

Wednesday November 16, 2011

NEWS UPDATE

Stock Markets Rap (as of Nov 15)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,096	+17	+0.1
Nasdaq	2,686	+29	+1.1
S&P 500	1,258	+6	+0.5
Global Dow	1,835	-12	-0.7
VIX	31.22	+0.09	+0.3

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,517	-2	-0.0
DAX	5,933	-52	-0.9
CAC	3,049	-60	-1.9

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,286	-19	-0.4
Nikkei	8,542	-62	-0.7
Shanghai	2,530	+1	+0.0
HSI	19,348	-160	-0.8
H Shares	10,638	-79	-0.7
FTSE STI	2,812	-19	-0.7
SET	985	+1	+0.1
LSX	940	0	0.0
Vietnam	388	-4	-1.0

Currencies Rap (as of Nov 15)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DXY	77.93	+0.36	+0.47
THB/USD	30.85	+0.10	+0.33
THB/LAK	259.68	-0.65	-0.25
LAK/USD	8,011.00	+6.00	+0.07
USD/EUR	1.3535	-0.02	-1.19
JPY/USD	77.01	+0.10	+0.13

Commodities Rap (as of Nov 15)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,782.20	+3.80	+0.21
Silver	34.46	+0.43	+1.27
WTI	99.37	+1.23	+1.25
Brent	112.39	+0.50	+0.45
BDI	1,846	+28	+1.54

Source: Bloomberg

US Retail Sales Pick up, Wholesale Inflation Falls

US retail sales rose at a moderate pace in October, led by electronics and appliances, while inflation at the wholesale level eased, government data showed Tuesday. Retail sales beat analyst forecasts with a 0.5% jump from September, when sales spiked 1.1%. Sales in electronics and appliance stores jumped 3.7% in October from September, the sharpest rise in two years. On a year-over-year basis, sales were up a solid 7.2%. The Labor Department said its producer price index fell 0.3% in October, after a 0.8% increase in September. Most of the decline was due to a 1.4% drop in energy prices. [\[AFP\]](#)

Europe Growth Holds at 0.2% as Region Braces for Recession

Europe's economic expansion failed to accelerate in 3Q11 as Germany and France struggle to shore up a region bracing for a recession sparked by an escalating debt crisis. GDP increased 0.2% from 2Q11, when it rose at the same pace, the EU's statistics office said Tuesday. That matched the forecast. From a year-earlier, GDP increased 1.4%. Expansion in Germany and France, the euro region's two biggest economies, gained strength in 3Q11 on stronger consumer spending. German GDP growth accelerated to 0.5%, while France's economy expanded 0.4% after shrinking 0.1 percent in 2Q11. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

German Investor Sentiment Fell to Three-Year Low in November

German investor confidence fell to a three-year low in November on concern the sovereign debt crisis will push Europe's largest economy into recession. The ZEW Center for European Economic Research in Mannheim, Germany, said its index of investor and analyst expectations, which aims to predict developments six months in advance, declined to minus 55.2 from minus 48.3 in October. That's the lowest since October 2008. Economists forecast a drop to minus 52.5. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Spain, Belgium Debt Costs Spike; Investors Covet Bunds

Spain paid yields not seen since 1997 and Belgian borrowing costs hit three-year highs at short-term debt sales, as ebbing confidence that the euro zone crisis can be tamed sent bond investors scurrying ever deeper into the region's core. Driven by renewed concerns that Italy, the euro zone's third largest economy, will still need a bailout despite appointing a former EU commissioner to head a revamped government, contagion from the debt crisis spread wider. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Oil Trades Near Three-Month High on U.S. Economy, Declining Fuel Supplies

Oil traded near the highest level in more than three months in New York as investors speculated that signs of U.S. economic growth indicate fuel demand may increase in the world's biggest crude consumer. Futures were little changed, after climbing 1.3% yesterday as the Commerce Department reported that U.S. retail sales rose 0.5% in October, beating the median forecast in a Bloomberg News survey of economists. Fuel inventories fell last week, according to the American Petroleum Institute. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

IMF Sees 'Buildup' of China Bank Risk Needing More Oversight

IMF called for China to expand oversight of banks as risks increase from off-balance sheet lending and a surge in property prices. "Despite ongoing reform and financial strength, China confronts a steady buildup of financial sector vulnerabilities," IMF said in its first formal evaluation of the Chinese system. Banks need to upgrade risk-management systems, the central bank and regulators should add skilled personnel and disclosure standards must be raised. While a stress test of 17 major commercial banks showed they were resilient to isolated shocks - such as a real-estate slump or a shift in short-term versus long-term interest rates - a combination of blows at the same time would leave the system "severely impacted," [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Thai Ratchaburi to Build Power Plants in Myanmar's Dawei

Thailand's Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Pcl said on Monday it planned to spend 12 billion baht (\$390 million) next year on continuing investments and new ventures, including power plants in Myanmar's Dawei project. The country's largest private power producer signed an agreement with Italian-Thai Development Pcl to build coal-fired power plants with a combined capacity of 4,000 megawatts at Dawei in Myanmar, President Noppol Milinthaangoon told reporters. Noppol said Ratchaburi would have a 30% stake in the project, while Italian-Thai will hold the other 70%. Ratchaburi, like other major Thai utilities, is looking for growth opportunities abroad to boost capacity and has said power plants in Laos, Australia and the Philippines were targets. [\[Reuters\]](#)

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