

Wednesday February 8, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Feb 7)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,878	+33	+0.3
Nasdaq	2,904	+2	+0.1
S&P 500	1,347	+3	+0.2
VIX	17.65	-0.11	-0.6
MSCI World	1,278	+5	+0.4

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,890	-2	-0.0
DAX	6,754	-11	-0.2
CAC	3,412	+6	+0.2
Euro Stoxx	2,514	+7	+0.3

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,274	-22	-0.5
Nikkei	8,918	-12	-0.1
Shanghai	2,292	-39	-1.7
HSI	20,699	-11	-0.1
H Shares	11,500	-65	-0.6

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	2,958	+18	+0.6
Malaysia	1,539	+2	+0.1
PSEi	4,756	-60	-1.3
SET	1,101	+7	+0.6
LSX	909	0	0.0
Vietnam	401	+1	+0.3
Indonesia	3,955	-19	-0.5
FTSE ASEAN	567	+1	+0.3

Currencies Rap (as of Feb 7)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	78.55	-0.52	-0.65
THB/USD	30.95	-0.02	-0.06
LAK/THB	258.67	+0.26	+0.10
LAK/USD	8,006.50	+5.50	+0.07
USD/EUR	1.3134	+0.01	+0.69
JPY/USD	76.75	+0.11	+0.14

Commodities Rap (as of Feb 7)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,748.40	+23.50	+1.36
Silver	34.19	+0.44	+1.32
Copper	387.60	+1.15	+0.30
WTI	98.41	+1.50	+1.55
Brent	116.23	+0.30	+0.26
BDI	660	+12	+1.85

Source: Bloomberg

* FTSE Bursa Malaysia as of Feb 3

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Feb 7)



Source: Bloomberg

GLOBAL NEWS

- Greek Debt Talks Drag on But Banks Signal Progress
- ECB to Make Concessions on Greek Debt
- U.S. Job Openings Rise by Most in Almost a Year in Recovery Sign
- Dow Average Advances to Highest Level Since 2008 on Greek Rescue Talks
- China Central Bank Vows Support for Homebuyers

INDOCHINA NEWS

- Myanmar: U.S. Approves Waiver on Burma Financial Restrictions
- Myanmar: 'E-visa' Trial to Begin This Month
- Myanmar to Privatize 4 State Enterprises

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GLOBAL NEWS

Greek Debt Talks Drag on But Banks Signal Progress

Greece's private creditors signaled progress late Tuesday on a debt-relief deal but crucial talks between Greek coalition leaders about forcing more austerity upon a hostile public were again postponed. Anger flared on the streets of Athens as more than 20,000 protesters marched through the Greek capital and unions called a general strike Tuesday against the new cuts in jobs and spending. The strike halted trains and ferries, closed down schools and banks and put state hospitals on short staffing. Greek Premier delayed a meeting with his coalition parties till Wednesday. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

ECB to Make Concessions on Greek Debt

The European Central Bank has made key concessions over its holdings of Greek government bonds that will contribute to a reduction of the country's debt burden, according to people briefed on Greece's ongoing debt-restructuring negotiations. The ECB has agreed to exchange the Greek government bonds it purchased in the secondary market last year at a price below face value, provided the debt restructuring talks under way find a successful outcome. The idea is for the ECB, in effect, to exchange the Greek bonds it holds for bonds of the European Financial Stability Facility, the euro zone's temporary bailout fund. The ECB will hold the highly rated EFSF bonds on its balance sheet in place of the Greek bonds it bought as part of its Securities Market Program. The EFSF will not hold the Greek bonds on its balance sheet, but will return the bonds to Greece and Greece will then agree to repay the EFSF for the purchase price of the bonds. [\[WSJ\]](#)

U.S. Job Openings Rise by Most in Almost a Year in Recovery Sign

Job openings in the U.S. increased in December by the most in almost a year, showing employers are gaining confidence the economy will keep growing in 2012. The number of positions waiting to be filled climbed by 258,000, the biggest gain since February 2011, to 3.38 million, the Labor Department said Tuesday. Excluding government agencies, openings at private employers climbed to the highest level since August 2008. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Dow Average Advances to Highest Level Since 2008 on Greek Rescue Talks

U.S. stocks advanced, sending the Dow Jones Industrial Average to its highest level since May 2008, as Greece made progress on measures to secure international aid. Tuesday's gain put the S&P 500 about 1.2% away from its peak 9 months ago, which would send it to the highest level since June 2008. The index rose 7.1% this year amid better-than-expected economic data and corporate profits. Earnings beat projections at 68% of the 280 companies in the S&P 500 that reported quarterly results since Jan. 9. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

China Central Bank Vows Support for Homebuyers

China's central bank pledged support for first-home buyers as a crackdown on real-estate speculation threatens to trigger a property slump in the world's second- biggest economy. Officials will increase support for construction of affordable housing and ensure that "loan demand from first-home families" is met, the People's Bank of China said yesterday. Home prices in 52 of 70 major cities declined in December from November, according to government data. Contract sales, or sales booked before apartments are completed, dropped 30% in December at China Vanke Co., as the country's biggest developer by market value offered fewer homes from November. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar: U.S. Approves Waiver on Burma Financial Restrictions

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Monday signed a partial waiver on restrictions imposed on Burma under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The waiver will allow the U.S. to support assessment missions and limited technical assistance by international financial institutions (IFIs), such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, in Burma. [\[Mizzima\]](#)

Myanmar: 'E-visa' Trial to Begin This Month

THE Ministry for Hotels and Tourism is pushing for a significant liberalisation of Myanmar's visa regulations and plans to introduce an electronic visa application system from next month, Union Minister U Tint San said last week. "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. They would no longer need to go to a Myanmar embassy to apply for a visa. The pilot project will begin in February before it is officially launched in March. We hope the system will be successful," he said in Nay Pyi Taw on February 1. The web address for the proposed e-visa site is www.myanmarvisa.gov.mm [\[Myanmar Times\]](#)

Myanmar to Privatize 4 State Enterprises

The Myanmar government is making arrangements to privatize four state enterprises under the Ministry of Transport involving the domestic airline, domestic water transport, port handling and shipyard, local media reported Sunday. The transformation of these state enterprises to public enterprises will start in the next fiscal year of 2012-13 (April- March), the Internal Water Transport Department was quoted by the Flower News as saying. In a bid to turn the state-owned enterprises into more effective ones under its market-oriented economic policy, Myanmar introduced the privatization plan in 1995 which has been implemented through auctioning and leasing or establishing joint ventures with local and foreign investors. [\[Xinhua\]](#)