

Friday January 27, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Jan 26)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,735	-22	-0.2
Nasdaq	2,805	-13	-0.5
S&P 500	1,318	-8	-0.6
Global Dow	1,931	+16	+0.9
VIX	18.57	+0.26	+1.4

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,795	+72	+1.3
DAX	6,540	+118	+1.8
CAC	3,363	+51	+1.5

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,271	+47	+1.1
Nikkei	8,849	-34	-0.4
Shanghai	2,319	+23	+1.0
HSI	20,439	+329	+1.6
H Shares	11,417	+270	+2.4
FTSE STI	2,894	+3	+0.1
SET	1,069	+13	+1.2
LSX	920	+26	+3.0
Vietnam	373	-0	-0.1

Currencies Rap (as of Jan 26)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DXY	79.40	-0.18	-0.23
THB/USD	31.26	-0.25	-0.79
THB/LAK	255.25	+1.15	+0.45
LAK/USD	8,004.50	-2.00	-0.02
USD/EUR	1.3148	+0.01	+0.77
JPY/USD	77.46	-0.25	-0.32

Commodities Rap (as of Jan 26)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,729.90	+26.90	+1.58
Silver	33.74	+0.62	+1.88
WTI	99.70	+0.30	+0.30
Brent	110.79	+0.98	+0.89
BDI	753	-31	-3.95

Source: Bloomberg

* Shanghai Composite and Ho Chi Minh Stock Index as of Jan 20

* S&P/ASX 200 Index as of Jan 25

GLOBAL NEWS

Sales of U.S. New Homes Unexpectedly Decline in December

Sales of new U.S. homes unexpectedly declined in December for the first time in four months, capping the slowest year on record for builders. Purchases of single-family properties decreased 2.2% to a 307,000 annual pace. The median forecast called for a rate of 321,000 home sales. Last year marked the worst year for the industry in records going back to 1963. The threat of further price declines may be dissuading some Americans from buying a new home even with mortgage rates near all-time lows and more people finding work. Following a lull in 2011, a wave of foreclosures may hamper the recovery in real estate as more distressed properties are put on the market. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

EU Official Sees Bailout-Funds Boost

A senior European policy maker said euro-zone governments may have to increase their contributions to Greece's debt deal, and said he was hopeful agreements could be struck soon to increase euro-zone bailout funds and International Monetary Fund resources. European Union economics commissioner Olli Rehn also appealed to the U.S. and other countries not to block an expansion in IMF resources—even if they didn't want to contribute directly. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Traders Predict Shift in Dollar's Decline Against Yen

After years of decline against a resilient yen, the dollar may be finally turning the corner, helped by a renewed interest in global equities, an increase in investment-related outflows from Japan and technical factors in the market. Traders and analysts say signals point to a shift in the dollar's direction, though they are quick to add that any move won't likely be dramatic, and that all bets are off if the euro zone's travails turn into a full-scale crisis. [\[WSJ\]](#)

IMF: Halt in Iran Oil Could Push Crude up 30 Percent

The IMF warned on Wednesday that global crude prices could rise as much as 30 percent if Iran halts oil exports as a result of U.S. and European Union sanctions. If Iran halts exports to countries without offsets from other sources it would likely trigger an "initial" oil price jump of 20 to 30 percent, or about \$20 to \$30 a barrel, the IMF said in its first public comment on a possible Iranian oil supply disruption. [\[Reuters\]](#)

INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar: Hotel Chains Eyeing Burma as New Market

Starwood Hotels & Resorts – which runs hotel chains such as Westin, Sheraton and W – and Marriott International, said during the World Economic Forum in Davos they wanted to expand into Burma. "Marriott would love to be there if the conditions are right," said Arne Sorenson, president and CEO-elect of Marriott International, according to Reuters. "Burma has captured people's imagination for decades." Recently, the Burmese tour industry has voiced frustrations at the limited number of hotel facilities, and its poor tourism infrastructure, including guides, transportation, airlines seats and promotional activities. The only chain hotels now are Asian-based companies such as Shangri-la Hotels & Resorts, which runs the Traders Hotel in Myanmar's commercial capital of Rangoon, according to Reuters. [\[Mizzima\]](#)

Myanmar: SSA-S Leaders Prepare to Set Up Businesses

After signing its cease-fire agreement with the Burmese government, Shan State Army – South (SSA-S) leaders have concluded a seven-day tour of businesses in three cities. At the invitation of the government peace team led by Railway Minister Aung Min, a seven-member SSA-S team visited Rangoon and Mandalay and a three-member team visited Muse in northern Shan State. "Our visits are just to survey businesses," said Major Sai Lao Sai. "We looked at basic economic activities such as agriculture, livestock, gem stones, metal mining and timber extraction." [\[Mizzima\]](#)

Cambodia: South Korea Eyes Investment in Cambodia's Oil, Gas Sector

South Korea is willing to invest in oil and gas industry in Cambodia, said a senior Korean official on Thursday. "Korea is interested in investing in oil and gas and energy sector in Cambodia," Jae Hyun Shin, South Korea's visiting ambassador in charge of energy and mineral resources cooperation, said during a meeting with Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen. Cambodia's offshore areas are believed to be rich in oil and gas deposits. To date, the country awarded exploring licenses to a number of companies to operate in six blocks, according to the CNPA report. [\[Xinhua\]](#)

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