

July 31, 2012

Stock Markets Rap

	Close	Chg	(%)
MSCI World	1,250.02	22.2	1.8%
Dow	13,073.01	-0.0	-0.0%
Nasdaq	2,945.84	-12.3	-0.4%
S&P 500	1,385.30	-0.7	1.1%
Euro Stoxx	2,866.86	31.2	1.1%
FTSE 100	8,934.44	86.2	1.0%
DAX	8,306.35	40.9	0.5%
CAC	4,071.85	18.9	0.5%
ASX 200	4,412.09	60.9	1.4%
Nikkei	110.39	1.4	1.2%
Shanghai	330.68	-2.8	-0.9%
Hang Seng	2,525.36	40.6	1.6%
H Shares	1,227.96	16.4	1.4%
	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE ASEAN	568.71	6.5	1.2%
Singapore	2,432.47	30.2	1.3%
Thailand	1,188.62	1.0	0.1%
Malaysia	1,632.35	7.4	0.5%
Indonesia	4,099.12	14.9	0.4%
Philippines	5,277.90	58.3	1.1%
Vietnam	415.00	1.8	0.4%
Lao PDR	1,012.32	9.0	0.9%
Cambodia	720.43	-10.8	-1.5%

Currencies Rap

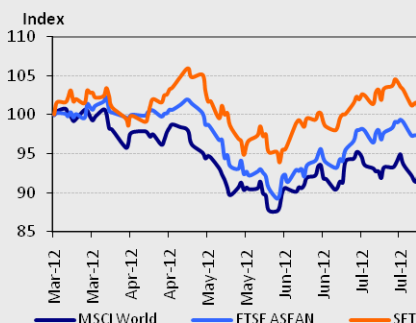
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	82.79	0.1	0.1%
USD/EUR	1.23	-0.0	-0.5%
JPY/USD	78.22	-0.2	-0.3%
THB/USD	31.58	0.0	0.2%
VND/USD	20,865.00	-15.0	-0.1%
LAK/USD	8,009.50	-5.0	-0.1%
KHR/USD	4,109.95	16.5	0.4%
MMK/USD	872.22	3.2	0.4%
VND/THB	660.99	-0.8	-0.1%
LAK/THB	253.71	-0.5	-0.2%
KHR/THB	660.99	-0.8	-0.1%
MMK/THB	27.63	0.1	0.3%

Commodities Rap

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,618.19	-5.01	-0.3%
Silver	27.64	-0.11	-0.4%
Copper	3.42	-0.01	-0.3%
WTI	89.78	-0.35	-0.4%
Brent	106.20	-0.27	-0.3%
BDI	915.00	-18.00	-1.9%

World, ASEAN, SET

Relative Performance



MACRO NEWS

- US: Fed Weighs Cutting Interest on Banks' Reserves After ECB Move
- US: Geithner, Schaeuble Hail Euro Plan as Greece Gets No Word

CORPORATE NEWS

- JP Morgan [JPM: US] - JPMorgan Bid to Dismiss Mortgage Claims Denied by Boston
- Google [GOOG: US] - Google, Christie's, Apple, Samsung: Intellectual Property
- Apple [AAPL: US] - Apple Mountain Lion Downloads Top 3 Million in Four Days

MACRO NEWS**Fed Weighs Cutting Interest on Banks' Reserves After ECB Move**

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke may be taking another look at cutting the interest rate the Fed pays on bank reserves to bring down short-term borrowing costs and spur the slowing U.S. expansion. Bernanke testified to Congress on July 17 that reducing the rate from its current 0.25 percent is one of several easing steps the Fed might take to reduce unemployment stuck above 8 percent for more than three years. In February, by contrast, the Fed chairman told Congress that lowering the rate might drive away investors from short-term money markets. "They're reconsidering it," said Ward McCarthy, a former Richmond Fed economist. A July 5 decision by the European Central Bank to cut its deposit rate to zero is prompting renewed interest in the strategy, said McCarthy, chief financial economist at Jefferies & Co. McCarthy said it's unlikely the Fed will reduce the rate at a two-day meeting that starts tomorrow. Policy makers meeting this week are looking for new monetary tools after the Fed lowered its benchmark interest rate to near zero in December 2008 and purchased \$2.3 trillion of securities to spur the economy. A government report on July 27 showed economic growth slowed to a 1.5 percent annual rate in the second quarter as consumers curbed spending. "They are at the end of their rope and are probably searching for every last option for what they can do," said Michael Feroli, chief U.S. economist at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in New York and a former economist for the Fed Board in Washington. "You can't rule anything out because they're going to flail around and try every last thing they can." [Bloomberg]

Geithner, Schaeuble Hail Euro Plan as Greece Gets No Word

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner and German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble backed a commitment by European leaders to do everything needed to defend the euro area while failing to mention its weakest link, Greece. In a joint statement issued after they held talks on the German North Sea island of Sylt today, Geithner and Schaeuble "took note" of comments made last week by European leaders to "take whatever steps are necessary to safeguard financial stability" in the 17-nation currency area. The two officials welcomed Ireland's sale of bonds and Portugal's "continued success in meeting program commitments" and discussed the "considerable efforts" made by Spain and Italy "to pursue far-reaching fiscal and structural reforms." They didn't refer to Greece, where international creditors are reviewing the government's progress. The talks signaled U.S. endorsement for European Central Bank President Mario Draghi as he seeks a game changer in the battle against Europe's sovereign-debt crisis almost three years after it surfaced in Greece. Geithner is due to conclude his one-day trip to Germany later today by meeting with Draghi in Frankfurt. An ECB spokeswoman declined to comment when asked whether the ECB would release a statement after the Draghi meeting. [Bloomberg]

CORPORATE NEWS**JPMorgan Bid to Dismiss Mortgage Claims Denied by Boston**

JP Morgan Chase & Co.'s attempt to dismiss claims in a lawsuit over its mortgage modification program was rejected by a federal judge in Boston. U.S. District Judge Richard Stearns turned down JPMorgan's request to have some claims dismissed for lack of jurisdiction and failure to state a claim, according to a filing July 27 in Boston. The litigation consolidates lawsuits brought by homeowners in more than a dozen states that claim JPMorgan made "false and misleading promises" about modifications to their mortgages. The homeowners also claim the bank foreclosed on some homes despite promises they could stay in them while new payment terms were being negotiated. JPMorgan agreed to participate in the U.S. Treasury's Home Affordable Modification Program in 2009. According to court papers, banks were required to suspend foreclosure proceedings during the modification process. "We strive to comply with all HAMP guidelines," Amy Bonitatibus, a spokeswoman for New York-based JPMorgan, said in an e-mail. "With regard to the motion to dismiss, we don't comment on pending litigation." The case is In re: JP Morgan Chase Mortgage Modification Litigation, 11-md-02290, U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts (Boston). [Bloomberg]

Google, Christie's, Apple, Samsung: Intellectual Property

Google Inc. asked a U.S. court to dismiss a lawsuit by authors over the digitizing of books, saying that the company's book-scanning program is a fair use of copyrighted material and a benefit to the public and authors. The lawsuit by the Authors Guild, as well as one filed by the American Society of Media Photographers, stems from Google's plan announced in 2004 to scan millions of books from public and university libraries to provide snippets of text to people who use its Internet search engine. In a motion filed July 27 in federal court in New York, the company seeks dismissal of the Authors Guild's case, arguing that authors benefit from the project because their books can be more readily found, bought and read, while the public gains "increased knowledge." "Plaintiffs have adduced no evidence that Google Books has displaced the sale of even a single book." Michael Boni, a lawyer for the authors, said July 27 that he was planning to file a sealed motion for a judicial ruling in their favor, by hand rather than electronically, because "it uses a lot of documents Google marked 'confidential.'" A redacted version will be filed at another time, he said in a phone interview. Oral arguments on both parties' motions for summary judgment are set for Oct. 9. Further negotiations between the authors and Google were unsuccessful. The publishers remain in talks, Google has said. [Bloomberg]

Apple Mountain Lion Downloads Top 3 Million in Four Days

Apple Inc. said downloads of its Mountain Lion software exceeded three million in four days, making it the most successful operating system release in the company's history. Facebook Inc.'s social-networking service will be integrated with the software in an upcoming update, Cupertino, California-based Apple said today in a statement. Mountain Lion is available through the Mac App Store as an upgrade to Lion or Snow Leopard users for \$19.99. Apple is adding functions to its software as part of a broader push to make its products work more seamlessly together, encouraging customers to purchase multiple devices. Mountain Lion has many features from the iPhone and iPad, including a notification system so text messages sent to those devices will also show up on a Mac computer. That fosters "stickiness" so that users won't want to switch to another product because of all the time and effort they have invested with Apple's gadgets, according to Chris Jones, an analyst at market researcher Canalis. [Bloomberg]