

Thursday July 19, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of July 18)

	Close	Chg	(%)
MSCI World	1,239	+10	+0.8
Dow	12,909	+103	+0.8
Nasdaq	2,943	+33	+1.1
S&P 500	1,373	+9	+0.7
Euro Stoxx	2,285	+34	+1.5
FTSE 100	5,686	+57	+1.0
DAX	6,684	+107	+1.6
CAC	3,235	+58	+1.8
ASX 200	4,124	-17	-0.4
Nikkei	8,727	-28	-0.3
Shanghai	2,169	+8	+0.4
Hang Seng	19,240	-215	-1.1
H Shares	9,293	-88	-0.9

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE ASEAN	567	-0	-0.0
Singapore	3,017	+2	+0.1
Thailand	1,220	-4	-0.3
Malaysia	1,645	+6	+0.4
Indonesia	4,082	+1	+0.0
Philippines	5,221	-65	-1.2
Vietnam	419	+1	+0.3
Lao PDR	998	-1	-0.1
Cambodia	677	+5	+0.8

Currencies Rap (as of July 18)

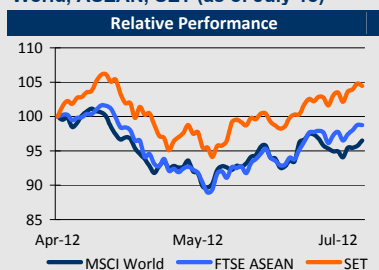
	Last	Chg	(%)
DXY	83.07	+0.04	+0.04
USD/EUR	1.2234	-0.00	-0.37
JPY/USD	78.96	-0.12	-0.15
THB/USD	31.70	+0.13	+0.41
VND/USD	20,853	+13.00	+0.06
LAK/USD	8,014.00	-4.00	-0.05
KHR/USD	4,080.40	-3.70	-0.09
MMK/USD	878.44	+4.60	+0.53
VND/THB	657.76	-2.35	-0.36
LAK/THB	252.82	-1.20	-0.47
KHR/THB	129.00	0.00	0.00
MMK/THB	27.71	+0.03	+0.10

Commodities Rap (as of July 18)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,570.80	-18.70	-1.18
Silver	27.10	-0.22	-0.81
Copper	347.40	+1.85	+0.54
WTI	89.87	+0.65	+0.73
Brent	105.16	+1.16	+1.12
BDI	1,074	-19	-1.74

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of July 18)



Source: Bloomberg

MACRO NEWS

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- US: Home Starts in U.S. Rise to Highest Level Since 2008
- U.K. Unemployment Falls on Olympics Boost
- Spanish Bank Deposits Down 5.75% On Year in May; Bad Loans Up
- China Big Four Banks' New Loans Surging: Report

CORPORATE NEWS

- Procter & Gamble [PG:US]** - P&G Board Affirms Support for CEO
- Sands China [1928:HK]** - Sands Was Close to Four Seasons Approval: Report
- Google [GOOG:US]** - Facebook User Satisfaction Falls, While Google Plus Takes Off

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MACRO NEWS

Bernanke: Fed's Efforts Have Helped the Economy

Chairman Ben Bernanke told lawmakers Wednesday that the Fed's efforts to bolster growth have helped lift the U.S. economy out of the Great Recession. But he acknowledged that growth remains weak and the Fed can only do so much. "I don't think it is the case that there has been no progress. The recovery has been slower than we like but clearly we have made progress," Bernanke told the House Financial Services Committee. He spent part of the hearing defending the Fed's previous two rounds of large-scale bond purchases against Republican criticism. Bernanke said the first effort in the middle of 2009 helped lift the economy out of the recession, which ended in June 2009. The second, launched in Nov. 2010, kept the economy from suffering a bout of deflation, he said. "I think the previous efforts did have productive effects," he said. [\[AP\]](#)

US: Home Starts in U.S. Rise to Highest Level Since 2008

New U.S. home construction rose in June to the highest level in almost four years, indicating the residential real estate market is strengthening even as other parts of the economy cool. Housing starts rose 6.9% to a 760,000 annual pace after a revised 711,000 rate in May that was faster than initially estimated, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. The median forecast of 79 economists surveyed by Bloomberg News called for a 745,000 rate. Record-low mortgage rates and cheaper properties are luring buyers, prompting builders to boost construction. The gain underscores comments by Bernanke that the industry is on the mend, 3 years since the start of the expansion. The June pace was the fastest since October 2008, and estimates ranged from 710,000 to 800,000. Ground-breaking on new homes in May was revised from a previously reported 708,000. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

U.K. Unemployment Falls on Olympics Boost

U.K. unemployment fell for a fourth straight month in the three months to May, data showed Wednesday, with the regional breakdown of the data suggesting the improvement is due to an increase in hiring for the Olympic Games rather than a sign of an underlying economic recovery. The Office for National Statistics said its comprehensive measure of unemployment fell 65,000 in the three months to May 31 to 2.58 million, the lowest number of people without jobs since the three months to Aug. 31, 2011. And, in another sign of the possibly temporary nature of this improvement, the number of Britons joining government-supported training and employment programs rose 42,000 over the same period. That pushed the unemployment rate down to 8.1%, the lowest level since the three months to July last year. The jobless rate was 8.2% in the three months to April. [\[Dow Jones Newswires\]](#)

Spanish Bank Deposits Down 5.75% On Year in May; Bad Loans Up

Spanish banks saw a further reduction in their pool of deposits in May, as worries about the health of the sector intensified, data from the Bank of Spain showed Wednesday. Total deposits from the private sector held by banks shrank by 5.75% y-o-y, to 1.327 trillion euros (\$1.629 trillion). Some EUR7.4 billion was withdrawn in May compared with April. Deposits volumes fell faster than outstanding loans, which dropped 3.82% on the year in May to EUR1.741 trillion. The pool of bad loans continued to grow in May for a 14th straight month, to EUR155.84 billion, or 8.95% of total loans. [\[WSJ\]](#)

China Big Four Banks' New Loans Surging: Report

China's biggest four banks issued around CNY50 billion (US\$7.9 billion) in new yuan loans in the first half of July, double that of the same period of last month, the state-run Shanghai Securities News reported Thursday. The increase was due partly to banks starting to extend loans for some projects that are aimed at revitalizing economic growth. The four banks--Industrial & Commercial Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Bank of China, and Agricultural Bank of China -- usually account for 30% of new yuan loans issued by China's whole banking system. New yuan loans issued by China's whole banking system are expected to be around CNY650 billion in July, the report said. Chinese financial institutions extended CNY919.8 billion in new yuan loans in June, up from CNY793.2 billion in May, in another sign of easing liquidity as policy makers try to boost economic growth. [\[MarketWatch\]](#)

CORPORATE NEWS

Procter & Gamble [PG:US] - P&G Board Affirms Support for CEO

P&G said Wednesday that its board supports CEO Robert McDonald, nearly a week after activist investor William Ackman took a stake in the company. The world's largest consumer products maker said in a Securities and Exchange Filing that the statement is in response to erroneous media reports. "The board is overseeing a plan to return P&G results to levels that produce the best long term value for shareholders; unanimously supports the plan and chief executive officer, Bob McDonald, as he leads its implementation; and is monitoring its effectiveness," P&G said in the filing. [\[AP\]](#)

Sands China [1928:HK] - Sands Was Close to Four Seasons Approval: Report

Sands China Ltd was very close to reaching a deal with the government allowing it to transfer its Four Seasons luxury apartment hotel in Cotai to a subsidiary, in which shares to right of use of its units could be sold. But the email leaks involving messages between lawyer and Sands China Ltd legal adviser Leonel Alves, and fired former company chief executive Steve Jacobs put the deal on hold. The Four Seasons deal was to be in return for Sands dropping a lawsuit against the government for its decision to not award the company lots seven and eight in Cotai. [\[Macau Business\]](#)

Google [GOOG:US] - Facebook User Satisfaction Falls, While Google Plus Takes Off

Facebook came in last place for customer satisfaction among e-businesses with a score of 61 out of 100, an 8% drop from its score last year of 66, according to a report by The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI). In fact, the company scored so poorly that it set a new record the lowest score in the social media category. Google Plus, scoring 78 points out of 100, tying with Wikipedia for highest score in the social media category. [\[CNBC\]](#)