

Monday February 6, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Feb 3)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,862	+157	+1.2
Nasdaq	2,906	+46	+1.6
S&P 500	1,345	+19	+1.5
VIX	17.10	-0.88	-4.9
MSCI World	1,274	+14	+1.1

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,901	+105	+1.8
DAX	6,767	+111	+1.7
CAC	3,428	+51	+1.5
Euro Stoxx	2,514	+35	+1.4

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,251	-17	-0.4
Nikkei	8,832	-45	-0.5
Shanghai	2,330	+18	+0.8
HSI	20,757	+18	+0.1
H Shares	11,606	+22	+0.2

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	2,918	+17	+0.6
Malaysia	1,539	+2	+0.1
PSEi	4,759	-64	-1.3
SET	1,099	+7	+0.7
LSX	918	-9	-0.9
Vietnam	402	+0	+0.0
Indonesia	4,016	-1	-0.0
FTSE ASEAN	567	+2	+0.4

Currencies Rap (as of Feb 3)

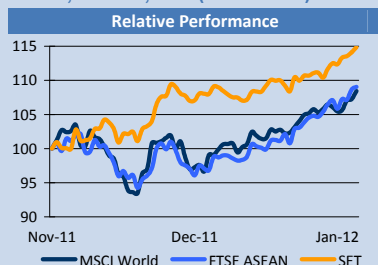
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	78.92	-0.07	-0.08
THB/USD	30.88	-0.02	-0.06
LAK/THB	259.16	+0.23	+0.09
LAK/USD	8,003.00	+2.00	+0.02
USD/EUR	1.3139	-0.00	-0.09
JPY/USD	76.56	+0.40	+0.53

Commodities Rap (as of Feb 3)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,740.30	-19.00	-1.08
Silver	33.75	-0.43	-1.25
Copper	390.15	+12.05	+3.19
WTI	97.84	+1.48	+1.54
Brent	114.58	+2.51	+2.24
BDI	647	-4	-0.61

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Feb 3)



Source: Bloomberg

GLOBAL NEWS

- US: Payrolls in U.S. Jump 243,000; Unemployment Drops to 8.3%
- Greece on 'Razor's Edge' as Debt Talks Drag On
- Euro Zone Private Sector Snaps 4-Month Run of Decline

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- Myanmar's Ambitious Dawei Project Faces Uncertainty
- Burma to Introduce Electronic Visa Applications
- Thai Central Bank Slashes Growth Forecast
- Vietnam: Reserve Rules Eased for Five Banks
- Thailand: Government Urged to Bridge the Missing Links

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GLOBAL NEWS

US: Payrolls in U.S. Jump 243,000; Unemployment Drops to 8.3%

Employment climbed more than forecast in January and the U.S. jobless rate unexpectedly fell to the lowest in three years, casting doubt on the Federal Reserve's pledge to keep interest rates low until late 2014. The 243,000 increase in payrolls was the most since April and exceeded all forecasts Labor Department figures showed in Washington. The unemployment rate dropped to 8.3%, the lowest since February 2009. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Greece on 'Razor's Edge' as Debt Talks Drag On

Greece's efforts to win a second bailout from international creditors teetered in the balance as negotiations in Athens failed to clinch an agreement. While agreement had been found on issues such as bank recapitalization and state asset sales, the government and the so-called troika of international creditors are still at odds over labor reforms and fiscal measures for this year. The talks with euro-area finance ministers were "very difficult," Greek Finance Minister said. Party leaders must respond by 11 a.m. Monday, the spokesman Panos Beglitis told reporters in Athens. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Euro Zone Private Sector Snaps 4-Month Run of Decline

The euro zone's private sector economy snapped a four-month decline in January and expanded, albeit very weakly, according to a business survey that hinted the euro zone may avoid recession. Markit's Eurozone Composite Purchasing Managers Index rose in January to 50.4 from 48.3 in December, unchanged from a preliminary reading and above the 50 mark that denotes growth for the first time since August. [\[Reuters\]](#)

INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar's Ambitious Dawei Project Faces Uncertainty

Dusty roads and makeshift offices are the only hints of the ambitious \$50 billion project slated for the thick jungles near Myanmar's southern city of Dawei, billed by its developers as the "new global gateway of Indo-China". Big questions surround the far-reaching plans by Thailand's largest construction firm, Italian-Thai Development, to transform 250 sq kms (97 sq miles) of scrubland in southern Myanmar into Southeast Asia's largest industrial complex. Italian-Thai has yet to secure \$8.5 billion to finance construction of its first phase. Securing a stable source of electricity has been at the heart of Dawei's problems since the government abruptly halted construction of a 4,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant in the area. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Burma to Introduce Electronic Visa Applications

Burma will introduce an electronic visa application system next month to facilitate visits to the once isolated state, news reports said Sunday. "We are trying to introduce an e-visa system from March that would allow international visitors to apply for a visa from anywhere via the internet before visiting Myanmar," Tourism Minister Tint San told the Myanmar Times. The liberalization of visa procedures is likely to facilitate another jump in tourist arrivals in 2012. Total arrivals to Burma last year were 816,369, up 26 per cent from 791,505 tourist in 2010, according to government sources. [\[The Nation\]](#)

Thai Central Bank Slashes Growth Forecast

The Bank of Thailand on Friday cut its economic growth forecast for last year to 1% from 1.8% previously, and said the economy likely contracted in the final quarter of 2011 as the impact of the floods that inundated the country last year had a much bigger impact than previously forecast, while external economic headwinds also hampered exports. The central bank said the economy likely contracted 5.2% in 4Q11 from a year earlier and 7.4% from the 3Q11, before rapidly recovering in 1Q12, BOT Assistant Gov. Paiboon Kittisrikangwan said at a news briefing. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Vietnam: Reserve Rules Eased for Five Banks

The State Bank of Viet Nam granted permission on Thursday to five credit institutions to maintain compulsory reserves for Vietnamese dong deposits at below regulated levels for a five-month period beginning February 1. The Mekong Development Commercial Bank, Mekong Delta Housing Bank, Agribank, LienViet Post Bank and the Central People's Credit Fund will be allowed to maintain compulsory reserves 20% below the levels required. The central bank said that it had eased the requirements for these institutions because they fulfilled a significant public policy role, lending heavily to agricultural producers and for rural development projects. Each credit institution would be required to ensure that at least 40% of its loans be made for agriculture and rural development in order to enjoy the lower compulsory reserves requirement. [\[Viet Nam News\]](#)

Thailand: Government Urged to Bridge the Missing Links

The government has been urged to stick to the plans to improve connectivity among Asian countries, even though some of the projects were initiated by the previous govt. "Thailand is located in a strategic geographical location. Once a regional development plan has been approved, it should be pursued even though the govt is changed," said Payungsak Chartsutthipol, chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI). [\[Bangkok Post\]](#)