

Monday January 16, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Jan 13)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,422	-49	-0.4
Nasdaq	2,711	-14	-0.5
S&P 500	1,289	-6	-0.5
Global Dow	1,840	-9	-0.5
VIX	20.91	+0.44	+2.1

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,637	-26	-0.5
DAX	6,143	-36	-0.6
CAC	3,196	-3	-0.1

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,196	+15	+0.4
Nikkei	8,500	+114	+1.4
Shanghai	2,245	-30	-1.3
HSI	19,204	+109	+0.6
H Shares	10,637	+118	+1.1
FTSE STI	2,792	+48	+1.7
SET	1,045	-7	-0.7
LSX	894	0	0.0
Vietnam	354	+6	+1.8

Currencies Rap (as of Jan 13)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DXY	81.52	+0.75	+0.92
THB/USD	31.81	+0.06	+0.19
THB/LAK	252.58	-0.84	-0.33
LAK/USD	8,024.50	-5.00	-0.06
USD/EUR	1.2680	-0.02	-1.19
JPY/USD	76.97	+0.28	+0.37

Commodities Rap (as of Jan 13)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,630.80	-16.90	-1.03
Silver	29.52	-0.60	-2.00
WTI	98.70	-0.40	-0.40
Brent	110.44	-0.82	-0.74
BDI	1,053	-52	-4.71

Source: Bloomberg

GLOBAL NEWS

S&P Cuts Credit Ratings for Nine Euro Zone Nations

Standard & Poor's downgraded the credit ratings of nine euro zone countries, stripping France and Austria of their coveted triple-A status but not EU paymaster Germany, in a Black Friday 13th for the troubled single currency area. "Today's rating actions are primarily driven by our assessment that the policy initiatives that have been taken by European policy makers in recent weeks may be insufficient to fully address ongoing systemic stresses in the euro zone," S&P said in a press release announcing the downgrade. S&P lowered its long-term rating on Cyprus, Italy, Portugal and Spain by two notches, and cut its rating on Austria, France, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia by one notch. The move puts highly indebted Italy on the same BBB+ level as Kazakhstan and pushes Portugal into junk status. The credit-rating agency affirmed the current long-term ratings for Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. [\[CNBC\]](#)

U.S. Trade Deficit and Consumer Sentiment Rise

The United States trade deficit widened in November to its largest point in five months, prompting some economists to slightly rein in growth expectations for the fourth quarter. A separate survey released on Friday showed that consumer sentiment hit an eight-month high in early January as Americans grew more optimistic about job prospects. Trade gap was \$47.8 billion in November, exceeding analysts' forecast of a \$45 billion deficit. Overall index of consumer sentiment rose to 74 from 69.9 in December for the fifth month of gains and the highest level since May 2011. [\[The New York Times\]](#)

Greece's Debt Talks With Creditors Stall Amid Coupon Dispute

Greece's creditor banks broke off talks after failing to agree with the government about how much money investors will lose by swapping their bonds, increasing the risk of the euro-area's first sovereign default. Greek officials and the nation's creditors agreed in October to implement a 50 percent cut in the face value of Greek debt, with a goal of reducing Greece's borrowings to 120 percent of gross domestic product by 2020. More than two months after the accord was announced, the two sides still need to agree on the coupon and maturity of the new bonds to determine losses for investors. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar Begins Releasing Hundreds of Political Prisoners After Cease-Fire

Myanmar's government began releasing hundreds of political prisoners after signing a cease-fire with the country's largest armed rebel group, two conditions set by Western nations for lifting sanctions. Prisoners including pro-democracy activists, ethnic minority leaders and an ex-prime minister who fell out of favor with the former ruling junta were set free Friday, according to the Democratic Voice of Burma, an Internet news service run by exiles. They are among 651 prisoners included in a presidential pardon, the Associated Press reported. Freeing political prisoners has been a primary demand of U.S. and European policy makers who impose sanctions on Myanmar. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Cambodia: CSX Technically Ready for Listing

The final technical aspects of the Cambodian Securities Exchange were completed Friday, readying the exchange for listing and trading, government officials said. "The securities market infrastructure is now complete," Economy and Finance Minister Keat Chhon said during an exchange simulation Friday, explaining that securities firms and banks were connected via the CSX IT system. In a separate training session, officials from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Cambodia (SECC) met with leaders from the three expected listers – Phnom Penh Water Supply, Telecom Cambodia and Sihanoukville Autonomous Port – to discuss corporate governance. [\[Phnom Penh Post\]](#)

Lao PDR: EDL, Thai Firm Power Up Study on Substation for Kasy District

IETL Co Ltd of Thailand on Friday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Electricite du Laos (EDL) on a feasibility study for the construction of a 115/22kV substation in Kasy district, Vientiane province. The signing came after the Ministry of Energy and Mines gave its agreement to the project on January 10. EDL Managing Director Mr Sisavath Thiravong said the project was significant in boosting the supply of electricity supply in this region. The electricity generated would come from the Nam Sana hydropower plant. The planned substation would also supply electricity to Phou Khoun district in Luang Prabang province. [\[Vientiane Times\]](#)

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