

Wednesday April 18, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Apr 17)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	13,116	+194	+1.5
Nasdaq	3,043	+54	+1.8
S&P 500	1,391	+21	+1.5
VIX	18.46	-1.09	-5.6
MSCI World	1,287	+20	+1.6

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,767	+101	+1.8
DAX	6,801	+176	+2.7
CAC	3,293	+87	+2.7
Euro Stoxx	2,303	+58	+2.6

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,289	-14	-0.3
Nikkei	9,465	-6	-0.1
Shanghai	2,335	-22	-0.9
HSI	20,562	-48	-0.2
H Shares	10,795	-50	-0.5

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	2,987	-6	-0.2
Malaysia	1,596	-1	-0.1
PSEi	5,157	+40	+0.8
SET	1,160	-9	-0.8
LSX	999	+8	+0.9
Vietnam	473	+5	+1.0
Indonesia	4,157	+11	+0.3
FTSE ASEAN	572	-1	-0.1

Currencies Rap (as of Apr 17)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	79.48	-0.08	-0.10
THB/USD	30.80	-0.01	-0.03
LAK/THB	259.69	+0.04	+0.02
LAK/USD	7,995.00	0.00	0.00
USD/EUR	1.3133	+0.01	+0.84
JPY/USD	80.66	-0.07	-0.09

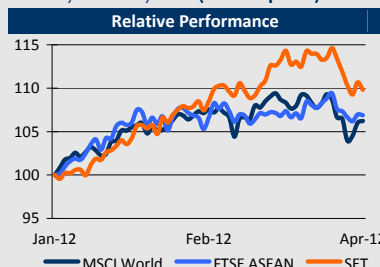
Commodities Rap (as of Apr 17)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,651.10	+1.40	+0.08
Silver	31.67	+0.30	+0.96
Copper	365.40	+1.80	+0.50
WTI	104.20	+1.27	+1.23
Brent	118.78	+0.10	+0.08
BDI	989	+14	+1.44

Source: Bloomberg

* LSX as of Apr 12

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Apr 17)



Source: Bloomberg

MACRO NEWS

- Spanish Debt Sale, German Data Bring Relief
- US March Housing Starts Down 5.8%; Industrial Output Flat
- China's Foreign Direct Investment Declines a Fifth Month
- IMF Raises Global Forecast for First Time Since Early 2011

CORPORATE NEWS

- Johnson & Johnson [JNJ:US] - J&J 1Q Profit Up 12.5%, Sales Down Slightly
- Coca-Cola [KO:US] - Coca-Cola 1Q Net Up 7.9% As Worldwide Volume Rises 5%
- Apple [AAPL:US] - Apple Gains After Analysts Renew Optimism: San Francisco Mover
- Citigroup [C:US] - Citigroup Investors Reject Management Compensation Plan

Thanawat Patchimkul
Global Strategist
Email: thanawatp@ktzmico.com
Tel: + 66 2 695 5451
Assisted by
Denruthai Krishnamra

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MACRO NEWS

Spanish Debt Sale, German Data Bring Relief

Spanish borrowing costs jumped at a debt auction on Tuesday but the sale went smoothly and German data gave an upbeat reading of the euro zone's largest economy, providing some relief to investors worried about the debt crisis. The euro and European shares rose and Spanish 10-year bond yields fell further below 6%, a key level breached on Monday. Investors fear Spain's economic problems will reignite Europe's troubles; a break in a country's debt yields above 6% has in the past accelerated the rise in borrowing costs to unsustainable territory. The surprise rise in the closely-watched German ZEW business sentiment boosted hopes that economy is recovering, strengthening European shares and the euro. [\[Reuters\]](#)

US March Housing Starts Down 5.8%; Industrial Output Flat

A decline in multifamily-home construction caused U.S. housing starts to plummet in March, but a surging number of new permits suggests builders anticipate future demand. Home construction decreased 5.8% from February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 654,000, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. The second straight monthly decrease was driven by the 16.9% drop for homes with at least two units, a volatile part of the market. The number of new housing permits, an indication of future construction, rose by 4.5% in March, the best monthly gain since September 2008. Economists had forecast permits to drop by 0.3%. The Fed report showed that industrial production was unchanged last month and capacity utilization slipped to 78.6% from an upwardly revised 78.7% the previous month, below the average rate for the past 40 years. [\[Dow Jones Newswires\]](#)

China's Foreign Direct Investment Declines a Fifth Month

Foreign direct investment in China dropped for a fifth straight month in March on a slowing economy, limited prospects for gains in the yuan and renewed concerns that Europe's debt crisis will worsen. Inbound investment fell 6.1% from a year earlier to \$11.76 billion, the Ministry of Commerce said, after a 0.9% drop the previous month. That's the longest run of declines since the global financial crisis. Foreign investment in the first quarter fell 2.8% from a year earlier to \$29.48 billion, the ministry said, after a 29.4% increase in the same period a year earlier. Investment in 2011 rose 9.7% to a record \$116 billion. First-quarter FDI from the European Union slumped 31.2% from a year earlier to \$1.4 billion, the ministry said. Investment from the U.S. rose 10.1% to \$893 million. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

IMF Raises Global Forecast for First Time Since Early 2011

IMF raised its global growth forecast for the first time in more than a year, with the U.S. boosting the outlook while recent improvements remain "very fragile." The world economy will expand 3.5% this year, compared with a January projection of 3.3%, IMF said. It sees growth of 4.1% in 2013, up from 4.0%. It raised its forecasts for the U.S. to gains of 2.1% this year and 2.4% in 2013. The euro area economy is projected to decline by 0.3% in 2012, an improvement from the 0.5% in the previous forecast. China is projected to grow 8.2% and Japan 2% this year. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

CORPORATE NEWS

Johnson & Johnson [JNJ:US] - J&J 1Q Profit Up 12.5%, Sales Down Slightly

Johnson & Johnson Tuesday reported a slight decline in first-quarter sales because of drug patent expirations and manufacturing constraints, but the company pointed to early signs of improvement in the health-care market. J&J said Tuesday that it earned \$3.91 billion, or \$1.41 a share, for the first quarter, up 12.5% from \$3.48 billion, or \$1.25 a share, a year earlier. The latest quarter included a gain of \$106 million primarily for a currency adjustment associated with J&J's planned \$21 billion acquisition of medical-device maker Synthes Inc. (SYST.VX). J&J expects to close the Synthes deal by midyear, pending regulatory clearance in the U.S. and Europe. J&J is undergoing a leadership change. Alex Gorsky, currently vice chairman, is slated to succeed William Weldon as chief executive at next week's annual meeting of shareholders. Weldon will continue as chairman. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Coca-Cola [KO:US] - Coca-Cola 1Q Net Up 7.9% As Worldwide Volume Rises 5%

Coca-Cola Co. turned in first-quarter results above analyst estimates, growing sales volume in each region while getting a hefty boost from higher prices as well. Coca-Cola's earnings rose 7.9% in the first quarter as revenue increased nearly 6%, with higher prices and a shift in the mix of product sold contributing about half of the sales increase. For the latest quarter, Coca-Cola profit of \$2.05 billion, or 89 cents a share, was up from \$1.9 billion, or 82 cents a share, a year earlier. The year-earlier quarter included restructuring charges of 4 cents a share. Revenue jumped 5.9% to \$11.14 billion. Analysts had most recently forecast earnings of 87 cents a share on revenue of \$10.82 billion [\[WSJ\]](#)

Apple [AAPL:US] - Apple Gains After Analysts Renew Optimism: San Francisco Mover

Apple Inc. shares climbed 5.1%, snapping a five-day decline, amid fresh optimism that the iPhone and iPad will top sales projections when the company delivers quarterly results next week. Apple's financial results, scheduled for release on April 24, will show that consumers are snapping up the iPhone in China and other countries where the newest version of the device was recently introduced, according to Mizuho Securities USA. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Citigroup [C:US] - Citigroup Investors Reject Management Compensation Plan

Citigroup Inc. investors rejected the bank's executive pay plan, a first among the six largest U.S. lenders, amid criticism it lets Chief Executive Officer Vikram Pandit collect millions of dollars in rewards too easily. The rejection is a rarity for companies in the U.S., which temporarily imposed pay curbs on financial firms as part of the industry's \$700 billion U.S. bailout in 2008. While new rules require "say-on-pay" votes, only 41 firms among the Russell 3000 Index failed last year to win a majority for executive pay plans. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)