0.1%
Lao PDR	1,012.32	0.0	0.0%
Cambodia	709.68	-10.8	-1.5%

Currencies Rap

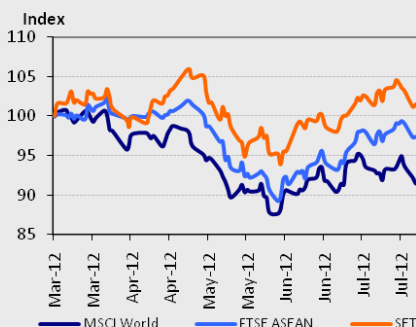
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	82.64	-0.2	-0.2%
USD/EUR	1.23	0.0	0.1%
JPY/USD	78.20	-0.0	-0.0%
THB/USD	31.49	-0.0	-0.3%
VND/USD	20,870.00	5.0	0.0%
LAK/USD	8,013.00	3.5	0.0%
KHR/USD	4,078.60	-31.4	-0.8%
MMK/USD	874.25	2.0	0.2%
VND/THB	662.88	1.9	0.3%
LAK/THB	254.54	0.8	0.3%
KHR/THB	662.88	1.9	0.3%
MMK/THB	27.77	0.1	0.5%

Commodities Rap

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,624.90	6.71	0.4%
Silver	28.26	0.62	2.2%
Copper	3.42	0.00	0.0%
WTI	88.06	-1.72	-1.9%
Brent	104.92	-1.28	-1.2%
BDI	897.00	-18.00	-2.0%

World, ASEAN, SET

Relative Performance



MACRO NEWS

- EU: Monti stays upbeat as Obama calls
- US: Consumer Spending in U.S. Was Unchanged in June

CORPORATE NEWS

- Apple [AAPL: US] - Apple Rises as Bernstein Sees Stock Split
- Pfizer [PFE: US] - Pfizer Plans August IPO Filing as Profits Beat Estimates

MACRO NEWS

Consumer Spending in U.S. Was Unchanged in June

Consumer spending in the U.S. stagnated in June as labor-market weakness prompted Americans to use the biggest gain in incomes in three months to build savings. Household purchases, which make up 70 percent of the economy, were unchanged last month after a 0.1 percent decline in May, a Commerce Department report showed today in Washington. The median estimate in a Bloomberg News survey of economists called for a 0.1 percent rise. Incomes climbed 0.5 percent, lifting the saving rate to 4.4 percent, the highest in a year. Americans may be growing less pessimistic about job prospects later in the year, with another report today showing consumer confidence rose unexpectedly for the first time in five months. Federal Reserve policy makers meeting today and tomorrow may wait for more employment data before deciding whether action is needed to boost an economy that's slowed for two straight quarters. "There's been some back-tracking in the labor market so consumers are choosing to save the income rather than spend it," said Julia Coronado, chief economist for North America at BNP Paribas in New York, who correctly projected the stagnation in purchases. "The third quarter will be pretty subdued." The Standard & Poor's 500 Index fell 0.4 percent to 1,379.32 at the close of trading in New York. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dropped to 1.47 percent from 1.50 percent late yesterday as Europe's debt crisis underpinned demand for the safest securities. [Bloomberg]

Monti stays upbeat as Obama calls

Italy's Prime Minister Mario Monti has said he sees "light at the end of the tunnel" on the eurozone debt crisis. Mr Monti met French President Francois Hollande in Paris after which the two renewed their support for the euro. He also received a call from US President Barack Obama, who "asked for his views on the situation on the eurozone". Figures released on Tuesday showed that eurozone unemployment rate was at a record high of 11.2% in June. "I don't think ultimately that the Europeans will let the euro unravel," Mr Obama said at a campaign event on Monday. "But they're going to have to take some decisive steps." The French president, after speaking with Mr Monti, said they agreed that the euro should be "defended, preserved and consolidated" and added there had been "significant progress" in recent weeks. [Bloomberg]

CORPORATE NEWS

Apple Rises as Bernstein Sees Stock Split, Dow Membership Ahead

Apple (AAPL) Inc. climbed the most in two months after Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. said the company is considering a stock split, which could prompt it to be added to the Dow Jones Industrial Average. Apple, the world's largest company by market value, climbed 2.5 percent to \$609.61 at 11:18 a.m. in New York, and earlier touched \$611.27 for the biggest gain since May 23. The shares of the Cupertino, California-based company have risen 47 percent this year through yesterday. The company's decision in March to pay its first dividend in 17 years makes it more likely the stock could be added to the Dow index after a split, said Toni Sacconaghi, an analyst at Bernstein who rates the shares outperform, in a report today. "We see the timing as ripe," Sacconaghi said. "Apple's initiation of a dividend brings the company in line with all other Dow components. We note that Apple is currently the only company above \$215 billion in market cap that pays a dividend and is not included in the Dow." Steve Dowling, an Apple spokesman, declined to comment. Apple said in March that it didn't see a stock split as in the best interest of shareholders, though the company continues to review the possibility. Sacconaghi couldn't be reached for comment, and the Bernstein report didn't indicate the basis for its stock split prediction. There are five technology companies in the 30-member Dow index: International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), Hewlett-Packard Co. (HPQ), Intel Corp. (INTC), Cisco Systems Inc. (CSCO) and Microsoft Corp. (MSFT). [Bloomberg]

Pfizer Plans August IPO Filing as Profits Beat Estimates

Pfizer Inc., the world's largest drugmaker, said it will file in mid-August to sell as much as 20 percent of its animal-health unit in an initial public offering. The company also reported profit that beat analyst estimates as a result of cost cutting. Net income rose 25 percent to \$3.25 billion, or 43 cents a share, New York-based Pfizer said today in a statement. Earnings excluding one-time items beat by 8 cents the average estimate of 54 cents of 15 analysts compiled by Bloomberg. Pfizer is reducing costs to counter eroding sales of its top-selling cholesterol pill Lipitor, which lost market exclusivity in November. The spinoff of the animal-health unit is part of Chief Executive Officer Ian Read's plan to refocus the company on producing new drugs to replace Lipitor, once the world's biggest-selling medicine. "Read showed he is serious about cost cutting, and investors already rewarded him with a nice run-up in the stock price over the last 12 months," Erik Gordon, a professor of business at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, said in an e-mail. "The new products have to pan out and Pfizer has to grow its non-U.S. sales in the face of a global slowdown. Both are riskier propositions." Pfizer shares rose 1.4 percent to \$24.05 at 10:04 a.m. New York time. The stock had gained 9.6 percent this year through yesterday. [Bloomberg]