

August 15, 2012

Stock Markets Rap

	Close	Chg	(%)
MSCI World	1,277.51	1.3	0.1%
Dow	13,172.14	0.0	0.0%
Nasdaq	3,016.98	-5.5	-0.2%
S&P 500	1,403.93	-0.2	0.5%
Euro Stoxx	2,995.93	15.8	0.5%
FTSE 100	9,200.08	46.4	0.5%
DAX	8,602.21	75.7	0.9%
CAC	4,255.56	27.4	0.6%
ASX 200	4,467.95	2.0	0.0%
Nikkei	113.38	-0.1	-0.0%
Shanghai	336.88	1.3	0.4%
Hang Seng	2,615.92	27.6	1.1%
H Shares	1,278.26	13.3	1.0%
	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE ASEAN	579.89	3.9	0.7%
Singapore	2,478.40	18.5	0.8%
Thailand	1,188.62	1.0	0.1%
Malaysia	1,652.90	6.6	0.4%
Indonesia	4,121.56	19.0	0.5%
Philippines	5,265.94	-5.8	-0.1%
Vietnam	429.47	3.3	0.8%
Lao PDR	1,024.54	8.1	0.8%
Cambodia	709.68	0.0	0.0%

Currencies Rap

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	82.48	0.0	0.1%
USD/EUR	1.24	0.0	0.1%
JPY/USD	78.54	0.3	0.3%
THB/USD	31.43	0.0	0.1%
VND/USD	20,850.00	0.0	0.0%
LAK/USD	8,033.45	20.5	0.3%
KHR/USD	4,052.90	-10.3	-0.3%
MMK/USD	873.44	1.8	0.2%
VND/THB	663.59	-0.2	-0.0%
LAK/THB	255.68	0.6	0.2%
KHR/THB	663.59	-0.2	-0.0%
MMK/THB	27.80	0.0	0.2%

Commodities Rap

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,611.75	-11.53	-0.7%
Silver	27.87	-0.20	-0.7%
Copper	3.37	0.01	0.2%
WTI	93.43	0.70	0.8%
Brent	114.03	0.43	0.4%
BDI	750.00	-14.00	-1.8%

World, ASEAN, SET

Relative Performance



KT Zmico Research

Research@ktzmico.com

66 (0) 2695-5000

MACRO NEWS

- US: Producer Prices, Retail Sales Both Post Strong July Gains
- Brazil: Brazil changes tack with new stimulus plan

CORPORATE NEWS

- YAHOO [YHOO: US] - HSBC Banker Sues Yahoo Singapore for Impostor's Identity
- Standard Chartered [STAN: LN] - Standard Chartered agrees settlement with New York regulator

MACRO NEWS

Producer Prices, Retail Sales Both Post Strong July Gains

U.S retail sales rose in July for the first time in four months as demand climbed broadly for everything from cars to electronics, a sign that consumers could drive faster economic growth in the third quarter. Retail sales rose 0.8 percent last month, the Commerce Department said on Tuesday. A separate report showed U.S. producer prices climbing in July at the fastest pace in five months, although falling energy prices pointed to muted **inflation** pressures. The gain in retail sales was the largest since February and well above analysts' expectations. Economists polled by Reuters had expected retail sales to rise 0.3 percent. The report bolsters the view that the slowdown in economic growth during the second quarter will prove temporary. "It's a welcome sign for the economy," said Joe Manimbo, a market analyst at Western Union Business Solutions in Washington. It also offers some relief for **President Obama**, whose November re-election bid has been imperiled by a weak jobs market. Republican challenger **Mitt Romney** is focusing his campaign on the weak economy that has plagued Obama's presidency. The retail sales and price data could also splash a bit of water on hopes the **Federal Reserve** could soon launch another bond-buying program to help the economy. "The reports suggest that the U.S. economy continues to grow, although at a slow pace," said Vassili Serebriakov, senior currency strategist at Wells Fargo in New York. "The numbers moreover reduce the possibility of Fed action at the next meeting." [CNBC]

Brazil changes tack with new stimulus plan

Brazil's government is set to launch the first in a series of measures that could inject up to \$50bn (£32bn) into the economy over the next five years. The first part of the plan, to be announced on Wednesday, includes privatising about 14,000 kilometres of railways and roads. The privatisation of ports, lower energy costs and incentives for industry will soon follow. The package is designed to boost what have been disappointing growth levels. President Dilma Rousseff has invited 50 leading Brazilian businessmen to the capital Brasilia where she will personally launch the new strategy. In May, she brought the businessmen to the presidential palace - the Planalto - to ask them what was needed to stimulate the economy. Growth in Brazil is predicted to be under 2% this year, the weakest annual performance since 2009 and a sharp slowdown from an impressive 7.5% rise in 2010. [BBC]

CORPORATE NEWS

HSBC Banker Sues Yahoo Singapore for Impostor's Identity

Sandeep Sharma, a managing director at HSBC Holdings Plc (HSBA)'s private banking arm, claimed in a lawsuit he had been defamed by a Yahoo! Inc. (YHOO) user impersonating him and making offensive remarks about Singaporeans. Sharma asked Singapore's High Court to order Yahoo! Asia Pacific Pte to reveal details including the identity of the person using the moniker "Sandeep" and claiming to be Sharma. A closed hearing is scheduled for today. "Sandeep" made at least three posts in July on Yahoo's websites disparaging Singaporeans including calling them "highly incompetent" and saying foreigners are Singapore's future, according to a lawsuit filed on Aug. 8, the eve of the Southeast Asian city's 47th National Day. The complaint highlights tensions that have developed in Singapore between foreigners, who make up a third of the country's 5.2 million population, and citizens whose anger over the influx contributed to the ruling party's worst performance since independence in last year's general election. Yahoo hasn't filed its response to the complaint. Yahoo's Southeast Asia general counsel Siew Kum Hong referred questions to Madhavi Tumkur, the company's spokeswoman, who didn't respond to two e-mails and a phone call to her office. Sharma, who filed a police report last month on the same matter, didn't reply to two e-mails or return a call requesting comment. Gareth Hewett, a HSBC spokesman, declined to comment. [Bloomberg]

Standard Chartered agrees settlement with New York regulator

Standard Chartered has agreed a \$340m (£217m) settlement with New York regulators that accused it of hiding \$250bn of transactions with Iran. The hearing that had been scheduled for Wednesday has now been adjourned. The bank's chief executive Peter Sands has been in New York negotiating with the regulators. The bank had admitted that some of its transactions did break US sanctions, but said that the amount totalled just \$14m. "The New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) and Standard Chartered Bank have reached an agreement to settle the matter raised in the DFS order dated August 6, 2012," a statement from the regulator's superintendent said. "The parties have agreed that the conduct at issue involved transactions of at least \$250bn." A short statement from Standard Chartered simply confirmed a settlement of \$340m had been reached. "A formal agreement containing the detailed terms of the settlement is expected to be concluded shortly," it added. The bank also said it continued to "engage constructively" with other US authorities. [BBC]