

Thursday March 15, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Mar 14)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	13,194	+16	+0.1
Nasdaq	3,041	+1	+0.0
S&P 500	1,394	-2	-0.1
VIX	15.31	+0.51	+3.4
MSCI World	1,306	-3	-0.2

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,945	-10	-0.2
DAX	7,079	+84	+1.2
CAC	3,565	+14	+0.4
Euro Stoxx	2,577	+19	+0.7

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,287	+40	+0.9
Nikkei	10,051	+151	+1.5
Shanghai	2,391	-65	-2.6
HSI	21,308	-32	-0.1
H Shares	11,300	-56	-0.5

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	3,026	+37	+1.2
Malaysia	1,576	+12	+0.7
PSEi	5,051	+45	+0.9
SET	1,164	+11	+0.9
LSX	936	-26	-2.7
Vietnam	434	+4	+1.0
Indonesia	4,054	+46	+1.1
FTSE ASEAN	573	+4	+0.7

Currencies Rap (as of Mar 14)

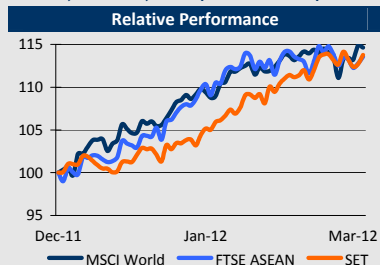
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	80.54	+0.35	+0.43
THB/USD	30.75	+0.12	+0.39
LAK/THB	260.01	-0.99	-0.38
LAK/USD	7,998.00	+1.00	+0.01
USD/EUR	1.3073	-0.00	-0.34
JPY/USD	83.45	+0.78	+0.94

Commodities Rap (as of Mar 14)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,642.90	-51.30	-3.03
Silver	32.18	-1.40	-4.17
Copper	384.80	-5.45	-1.40
WTI	105.43	-1.28	-1.20
Brent	124.97	-1.25	-0.99
BDI	855	+11	+1.30

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Mar 14)



Source: Bloomberg

MACRO NEWS

- Bernanke: 'Frustratingly Slow' Growth Impedes Lending
- Italy Bond Sale Shows Divergence from Spain
- Fitch Revises UK's Ratings Outlook to 'Negative'
- Gold Falls to 8-Week Low in Fed Aftermath

CORPORATE NEWS

- Apple [AAPL:US] - Apple May Climb Above \$700 on iPad: Analysts
- Citigroup [C:US] - Pandit: Citi Aims for 'Meaningful' Shareholder Payout
- Tencent [700:HK] - Tencent May Slow Investments as Costs Erode Earnings
- China Mobile [941:HK] - China Mobile Growth Hopes Pinned on iPhone Tie-up, Network Upgrade

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MACRO NEWS

Bernanke: 'Frustratingly Slow' Growth Impedes Lending

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke said the weak U.S. economy impedes efforts by banks to make profitable loans. "Despite some recent signs of improvement, the recovery has been frustratingly slow, constraining opportunities for profitable lending," Bernanke said Wednesday. The Federal Open Market Committee said Tuesday that economic conditions would still warrant holding the benchmark interest rate near zero at least through late 2014. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Italy Bond Sale Shows Divergence from Spain

Italy's successful government bond sale Wednesday added new evidence that investors have begun to give Italy better chances of avoiding a fiscal crisis than Spain, another big euro-zone economy that has been seen at risk of needing a Greek-style bailout. Italy comfortably sold the maximum targeted €6 billion (\$7.8 billion) in government bonds with maturities of three and seven years. It also did so at lower cost, with the yields on both bonds falling significantly from previous auctions of similar maturities. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Fitch Revises UK's Ratings Outlook to 'Negative'

Fitch Ratings agency on Wednesday warned it could downgrade the United Kingdom's triple-A rating in the next couple of years if the government fails to contain the expansion of its public debt. The credit-ratings agency revised the outlook on the UK's rating to "negative" from "stable," warning that the government has "very limited fiscal space to absorb further adverse economic shocks." Fitch, said the UK's current triple-A rating, "reflects the progress made in reducing the government's structural budget deficit and the credibility of the fiscal consolidation effort." [\[CNBC\]](#)

Gold Falls to 8-Week Low in Fed Aftermath

Gold futures ended at an eight-week low Wednesday as the dollar strengthened and traders reacted to the Fed's rate decision and policy statement in the previous session. The Fed decision buried any hopes of more monetary easing in the short term and took away one of the main pillars of support for the metal. A higher dollar was also making victims among gold and commodities, with oil futures trading lower and silver futures ending down 4.2%. Gold for April delivery GCJ2 -0.08% dropped \$51.30, or 3%, to settle at \$1,642.90 an ounce on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. That was gold's lowest settlement since Jan. 13. [\[MarketWatch\]](#)

CORPORATE NEWS

Apple [AAPL:US] - Apple May Climb Above \$700 on iPad: Analysts

Apple getting a boost from anticipation of the new iPad, rose to a record today and may climb 19% to \$700, according to analysts who raised their price targets for the stock. At least four analysts, including Katy Huberty at Morgan Stanley in New York, have increased price targets to \$700 or higher in the past two weeks. Apple, based in Cupertino, California, rose 3.8% to \$589.58 at the close in New York and has gained 46% this year. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Citigroup [C:US] - Pandit: Citi Aims for 'Meaningful' Shareholder Payout

Citigroup Chief Executive Officer Vikram Pandit said the bank still has capacity to return more capital to shareholders and will seek clearance for a "meaningful" payout after the Federal Reserve rejected an initial plan. The central bank, which said Citigroup's proposal would have caused the firm's capital to fall below a minimum requirement in a severe economic slump, should make its models public. "We still believe that our company has the capacity to return more capital to shareholders," Pandit said. "We will work with the Federal Reserve to formulate a plan that returns meaningful capital while satisfying our regulators." [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Tencent [700:HK] - Tencent May Slow Investments as Costs Erode Earnings

Tencent Holdings, China's biggest Internet company by sales, may make fewer investments this year after costs from earlier acquisitions eroded earnings from online games and social networking. "The pace of investments in the future may be slower," President Martin Lau told reporters at a briefing in Hong Kong yesterday. Tencent spent more than 5 billion yuan (\$790 million) on "several dozen" equity investments in 2011, and will seek to complete "at least 10" deals this year, Lau said. Tencent posted its weakest full-year profit growth since 2005 after booking costs from purchases such as Los Angeles-based Riot Games Inc. The Chinese company also bought stakes in Internet travel operator eLong Inc. and security software vendor Kingsoft Corp. to diversify from online games. 4Q11 profit rose 15% to 2.54 billion yuan, Tencent said in a statement yesterday. That was in line with the 2.55 billion-yuan average estimates. Still, the 27% increase in full-year profit in 2011 was slower than 2010's 56%. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

China Mobile [941:HK] - China Mobile Growth Hopes Pinned on iPhone Tie-up, Network Upgrade

China Mobile, the world's biggest carrier by number of subscribers, is set to post its slowest quarterly growth in almost two years on Thursday due to weak user rates, though the pace might pick up later this year if it attracts higher-end users with a network upgrade and lands an iPhone contract. China Mobile is expected to report a net profit of 33.2 billion yuan (\$5.2 billion) in the 4Q11, based on I/B/E/S forecasts. China's carriers have been suffering from falling average rate per user (ARPU) as they subsidize handsets from phone makers. China Mobile, which has 665 million users, is now the only carrier in the country without an iPhone contract with Apple. Analysts are currently mixed on when Apple and China Mobile would seal a deal, with some expecting it to happen as early as the second half of this year. [\[Reuters\]](#)