

Wednesday January 11, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Jan 10)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,462	+70	+0.6
Nasdaq	2,703	+26	+1.0
S&P 500	1,292	+11	+0.9
Global Dow	1,841	+28	+1.5
VIX	20.69	-0.38	-1.8

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,697	+84	+1.5
DAX	6,163	+146	+2.4
CAC	3,211	+83	+2.7

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,152	+47	+1.1
Nikkei	8,422	+32	+0.4
Shanghai	2,286	+60	+2.7
HSI	19,004	+139	+0.7
H Shares	10,414	+188	+1.8
FTSE STI	2,720	+29	+1.1
SET	1,053	+8	+0.8
LSX	885	-6	-0.6
Vietnam	345	+5	+1.6

Currencies Rap (as of Jan 10)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DXY	80.90	-0.15	-0.19
THB/USD	31.67	-0.09	-0.28
THB/LAK	253.55	+0.82	+0.33
LAK/USD	8,028.50	+7.00	+0.09
USD/EUR	1.2797	+0.00	+0.27
JPY/USD	76.85	+0.04	+0.05

Commodities Rap (as of Jan 10)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,631.50	+23.40	+1.46
Silver	29.82	+1.03	+3.59
WTI	102.24	+0.93	+0.92
Brent	113.28	+0.83	+0.74
BDI	1,258	-50	-3.82

Source: Bloomberg

NEWS UPDATE

Hiring Rises in U.S., Underlining Job Market Gains: Economy

Gains in hiring are catching up with job openings, pointing to greater willingness among U.S. companies to expand as the economy improves. Employers took on 4.15 million workers in November, up 107,000 from the prior month, the Labor Department said Tuesday in Washington. The number of jobs filled in the three months to November was the highest since the period from March to May 2010. The thawing in employment comes as other reports indicate firings have eased, highlighting an improvement in the labor market that is contributing to a rebound in consumer confidence and spending. **[Bloomberg]**

China Import Growth Misses Estimates as Export Gains Slow; Surplus Widens

China's import growth fell to a two- year low in December, underscoring a slowdown in the fastest-growing major economy that deepens risks for the global outlook. Imports rose 11.8% from a year before, less than all estimates of economists, a government report showed Tuesday in Beijing. The moderation caused the trade surplus to increase to \$16.5 billion in the month, as exports advanced 13.4% in December. Signs of domestic demand moderation bolstered forecasts for monetary easing -- spurring a gain in local stocks -- as Europe veers toward a recession and the International Monetary Fund prepares a "substantial" cut to its global growth forecast. **[Bloomberg]**

France's AAA Safe in 2012, Italy Top Concern: Fitch

Fitch said Tuesday Italy is the most worrying of the embattled eurozone countries and could see its credit rating cut this month, while France's top triple-A rating is safe for 2012. Speaking at a news conference, Fitch Managing Director David Riley also warned that an exit by Greece from the eurozone in 2012 was a possible option. Riley said eurozone countries have to raise two trillion euros in 2012 with more than half of that accounted for by members of the single currency bloc currently most at risk of a downgrade by Fitch. Italy, whose debt is nearly 120% of its annual economic output, is scheduled to borrow a colossal amount this year; Riley said adding that the situation was potentially explosive. **[AFP]**

Fed's Rising Balance Sheet Generates \$76.9 Billion for Treasury

The Federal Reserve will pay \$76.9 billion to the U.S. Treasury as part of an annual dividend it remits after covering its own expenses from interest on its ballooning bond portfolio and other gains. Total assets on the Fed's balance sheet stood at a near- record \$2.92 trillion on Jan. 4. The central bank expanded its portfolio by purchasing \$2.3 trillion in U.S. Treasury debt, mortgage-backed securities and housing agency debt to push down longer-term interest rates once its benchmark lending rate hit zero in December 2008. The Fed expanded its portfolio in 2 rounds of asset purchases, known as quantitative easing. **[Bloomberg]**

India: 100% FDI in Single-Brand Retail Now

India on Tuesday notified the rules allowing 100% foreign direct investment in single-brand retail paving the way for international furniture maker Ikea and several fashion brands such as Louis Vuitton to set up stores in the country and also boost sourcing from local manufacturers. At present, 51% FDI is permitted in this segment of retailing which was opened to foreign players almost six years ago. **[Times of India]**

Myanmar: Thais in the Dark on Dawei Plant

Thai companies remain confident in the future of a 4,000-MW coal-fired power plant at Dawei despite Burma abruptly halting construction on Monday after a domestic outcry over the plant's environmental impact. Italian-Thai Development and its partner Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding said they had yet to be notified and were satisfied the power plant would proceed, perhaps using natural gas instead. "If they don't want coal-fired power plants, we have to look for other fuel sources. It could be natural gas, and we'd need to discuss how to supply that," said Somchet Thinaphong, the managing director of Dawei Development Co. Ratch said the company had not received an official report from Burma. **[Bangkok Post]**

Lao PDR: Stock Market Benefits Lao Macro Economy - LSX CEO

Lao Securities Exchange Chairman and CEO Mr Dethphouvang Moularat made the comment on Monday in response to public concerns about whether setting up the stock market had been a worthwhile investment. The stock market expected to make a profit within the next 10 years or sooner if business boomed, he said, adding that ETL, Lao-Indochina Group and Lao World Group are expected to list this year. As nearly every other country has a stock market, it was impossible for Laos to avoid doing likewise as it seeks to become internationally integrated. **[Vientiane Times]**

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