

Tuesday January 24, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Jan 23)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,709	-12	-0.1
Nasdaq	2,784	-3	-0.1
S&P 500	1,316	+1	+0.0
Global Dow	1,917	+11	+0.6
VIX	18.67	+0.39	+2.1

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,783	+54	+0.9
DAX	6,437	+32	+0.5
CAC	3,338	+17	+0.5

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,225	-15	-0.3
Nikkei	8,766	-0	-0.0
Shanghai	2,319	+23	+1.0
HSI	20,110	+167	+0.8
H Shares	11,147	+9	+0.1
FTSE STI	2,849	+38	+1.4
SET	1,063	+4	+0.4
LSX	920	+35	+4.0
Vietnam	373	-0	-0.1

Currencies Rap (as of Jan 23)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DXY	79.80	-0.42	-0.53
THB/USD	31.39	-0.13	-0.41
THB/LAK	255.33	+1.16	+0.46
LAK/USD	8,013.50	+2.00	+0.02
USD/EUR	1.3011	+0.01	+0.62
JPY/USD	76.97	0.00	0.00

Commodities Rap (as of Jan 23)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,678.30	+14.30	+0.86
Silver	32.27	+0.60	+1.88
WTI	99.58	+1.12	+1.14
Brent	110.58	+0.72	+0.66
BDI	841	-21	-2.44

Source: Bloomberg

* Shanghai Composite, Hang Seng, H-Shares, FTSE Straits Times and Ho Chi Minh Stock Index as of Jan 20

GLOBAL NEWS

Euro-Zone Reaches Deal On Bailout-Fund Treaty

Euro-zone finance ministers Monday agreed on the text of a treaty to create their EUR500 billion (\$651 billion) bailout fund after addressing concerns from Finland about provisions that would allow the fund to make loans without unanimous consent from the governments, officials said. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Euro Zone Ministers Reject Private Bondholders' Greece Offer

Euro zone finance ministers on Monday rejected as insufficient an offer made by private bondholders to help restructure Greece's debts, sending negotiators back to the drawing board and raising the threat of Greek default. Banks and other private institutions represented by the Institute of International Finance (IIF) say a 4.0% coupon is the least they can accept if they are going to write down the nominal value of the debt they hold by 50%. Jean-Claude Juncker, the chairman of the Eurogroup countries, said Greece needed to pursue a deal with private bondholders where the interest rate on the replacement bonds was "clearly" below 4.0%. [\[Reuters\]](#)

France, Germany to Implement Basel III Rules: Schaeuble

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said on Monday that Germany and France were seeking to implement Basel III rules on bank capitalisation, rejecting as false a media report that they would seek relaxation of the rules. The Financial Times reported earlier on Monday that the two countries would call for a relaxation of bank capital rules to stop lending to the real economy from being choked off, with a three-year delay to the deadline to disclose leverage ratios. [\[Reuters\]](#)

EU Imposes Iran Oil Embargo, Central Bank Freeze

European Union foreign ministers agreed Monday to impose an oil-import embargo on Iran and an asset freeze on the country's central bank, escalating the confrontation over Tehran's nuclear program. The embargo bans the importation of petroleum and crude oil products from Iran, as well as insurance on such products. It goes into effect as of July 1 on existing contracts, and a review of the economic effects of the measures on oil will take place before May 1, according to the EU Council. Crude prices rose modestly on the news. The Council also froze the assets of Iran's central bank, Bank Markazi, within the EU, though the statement allowed that "legitimate trade can continue under strict conditions." No longer can the EU trade gold, precious metals and diamonds with Iranian public bodies or the central bank. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Gold, Silver End At Fresh 6-Week Highs

Gold and silver futures both settled at six-week highs Monday as a weaker dollar boosted demand for alternative investments amid a murky economic outlook. Gold futures continue to trade above their 200-day moving average after breaching that important technical indicator last week. The move is considered a positive by traders who follow technical analysis, as crossing above the average is seen as the beginning of a new uptrend. A weaker dollar, which retreated against the euro, boosted the appeal of precious metals to investors who hold foreign currencies. Gold and silver futures are priced in dollars and appear cheaper to these market participants when the dollar weakens against their home currencies. [\[Dow Jones\]](#)

INDOCHINA NEWS

EU to Ease Some Myanmar Sanctions

The European Union agreed Monday to ease some sanctions on Myanmar, suspending visa bans against senior government officials, but it will maintain other restrictions against the nation for now. The EU said it will lift its visa bans against Myanmar's president, vice presidents, its cabinet and the speakers of the two Myanmar parliamentary houses. It also promised to boost assistance for poverty-alleviation programs in Myanmar as the country continues to undertake political reforms, and said further easing of sanctions will take place if those reforms continue. Other European sanctions include an arms embargo against Myanmar and restrictions on targeted industries such as timber and precious stones. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Thai Finmin Defends Debt Plan Slammed by Predecessor

Thailand's new finance minister on Monday defended the idea of reducing government stakes in certain state firms as a way of cutting public debt, after his predecessor, removed in a reshuffle last week, said that would "fudge" the debt level. "This is not window-dressing but a way of managing public debt better. However, we will see whether this is an urgent matter. If not, we may do it this year, or next," Kittirat Na Ranong told reporters. [\[Reuters\]](#)

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