

Wednesday March 14, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Mar 13)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	13,178	+218	+1.7
Nasdaq	3,040	+56	+1.9
S&P 500	1,396	+25	+1.8
VIX	14.80	-0.84	-5.4
MSCI World	1,309	+19	+1.5

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,956	+63	+1.1
DAX	6,996	+95	+1.4
CAC	3,550	+60	+1.7
Euro Stoxx	2,558	+44	+1.8

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,248	+51	+1.2
Nikkei	9,899	+9	+0.1
Shanghai	2,456	+21	+0.9
HSI	21,340	+206	+1.0
H Shares	11,356	+130	+1.2

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	2,989	+27	+0.9
Malaysia	1,564	-1	-0.0
PSEi	5,006	+31	+0.6
SET	1,154	+3	+0.3
LSX	962	+15	+1.6
Vietnam	429	+1	+0.3
Indonesia	4,009	+21	+0.5
FTSE ASEAN	569	+3	+0.5

Currencies Rap (as of Mar 13)

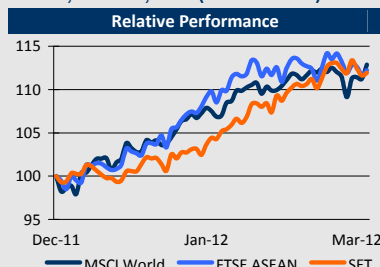
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	80.14	+0.25	+0.31
THB/USD	30.63	-0.02	-0.07
LAK/THB	261.04	-0.06	-0.02
LAK/USD	7,997.00	-3.00	-0.04
USD/EUR	1.3117	+0.00	+0.07
JPY/USD	82.67	+0.41	+0.50

Commodities Rap (as of Mar 13)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,694.20	-5.60	-0.33
Silver	33.48	+0.06	+0.19
Copper	390.25	+6.50	+1.69
WTI	106.71	+0.37	+0.35
Brent	126.22	+0.88	+0.70
BDI	844	+7	+0.84

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Mar 13)



Source: Bloomberg

MACRO NEWS

-  Dow Rises to Highest Level Since '07
-  Fed Leaves Policy Unchanged, Sees Better Economy
-  Fed Says Most Big Banks Passed Stress Tests; Four Fail
-  German Investor Confidence Jumped to 21-Month High in March
-  Fitch Raises Greece to B-, Out of Default Territory

CORPORATE NEWS

-  JPMorgan [JPM:US] - JPMorgan Passes Stress Test; Dividend Rise, Buybacks Okayed
-  Citigroup [C:US] - Citi Among Banks That Fail Fed Stress Test
-  Apple [AAPL:US] - Tablet Sales Will Soar 54% This Year, IDC Says
-  Sands China [1928:HK] - Wynn Macau Leads Casinos Higher on Outlook: Hong Kong Mover

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MACRO NEWS

Dow Rises to Highest Level Since '07

U.S. stocks advanced, sending the Dow Jones Industrial Average to the highest level since 2007, amid data showing that retail sales increased by the most in five months and as JPMorgan Chase boosted its dividend. JPMorgan surged 7% after also unveiling a \$15 billion buyback. Bank of America and Goldman Sachs rose at least 6.2%. Citigroup, which rallied 6.3%, slumped 3.3% after the close of regular trading as it failed to meet the Federal Reserve's minimum requirements in a stress test. Apple climbed 2.9% as Jefferies Group Inc. raised its share-price estimate to \$699. The S&P 500 Index added 1.8% to 1,395.95 at 4 p.m. New York time. The Dow advanced 217.97 points, or 1.7%, to 13,177.68, rising a fifth day. Stocks rose as retail sales increased 1.1% in February. The Fed raised its assessment of the economy as the labor market gathers strength. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Fed Leaves Policy Unchanged, Sees Better Economy

The U.S. Federal Reserve on Tuesday acknowledged recent signs of strength in the economy and said recent financial market strains have eased, offering few clues on the chances for further monetary easing. The U.S. central bank described the economy as "expanding moderately," unchanged from its January statement and said growth still faced significant downside risks. Policymakers said the job market had improved but unemployment remains high, reiterating its expectation that rates would remain near zero until at least late 2014. The Fed said a recent spike in energy costs would likely push up inflation but only in the short run. [\[CNBC\]](#)

Fed Says Most Big Banks Passed Stress Tests; Four Fail

The Fed said 15 of the 19 largest U.S. banks would have satisfactory capital buffers, even if they suffered a financial shock. Banks that passed included JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Bank of New York Mellon, Morgan Stanley, PNC Financial, US Bancorp and BB&T. The regulator said Citigroup, Ally Financial, and SunTrust fared worst under that hypothetical financial shock, with Tier 1 common capital ratios of 4.9%, 4.4%, and 4.8% respectively. MetLife, the largest life insurer in the United States, failed the stress tests on the basis of its risk-based capital ratio. At a 6% minimum, it was lower than any of the other banks examined. The Fed's latest stress test tried to determine whether the banks have enough capital to withstand another financial crisis, including a 13% jobless rate, a 50% drop in stock prices and a 21% decline in housing prices. [\[CNBC\]](#)

German Investor Confidence Jumped to 21-Month High in March

German investor confidence jumped to a 21-month high in March after the European Central Bank flooded financial markets with cash and the sovereign debt crisis showed signs of abating. The ZEW Center for European Economic Research in Mannheim said its index of investor and analyst expectations, which aims to predict economic developments six months in advance, advanced to 22.3 from 5.4 in February. That's the fourth straight increase and the highest reading since June 2010. Economists forecast a gain to 10, according to the estimates. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Fitch Raises Greece to B-, Out of Default Territory

Fitch assigned Greece a speculative B- rating, becoming the first major rating agency to lift the country out of default territory after the debt swap cut its debt mountain by about 100 billion euros, or close to a third. It was the first time Greece's rating had been upgraded since the debt crisis erupted at the end of 2009 and the first Fitch upgrade since 2003, but the B- rating still places Greek government bonds firmly in "junk" territory. [\[CNBC\]](#)

CORPORATE NEWS

JPMorgan [JPM:US] - JPMorgan Passes Stress Test; Dividend Rise, Buybacks Okayed

JPMorgan became the first bank on Tuesday to say regulators have completed stress tests of its balance sheet and approved a dividend increase and stock buybacks. The bank said it will raise its quarterly dividend by a nickel to 30 cents and buy back as much as \$12 billion of stock this year. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Citigroup [C:US] - Citi Among Banks That Fail Fed Stress Test

The test, designed to assess whether reserves were necessary to withstand another crisis like the credit crunch of 2008, showed Ally, Citi and SunTrust each had less than a 5% of capital set aside under a measure called Tier 1 capital ratio, according to a Fed statement Tuesday. Citi said it only failed because of its planned capital-return plan and that the central bank told the company that it can still pay existing dividends on common and preferred stock. [\[MarketWatch\]](#)

Apple [AAPL:US] - Tablet Sales Will Soar 54% This Year, IDC Says

Tablet shipments will increase this year by a better-than-predicted 54% as Amazon.com's lower-priced challenge to Apple's iPad stokes awareness of the devices, International Data Corp. said. IDC, a research company that tracks technology sales, boosted its estimate for global tablet shipments in 2012 by 21% to 106.1 million after sales last year rose more than it anticipated. A total of 68.7 million units were sold in 2011. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Sands China [1928:HK] - Wynn Macau Leads Casinos Higher on Outlook: Hong Kong Mover

Deutsche Bank raised its estimate for casino revenue growth in Macau to 25% this year on spending by wealthy Chinese tourists. Revenue at the world's largest gambling hub may rise as spending by VIP or high-stakes gamblers who can bet as much as \$250,000 a hand picks up, DB said. Chinese visitors have fueled growth in the former Portuguese colony, the only place in the world's most populous nation where casinos are legal. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)