

Monday November 21, 2011

NEWS UPDATE

Stock Markets Rap (as of Nov 18)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	11,796	+25	+0.2
Nasdaq	2,573	-15	-0.6
S&P 500	1,216	-0	-0.0
Global Dow	1,785	-8	-0.5
VIX	32.00	-2.51	-7.3

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,363	-60	-1.1
DAX	5,800	-50	-0.9
CAC	2,997	-13	-0.4

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,177	-81	-1.9
Nikkei	8,375	-105	-1.2
Shanghai	2,417	-46	-1.9
HSI	18,491	-326	-1.7
H Shares	9,957	-271	-2.7
FTSE STI	2,730	-48	-1.7
SET	984	-9	-0.9
LSX	938	-2	-0.2
Vietnam	380	-6	-1.6

Currencies Rap (as of Nov 18)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DXY	78.06	-0.22	-0.28
THB/USD	31.00	+0.08	+0.26
THB/LAK	258.60	-0.67	-0.26
LAK/USD	8,011.00	-1.50	-0.02
USD/EUR	1.3525	+0.01	+0.50
JPY/USD	76.91	-0.07	-0.09

Commodities Rap (as of Nov 18)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,725.10	+4.90	+0.28
Silver	32.49	+0.92	+2.91
WTI	97.41	-1.41	-1.43
Brent	107.56	-0.66	-0.61
BDI	1,895	-3	-0.16

Source: Bloomberg

Japan Exports Fall on Yen Gains, Europe Crisis

Japan's exports fell for the first time in three months, indicating that the yen's appreciation and financial turmoil in Europe are slowing the nation's recovery from the March disaster. Shipments dropped 3.7% in October from a year earlier, the Ministry of Finance said today in Tokyo. The estimate was for a 0.3% decline. The report suggests the rebound of the world's third- largest economy from the record earthquake in March is losing momentum. Weakening overseas demand has led companies including Toshiba Corp. and Nippon Yusen K.K. to call on the government to follow up on last month's yen intervention with steps to prevent the currency from appreciating further. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Rajoy Party Wins Spanish Election After Debt Crisis Overwhelms Socialists

Mariano Rajoy won the biggest parliamentary majority in a Spanish election in almost 30 years, and told Spaniards to brace for difficult times as the nation fights to avoid being overwhelmed by the debt crisis. Rajoy, 56, who said on Nov. 18 he hoped Spain wouldn't need a bailout before he can be sworn in as prime minister in a month's time, has pledged to slash the budget deficit and regain the nation's AAA credit rating, without saying how he will do it. He inherits a stagnant economy with a 23% unemployment rate and borrowing costs back at the levels Spain was paying before it joined the euro. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

US Debt-Reduction Panel Spirals Toward Failure

After more than 2 months of talks, the U.S. congressional deficit-reduction committee looked set to concede failure, unable to bridge deep partisan differences over taxes and spending going into the 2012 elections. Without the breakthrough, the 12-member bipartisan "super committee" will admit defeat on Monday. They must vote on any deal by Wednesday but Monday is the deadline to have legislation written and presented to the entire committee. If the panel does not reach consensus, automatic spending cuts of \$1.2 trillion over a decade will start in 2013. Obama has warned Congress he would veto any attempt to block automatic cuts. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Leading Economic Indicators in U.S. Rise More Than Forecast

The index of U.S. leading indicators climbed more than forecast in October, signaling the world's largest economy will keep growing in early 2012. The Conference Board's gauge of the outlook for the next three to six months rose 0.9%, the biggest jump since February, after a 0.1% September increase, the New York-based research group said Friday. The median forecast of projected the gauge would advance 0.6%. The Conference Board's index of coincident indicators, a gauge of current economic activity, increased 0.2% from the prior month. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Greece Sees 2011 Budget Deficit At 9%

Greece said Friday it would miss its 2011 deficit targets with a gap equal to 9% of gross domestic product, and laid out two separate targets for next year depending on the outcome of a planned EUR100 billion debt writedown. According to the final 2012 budget, submitted to parliament Friday, Greece's budget deficit will reach EUR19.68 billion this year. That compares with a targeted EUR17.1 billion deficit that Greece promised its international creditors--the European Union and the International Monetary Fund--just six weeks ago when it unveiled its first budget draft. [\[WSJ\]](#)

S&P to Update Bank Credit Ratings Within 3 Weeks

Standard & Poor's plans to update its credit ratings for the world's 30 biggest banks within three weeks and may well mete out a few downgrades in the process, possibly surprising battered global bond markets. Among the institutions that could be downgraded are Bank of America, Citigroup and Morgan Stanley, said Baylor Lancaster, an analyst at CreditSights. Some European banks could also be affected. On November 9, S&P downgraded its scores for the health of the banking industries in a number of countries, including Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Laos to Wait for 'Positive Signals' Before Building Mekong Dam

Laos will wait for "positive signals" from its neighbors before it builds the \$3.7 billion Thai-financed Xayaburi hydropower plant on the Mekong River, Deputy Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulit said. "Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia share the common position that any construction activity will take place only if positive signals are given by the experts," he said in an interview in Bali, Indonesia. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

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