

**OIL PRICES RETREAT, DRAMATICALLY,
BUT SO DOES THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF THE U.S.**

International investors, who had been banking on making money by buying crude-oil futures in the expectation of much higher prices, got a rude awakening, last Monday, when, after one gyration after another in electronic trading, around the world, oil prices dropped, materially.

It appeared, very much, as though further drops were on the cards, too.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the June settlement price for light sweet crude oil was \$US54.57 per barrel, down 1.48 percent on the previous settlement price of Friday, April 22, 2005.

The July settlement price for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US55.91, off 1.11 percent on the last quote of the previous Friday.

These NYMEX closing prices were in stark contrast to what had happened, during trading in Asia on the electronic NYMEX. (Please see below).

Wall Street seemed pleased that oil prices had retreated although some of the more seasoned traders wondered how long prices would stay down: One has seen a number of false starts of late.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 84.76 points, equivalent to about 0.83 percent, ending the session at 10,242.47 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index rose 18.59 points, or about 0.96 percent, to hit 1,950.78 by the close of the day.

Indications that crude oil prices were on the rise, again, at least in Asia, were all that was needed for key indices of the major bourses of the eurozone to start to move up.

With the lone exception of Switzerland's Swiss Market Index, all of the other major equity markets saw their respective indices make fractional gains, as the following **TARGET** list illustrates:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	0.25 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.32 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	0.56 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	0.32 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus	0.26 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus	0.15 percent

Crude oil prices rose, smartly, in electronic trading in Asia, last Monday, triggered by suggestions that there could well be a real shortage of petrol in the US due to refinery problems in that country.

For June delivery, the electronic NYMEX settlement price hit a high of \$US56 per barrel, up from the previous Friday's closing rate of \$US55.39, but the price dropped back to \$US55.67 before the day came to a close.

Asian equity markets were, generally, mildly stronger, last Monday, with many investors, wondering how long it would take for the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to unhook its renminbi from the US dollar or, alternatively, to revalue the renminbi against the greenback.

Certainly, many investors of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC were laying odds on the date of the PRC Government's move – and bought into stocks and shares, based on the prospects of such a move.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index rose for the fifth consecutive day, putting on another 0.41 percent to end the relatively quiet trading day at 13,750.23 points.

The Total Turnover was on the low side, however, at about \$HK12.24 billion.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.07:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.40 percent to \$HK124.50 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 0.73 percent to \$HK69.25 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.57 percent to \$HK26.25 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 0.34 percent to \$HK73.00 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 0.35 percent to \$HK72.25 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Up 0.58 percent to \$HK4.30 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 0.52 percent to \$HK4.775 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 0.69 percent to \$HK14.60 per share
China Netcom Group Corporation (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 906)	Up 0.49 percent to \$HK10.25 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Unchanged at \$HK3.125 per share

As for the biggest Main Board movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Standard Hotel Group Ltd	292	11.69		0.43
China Rich Holdings Ltd	1191	22.58		0.038
Dickson Group Holdings Ltd	313	11.54		0.29
e-Kong Group Ltd	524		13.28	0.111
Guangzhou Pharmaceutical Company Ltd	874	13.10		2.375
Kamboat Group Company Ltd	318	13.93		1.39
Karce International Holdings Company Ltd	1159	14.49		0.395
NewOcean Green Energy Holdings Ltd	342		10.00	0.90
Pricerite Group Ltd	996	23.08		0.64
Prime Success International Group Ltd	210	13.33		1.87
Sunny Global Holdings Ltd	1094		12.86	0.061
Tristate Holdings Ltd	458	46.43		2.05
Wealthmark International (Holdings) Ltd	39	20.69		0.70
Xin Corporation Ltd	1141		10.00	0.018

Over on The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, it was a slightly different story to that, being told on the Main Board.

The Growth Enterprise Index dropped about 0.62 percent of its value, falling back to 908.97 points.

The Total Turnover on this speculative market, however, rose to about \$HK155.29 million, considerably higher than normal.

The reason for the larger-than-usual volume of activity was due to the trading activity in just one counter, that of Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138).

A total of 952,654,000 shares of Town Health changed hands, during the trading day, the value of those trades, being about \$HK109.84 million, equivalent to about 70.73 percent of the Total Turnover. (Please see table below)

In spite of The Growth Enterprise Index falling, gaining counters outpaced losing ones by the ratio of about 1.17:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138)	Up 53 percent to 13.20 cents per share
Media Partners International Holdings Incorporated (Code: 8072)	Up 19 percent to 68 cents per share
Tong Ren Tang Technologies Company Ltd (Code: 8069)	Down 3 percent to \$HK14.00 per share
MediaNation Incorporated (Code: 8160)	Up 6 percent to 27 cents per share
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd (Code: 8228)	Down 14 percent to 41.50 cents per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
AGL MediaTech Holdings Ltd	8192		16.22	0.031
Century Sunshine Ecological Technology Holdings Ltd	8276	12.62		1.16
Chinainfo Holdings Ltd	8206	10.81		0.41
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081		18.42	0.031
CyberM International (Holdings) Ltd	8017	31.88		0.455
FlexSystem Holdings Ltd	8050		18.18	0.045
Grandy Corporation	8143	11.11		0.03
Jilin Province Huinan Changlong Bio-pharmacy Company Ltd	8049	11.92		0.169
Media Partners International Holdings Incorporated	8072	19.30		0.68

ProSticks International Holdings Ltd	8055		15.79	0.032
T S Telecom Technologies Ltd	8003		25.00	0.045
TeleEye Holdings Ltd	8051	16.18		0.158
Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd	8138	53.49		0.132
Tradeeasy Holdings Ltd	8163	14.06		0.073
Value Convergence Holdings Ltd	8101		10.10	1.78
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd	8228		13.54	0.415

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, The Nikkei-225 Stock Average managed to squeeze out a gain of 27.82 yen, equivalent to about one quarter of a percentage point.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average ended the trading day at 11,073.77 yen.

Even though the Nikkei-225 Stock Average was up, fractionally, declining counters were ahead of advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.08:One.

News Wise

- **Nissan Motor Company**, Japan's second-largest, motor-vehicle manufacturer, announced record annual profits for the Financial Year, ended March 31, 2005. The Operating Profit was about 861.16 billion yen, up about 4.40 percent, Year-on-Year. The Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders was about 512.30 billion yen, up 1.70 percent, Year-on-Year. Nissan is owned as to 44 percent by Renault of France.

This was how indices of other major Asian equity ended their respective trading days, last Monday:

The HKSAR	Plus 0.41 percent to 13,750.23
Indonesia	Minus 2.67 percent to 1,019.88
Japan	Plus 0.25 percent to 11,073.77
Malaysia	Minus 0.66 percent to 871.98
The Philippines	Minus 0.41 percent to 1,860.56
Singapore	Plus 0.02 percent to 2,137.39
South Korea	Plus 0.57 percent to 946.17
Taiwan	Plus 0.20 percent to 5,758.31
Thailand	Minus 1.89 percent to 664.47

Tuesday

Concern, once again, that the US economy may be faltering, after all, caused many investors to steer well clear of the equity markets of North America, last Tuesday.

Statistics were being produced by various departments of the US Government, suggesting that, perhaps, the economy was riding on a teeterboard, which, at any moment, could tilt from one side to another.

The Bureau of Labour Statistics of the US Labour Department reported, last Tuesday morning, some good news and some bad news, depending on how one viewed the information, collected by this important branch of Government.

This is part of that which The Labour Department told Mr and Mrs America, prior to the opening of equity markets in the US:

'MASS LAYOFFS IN MARCH 2005

'In March 2005, employers took 1,194 mass layoff actions, seasonally adjusted, as measured by new filings for unemployment insurance benefits during the month ... Each action involved at least 50 persons from a single establishment, and the number of workers involved totaled 130,848, on a seasonally adjusted basis. The number of layoff events rose by 66, and the number of associated initial claims increased by 13,164 from February. In the manufacturing sector, 371 mass layoff events were reported during March 2005, seasonally adjusted, resulting in 55,377 initial claims, both figures higher than a month earlier.

'From January through March 2005, the total number of events (seasonally adjusted), at 3,779, and initial claims (seasonally adjusted), at 399,522, were lower than in January-March 2004 (4,043 and 415,048, respectively).

'Industry Distribution (Not Seasonally Adjusted).

'The 10 industries reporting the highest number of mass-layoff initial claims, not seasonally adjusted, accounted for 34,727 initial claims in March, 39 percent of the total. Motion picture and video production, with 7,192 initial claims, and food service contractors, with 6,490, together accounted for 15 percent of all initial claims in March. These were the highest numbers of initial claims for March in the historical series for both industries.

'The manufacturing sector accounted for 31 percent of all mass layoff events and 37 percent of all initial claims filed in March 2005. A year earlier, manufacturing comprised 28 percent of events and 37 percent of initial claims. Within manufacturing, the number of claimants in March 2005 was highest in transportation equipment (13,543, mostly automotive-related), followed by food processing (5,049).

'Accommodation and food services accounted for 10 percent of events and 11 percent of initial claims filed in March, with layoffs mainly among food service contractors. Four percent of all layoff events and 9 percent of initial claims filed during the month were from the information sector, primarily from motion picture and video production. Construction accounted for 11 percent of events and 7 percent of initial claims in March, mostly among specialty trade contractors. Administrative and waste services also accounted for 11 percent of events and 7 percent of initial claims during the month, mainly from temporary help services. An additional 8 percent of events and 7 percent of initial claims were from retail trade, largely from general merchandise stores.

'Government establishments accounted for 4 percent of events and 3 percent of initial claims filed in March, mostly in executive, legislative, and general government agencies.

'Over the year, the number of layoff events declined by 114, and the associated initial claims fell by 3,617. The largest decreases in initial claims were reported in administrative and support services (-5,143) and electrical equipment and appliance manufacturing (-2,004). The largest over-the-year increases in initial claims were reported in motion picture and sound recording industries (+3,444), transit and ground passenger transportation (+1,328), and primary metal manufacturing (+1,280)...'

In addition, it was reported that consumer confidence in the US had dropped to some of its lowest levels in the past 5 months, depending on where one was plotting consumer spending in the country.

This would, without question, be translated into lower sales in the High Street in short order.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed about 0.64 percent of its value, dropping to 10,177.07 points.

On the (tech-laden) NASDAQ, its Composite Index gave up 0.88 percent of its value, falling back to 1,933.77 points.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price for a barrel of light sweet crude oil, delivered in June, was settled at \$US54.20, down another 0.68 percent, compared with Monday's closing level.

For delivery in July, the settlement price for light sweet crude oil was \$US55.65 per barrel, off about 0.47 percent, compared with Monday's last quote.

In Europe, many investors were jittery about near-term prospects for the economies of the European Union, as well as being unclear as to the situation in respect of the US economy.

Oil prices were easing, to be sure, but to some investors of eurozone, this was a double-edged sword because, for those investors, holding onto energy stocks and shares, listed on European bourses, prices of energy stocks were bound to be affected by any sudden movement in the price of crude oil.

This was how the indices of the 6 major bourses of Europe ended their respective trading sessions, last Tuesday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.25 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.39 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.31 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Unchanged
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.31 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus 0.15 percent

Throughout Asia, last Tuesday, the market talk was centred on US President George W. Bush and his little tête-à-tête with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah.

The talks were aimed at alleviating the pressure on oil prices, which is disrupting markets, from one end of the earth to another.

In electronic trading on The NYMEX in Asia, for delivery in June, light sweet crude oil fell back by about 72 cents (US) per barrel, to \$US53.85.

But the Bush-Prince Abdullah talks were not over while Asia was trading in stocks and shares so that many investors were uncertain as to what action, if any, to take.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index rose about 0.80 percent, rushing up to 13,859.58 points.

The Total Turnover rose to about \$HK20.14 billion, while the ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 2.03:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.40 percent to \$HK125.00 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 2.05 percent to \$HK74.50 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.57 percent to \$HK26.40 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 0.72 percent to \$HK69.75 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 2.09 percent to \$HK4.875 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 1.04 percent to \$HK73.00 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 1.03 percent to \$HK14.75 per share
K. Wah Construction Materials Ltd (Code: 27)	Down 2.74 percent to \$HK 7.10 per share
Yanzhou Coal Mining Company Ltd (Code: 1171)	Up 7.00 percent to \$HK10.70 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Up 0.58 percent to \$HK4.325 per share

As for the Main Board's biggest movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Chi Cheung Investment Company Ltd	112	10.00		3.30
China Motion Telecom International Ltd	989		12.86	0.244
Continental Holdings Ltd	513	13.16		0.86
Gorient (Holdings) Ltd	729	10.64		0.052
Heritage International Holdings Ltd	412		21.43	0.011
Hua Lien International (Holding) Company Ltd	969		13.64	0.19
Mayer Holdings Ltd	1116	11.89		0.64
New Capital International Investment Ltd	1062		13.16	0.165
Oriental Explorer Holdings Ltd	430		10.00	0.045
Pyxis Group Ltd	516		20.47	0.101
Simsen International Corporation Ltd	993	10.09		0.12
Starbow Holdings Ltd	397	11.67		0.067
Wealthmark International (Holdings) Ltd	39		14.29	0.60

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, for the most part, there were only fractional movements of shares, listed on this speculative market, throughout the entire trading day.

By the time that the buzzer went off, signifying the end of trading for the day, The Growth Enterprise Index was standing at 910.34 points, representing an upward movement of just 0.15 percent on Monday's closing level.

The Total Turnover on this market was, once again, relatively high, at about \$HK244 million.

And, once again, it was trading in the shares of Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138), which stole the spotlight for the second consecutive day.

The value of the turnover in the scrip of this counter was equal to about 78 percent of the Total Turnover, as 1,268,446,000 shares changed hands. (Please see list below)

Losing counters, however, had their way by the time that dinner rolled round, the ratio of declining counters to advancing ones, being about 1.44:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138)	Up 7 percent to 14.40 cents per share
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd (Code: 8228)	Up 17 percent to 48.50 cents per share
Launch Tech Company Ltd (Code: 8196)	Down 4 percent to \$HK1.94 per share

Kanstar Environmental Paper Products Holdings Ltd (Code: 8011)
Tong Ren Tang Technologies Company Ltd (Code: 8069)

Up 3 percent to 30 cents per share
Up 4 percent to \$HK14.60 per share

The GEM's double-digit movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
AGL MediaTech Holdings Ltd	8192	12.90		0.035
Angels Technology Company Ltd	8112	22.86		0.172
Argos Enterprise (Holdings) Ltd	8022		11.71	0.181
Changchun Da Xing Pharmaceutical Company Ltd	8067	12.03		0.27
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081		12.90	0.027
CyberM International (Holdings) Ltd	8017	14.29		0.52
Grandy Corporation	8143		10.00	0.027
M Dream Inworld Ltd	8100		11.11	0.016
Media Partners International Holdings Incorporated	8072		10.29	0.61
Panorama International Holdings Ltd	8173		10.00	0.081
SMI Publishing Group Ltd	8010		25.00	0.03
Stockmartnet Holdings Ltd	8123		14.52	0.053
T S Telecom Technologies Ltd	8003	11.11		0.05
TeleEye Holdings Ltd	8051	29.75		0.205
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd	8228	16.87		0.485
Zheda Lande Scitech Ltd	8106		19.35	0.25

In Japan, it was another lacklustre trading day on the country's 3 equity markets.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, The Nikkei-225 Stock Average lost 37.94 yen, or about 0.34 percent, coming to rest at 11,035.83 yen.

Advancing counters were ahead of declining ones by the ratio of about 1.43:One.

News Wise

- **Honda Motor Company**, the third largest motor-vehicle producer in Japan, reported a 24-percent jump in 4th Quarter Operating Profit, Year-on-Year, of 140.36 billion yen. The Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders for the Quarter, ended March 31, 2005, was about 94.05 billion yen, up about 27 percent, Year-On-Year. For the entire Year, the Bottom Line came in at 486.10 billion yen, up about 4.70 percent, Year-On-Year.

In other Asian equity markets, this was how the key indices of those markets ended their respective trading sessions, last Tuesday night:

The HKSAR	Plus 0.80 percent to 13,859.58
Indonesia	Plus 1.17 percent to 1,031.77
Japan	Minus 0.34 percent to 11,035.83
Malaysia	Plus 0.05 percent to 872.43
The Philippines	Minus 0.13 percent to 1,858.14
Singapore	Plus 0.57 percent to 2,149.64
South Korea	Minus 0.18 percent to 944.46
Taiwan	Plus 0.82 percent to 5,805.25
Thailand	Minus 0.35 percent to 662.13

Wednesday

The big news, last Wednesday, was that crude oil prices had fallen out of bed.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the settlement price for light sweet crude oil dropped 4.78 percent to \$US51.61 per barrel.

As for July, the settlement price was \$US53.19 per barrel, down 4.42 percent on Tuesday's closing level.

The chief reason for the falls in the price of crude oil was confirmation that the US had been stockpiling the black ooze at a faster and faster rate of late.

The inventory levels for the week, ended April 22, 2005, were 324.40 million barrels, an increase of about 5.50 million barrels in that week, alone.

For the week, ended April 22, US crude-oil imports were the third highest in history.

Not since May 2002, had the US inventory levels of crude oil been at that height.

It looked very much as though the present oil crisis was over ... or was it ?

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average responded to the falls in the price of crude oil with a gain of about 0.47 percent, as investors pushed the key index to 10,198.80 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index rose 0.16 percent to close the day at 1,930.43 points.

There were some pieces of bad news, last Wednesday, also, but the sharp drop in the price of crude oil appeared to be all that investors wanted to hear.

In Europe, however, it was a very different story from the one, being told in North America.

All of the key indices of major European bourses were written in red ink, as the following **TARGET** list illustrates:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 1.87 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 1.15 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 1.05 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 1.63 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 1.30 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 1.29 percent

The concerns of European investors centred on consumer spending, that of the eurozone as well as in the US.

In Asia, investors, for the most part, not knowing, of course, that the price of crude oil was, dramatically, on the way down, turned their collective attentions to the only '*barometer*' of trading about which they had confirmed knowledge: That which could be extrapolated from Tuesday's economic data, issued by certain US Government departments.

As a result of this uncertainty, indices of some equity markets in Asia dropped, and some very hard.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), fractional losses were recorded on the territory's 2 stock markets.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index lost about 0.14 percent of its value, falling to 13,839.64 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK11.55 billion. That figure was in dramatic contrast to Tuesday's volume of activity when it stood at \$HK20.14 billion: The volume of activity for Wednesday represented a 43-percent drop.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.93:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Unchanged at \$HK125.00 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Unchanged at \$HK69.75 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.19 percent to \$HK26.35 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 0.34 percent to \$HK73.25 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Unchanged at \$HK74.50 per share
Yanzhou Coal Mining Company Ltd (Code: 1171)	Down 2.34 percent to \$HK10.45 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 0.94 percent to \$HK 5.25 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 1.03 percent to \$HK4.825 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Unchanged at \$HK4.325 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Down 0.68 percent to \$HK14.65 per share

The biggest Main Board movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Bestway International Holdings Ltd	718	21.74		0.056
China Fair Land Holdings Ltd	169		13.33	0.39
China Strategic Holdings Ltd	235	16.05		0.94

Climax International Company Ltd	439	11.11		0.04
Guangdong Kelon Electrical Holdings Company Ltd	921		16.31	1.18
Hualing Holdings Ltd	382	11.65		0.23
Interchina Holdings Company Ltd	202		10.22	0.123
K and P International Holdings Ltd	675	13.64		0.25
K. Wah International Holdings Ltd	173	10.53		2.625
Poly Investments Holdings Ltd	263	11.94		0.15
Pyxis Group Ltd	516	13.86		0.115
Star Cruises Ltd	678	44.05		3.025
Sunny Global Holdings Ltd	1094		20.63	0.05
Tristate Holdings Ltd	458	10.26		2.15
Vantage International (Holdings) Ltd	15		13.96	0.228
Victory Group Ltd	1139	10.53		0.042
Wealthmark International (Holdings) Ltd	39	13.33		0.68
Wing On Travel (Holdings) Ltd	1189	12.35		1.91
Wonderful World Holdings Ltd	109		12.10	0.138

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, it was somewhat of a repeat performance to Tuesday's trading pattern.

The Growth Enterprise Index lost about 0.44 percent of its value, falling to 906.32 points on a Turnover of about \$HK122.09 million.

About 65 percent of the entire volume of activity was in the exchange of scrip in Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138), very similar to the situation, which had existed on Monday and Tuesday. (Please see list below)

The ratio of declining counters to gaining ones was about 1.11:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138)	Down 13 percent to 12.20 cents per share
Convenience Retail Asia Ltd (Code: 8052)	Down 2 percent to \$HK2.85 per share
Media Partners International Holdings Incorporated (Code: 8072)	Plus 3 percent to 63 cents per share
HC International Incorporated (Code: 8292)	Down 1 percent to \$HK1.70 per share
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd (Code: 8228)	Down 9 percent to 44 cents per share

As for The GEM's biggest movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Greencool Technology Holdings Ltd	8056		12.31	0.57
M Channel Corporation Ltd	8036		20.00	0.02
M21 Technology Ltd	8153		11.11	1.60
Panorama International Holdings Ltd	8173	11.11		0.09
Q9 Technology Holdings Ltd	8129	32.50		0.053
SMI Publishing Group Ltd	8010		16.67	0.025
Stockmartnet Holdings Ltd	8123	16.98		0.062
T S Telecom Technologies Ltd	8003	38.00		0.069
TeleEye Holdings Ltd	8051		10.24	0.184
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119		15.38	0.011
Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd	8138		13.48	0.122
Vaso Digital International Holdings Ltd	8220	10.00		0.066
Vodatel Networks Holdings Ltd	8033	10.42		0.265

On the largest equity market of Asia , that of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, lifeless trading conditions persisted.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, a key index of this market, ended the trading session at 11,005.42 yen, off 30.41 yen, equivalent to about 0.28 percent.

Losing counters outran gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.25:One.

News Wise

- **Sharp Corporation** announced that its Net Profits Attributable to Shareholders had risen, Year-On-Year, by about 27 percent to a record level of about 76.85 billion yen. The company's Financial Year ended March 31, 2005.

And this was how other Asian equity markets fared, last Wednesday:.

The HKSAR	Minus 0.14 percent to 13,839.64
Indonesia	Plus 0.04 percent to 1,032.22
Japan	Minus 0.28 percent to 11,005.42
Malaysia	Plus 0.002 percent to 872.45
The Philippines	Minus 1.50 percent to 1,830.32
Singapore	Minus 0.20 percent to 2,145.34
South Korea	Minus 1.51 percent to 930.16
Taiwan	Minus 0.46 percent to 5,778.27
Thailand	Plus 0.38 percent to 664.63

Thursday

After dropping to a low of \$US49.80 per barrel, the June delivery price of light sweet crude oil, as quoted on The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), last Thursday, rose to a level, which was slightly higher than the last settlement price of Wednesday.

After a very choppy NYMEX session, light sweet crude oil for June delivery was settled at \$US51.77 per barrel, an increase of about 0.21 percent, while, for delivery in July, the settlement price came in at \$US53.25 per barrel, up about 0.11 percent on Wednesday's last quote.

Denting trading on US equity markets was a report from the US Commerce Department, a report that stated that the economy of the world's only superpower, in the first quarter of 2005, had grown at the slowest rate of the past 2 years.

The culprit for the retarded growth in the US Gross Domestic Product for the first quarter of 2005 (plus 3.10 percent, seasonally adjusted): The high import prices of fossil fuels.

Wall Street reacted, immediately, to the news: Down came share prices on all equity markets.

By the close of the day, on The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average stood at 10,070.37 points, off about 1.26 percent on Wednesday's close.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index fell to a 6-month low of 1,904.18 points, down 1.36 percent on the day.

Losing counters outran gaining ones on the Big Board of The New York Stock Exchange by the ratio of 2.20:One, exactly.

On The NASDAQ, losing counters were ahead of gaining ones by the ratio of 2.75:One, exactly.

In Europe, with the lone exception of Switzerland's Swiss Market Index, every key index of the 6 major bourses lost ground, but only fractionally.

This is how the situation looked at the close of the major eurozone bourses, last Thursday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.73 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.01 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.26 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.41 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.25 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 1.29 percent

It was logical, most fund managers and savvy investors determined, that if the US economy is known to be under pressure, it is only a matter of time before that situation would affect the rest of the world, detrimentally.

One did not need to be a genius to come to that conclusion.

News Wise

- **DaimlerChrysler AG** reported that there had been a 30-percent drop in its Bottom Line for the first quarter of 2005. The motor-vehicle manufacturer, the world's 5th largest, said that its first quarter had seen Profits Attributable to Shareholders of about 288 million euros, down from the like quarter in 2004 when the Bottom Line came in at 412 million euros; and,
- The **Unemployment Rate** in Germany dropped to less than 5 million workers in April, the German Government announced. Unadjusted, the Unemployment Rate now stands at 12 percent, down from 12.50 percent in March.

Riding on the back of Wall Street's small gains of Wednesday and in expectation that oil prices would continue to droop, investors in Asia were mildly upbeat, last Thursday.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), both equity markets managed to make fractional gains.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index rose by about one half of a percentage point, ending the session at 13,909.42 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK17.39 billion, while the ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was 1.11:One, exactly.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Unchanged at \$HK125.00 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 1.71 percent to \$HK26.80 per share
Shanghai Electric Group Company Ltd (Code: 2727)	Unchanged at \$HK1.71 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Unchanged at \$HK69.75 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Unchanged at \$HK74.50 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Unchanged at \$HK73.25 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 0.34 percent to \$HK14.70 per share
Esprit Holdings Ltd (Code: 330)	Down 1.70 percent to \$HK57.75 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Up 0.47 percent to \$HK106.50 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 1.04 percent to \$HK4.775 per share

As for the Main Board's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Beijing Development (Hongkong) Ltd	154		10.00	0.81
China Nan Feng Group Ltd	979	14.44		0.103
China United International Holdings Ltd	273	28.71		0.26
Earnest Investments Holdings Ltd	339		16.67	0.025
Everest International Investments Ltd	204		14.29	0.048
Fulbond Holdings Ltd	1041	18.52		0.032
Great China Holdings Ltd	141	21.84		0.53
Hang Fung Gold Technology Ltd	870	10.38		1.17
Haywood Investments Ltd	905		17.14	0.058
Hua Yi Copper Holdings Ltd	559		15.60	0.92
Jackley Holdings Ltd	353	11.36		0.49
Pricerite Group Ltd	996	14.06		0.73
Sino Prosper Holdings Ltd	766		16.23	0.222
South Sea Holding Company Ltd	680		17.65	0.028
Sunny Global Holdings Ltd	1094	12.00		0.056
Universe International Holdings Ltd	1046		13.73	0.044

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the profile of trading was little changed from the first 3 days of the week.

The Growth Enterprise Index gained about 0.43 percent, rising to 910.20 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK88.06 million.

About 36 percent of the entire volume of activity was centred on trading in the scrip of Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138). (Please see list below)

The ratio of advancing counters to declining ones on this speculative marketplace was about 1.18:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138)	Down 11 percent to 10.90 cents per share
MediaNation Incorporated (Code: 8160)	Unchanged at 28 cents per share
Golden Meditech Company Ltd (Code: 8180)	Down 3 percent to \$HK1.41 per share
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd (Code: 8228)	Up 5 percent to 46 cents per share
Value Convergence Holdings Ltd (Code: 8101)	Down 4 percent to \$HK1.60 per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
B.A.L. Holdings Ltd	8079		11.76	0.015
G.A. Holdings Ltd	8126	16.67		0.07
Panorama International Holdings Ltd	8173		12.22	0.079
ProSticks International Holdings Ltd	8055	18.18		0.039
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119	18.18		0.013

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd	8138		10.66	0.109
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On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, the market was almost dead for part of the trading day.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average ended the session at 11,008.90 yen, up 3.48 yen, or about 0.03 percent, compared with Wednesday's closing level.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining counters was about 1.29:One.

News Wise

- The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, a department of the Japanese Government, announced that **industrial production** in the country had fallen by about 0.03 percent in March, Month-On-Month;
- **Sony Corporation**, the world's largest producer of electronic consumable goods, reported that the Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders for its Financial Year, ended March 31, 2005, had risen by about 85 percent, Year-On-Year, to about 163.84 billion yen;
- **NEC Corporation**, in contrast to Sony, announced that its Group Pretax Profit had dropped by about 28 percent, during Fiscal 2004, ended March 31, 2005, compared with Fiscal 2003. Thanks to the contributions of an affiliated company, NEC'S Bottom Line was 67.86 billion yen. The affiliate is **Elpida Memory Incorporated**, which went public on The Tokyo Stock Exchange in November 2004;
- Cosmetics company, **Shiseido Company**, announced Losses Attributable to Shareholders of about 8.86 billion yen for its Financial Year, ended March 31, 2005. Shiseido is Japan's largest cosmetics manufacturer; and,
- **Nippon Steel Corporation** announced that its Group Net Profits were 220.60 billion yen for Fiscal 2004, ended March 31, 2005, a 530-percent improvement over Fiscal 2003.

This was how key indices of other Asian equity markets ended, last Thursday night:

The HKSAR	Plus 0.50 percent to 13,909.42
Indonesia	Plus 0.59 percent to 1,038.36
Japan	Plus 0.03 percent to 11,008.90
Malaysia	Plus 0.16 percent to 873.85
The Philippines	Plus 0.43 percent to 1,838.16
Singapore	Minus 0.24 percent to 2,140.24
South Korea	Minus 1.34 percent to 917.73
Taiwan	Plus 1.11 percent to 5,842.27
Thailand	Minus 0.81 percent to 659.24

Friday

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of light sweet crude oil for delivery in June dropped back another notch, ending the trading session at \$US49.72 per barrel, a one-day drop of 3.96 percent.

For July delivery, the price of light sweet crude oil fell to \$US51.45 per barrel, off 3.38 percent on Thursday's closing level.

Compared with the closing level for the week, ended April 22, 2005, the June delivery price for light sweet crude oil had given up, in aggregate, about 10.20 percent, or \$US5.65 per barrel.

The reason for the falls in the price of crude oil was the knock-on effect from the announcement in respect of the inventory levels of crude oil in the US. (Please see Wednesday's report)

Wall Street liked the situation: Key indices rose quickly.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 122.14 points, equivalent to about 1.21 percent on Thursday's close, ending the week at 10,192.51 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index put on 17.47 points, or about 0.92 percent, coming to rest at 1,921.65 points.

For the week, the tally of the largest equity markets of the world was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average	Plus 0.34 percent
The NASDAQ's Composite Index	Minus 0.55 percent

But there was some bad news for US investors, also.

The Labour Department announced that Claims for Initial Unemployment Insurance for the week, ended Saturday, April 23, 2005, rose, Week-On-Week, by 21,000 Claims to the seasonally adjusted figure of 320,000 Claims.

This situation was in contrast to the statistics for the week, ended Saturday, April 16, 2005, when the figure for Initial Unemployment Insurance was 299,000 Claims, a fall of about 33,000 Claims, compared with the previous week.

Officials of The Labour Department could offer no reasonable explanation for the rise in Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

In Europe, Wall Street's rally sparked a bit of a rally on eurozone equity markets, too:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus 0.36 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus 0.24 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus 0.16 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Unchanged
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.34 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus 0.25 percent

Whether or not the fractional gains on major European bourses were justified, only history will be the judge because there was quite a lot of negative investor sentiment in this part of the world, last Friday.

To begin with, more and more evidence is coming to light that some of the *'big boys'* of the European Union are not faring too well with regard to their economies.

From the International Labour Organisation (ILO) came statistics, indicating that the unemployment rate in France had hit a 5-year high.

The ILO said that, in the month of March, unemployment in France stood at 10.20 percent, up from February's figure by about 7,000 workers to 2.80 million people.

That is quite a number of people, walking the streets of France, without any visible means of support.

Things are not, always, that which they seem.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), investors were treated to a rare event: The key index of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd had hardly moved by the time that the lights were dimmed in spite of a Total Turnover of about \$HK16.03 billion.

The lack of interest in equity trading in the HKSAR, last Friday, was due to the coming 3-day break (last Monday was a public holiday in the territory) plus the fact, of course, that the US Federal Reserve was scheduled to hold its Open Market Committee Meeting on Tuesday, May 3, at which time, interest rates would be among the main topics of discussion.

The Hang Seng Index lost 0.45 percent, dropping back to 13,908.97 points, a movement of only 0.003 percent.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.98:One.

However, in the early part of the morning trading session, the Hang Seng Index had been down by about 0.72 percent on Thursday's close, but the 90-minute afternoon session saw investors cover their positions, in part at least, thereby lifting the key index of the premier equity market to its closing level.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Unchanged at \$HK125.00 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 2.09 percent to \$HK4.675 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.75 percent to \$HK27.00 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 0.36 percent to \$HK69.50 per share
Shanghai Electric Group Company Ltd (Code: 2727)	Down 1.75 percent to \$HK1.68 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 0.34 percent to \$HK14.75 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Unchanged at \$HK74.50 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Down 1.61 percent to \$HK3.05 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 0.34 percent to \$HK73.50 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 2.31 percent to \$HK4.225 per share

As for the Main Board's biggest movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Resources Holdings Ltd	899		12.37	1.63
Ezcom Holdings Ltd	312		44.74	0.063

Haywood Investments Ltd	905	24.14		0.072
Heritage International Holdings Ltd	412		16.67	0.01
Hi Sun Technology (China) Ltd	818	21.62		0.45
Jackley Holdings Ltd	353	10.20		0.54
Jiaoda Kunji High-Tech Company Ltd	300	10.91		1.22
LifeTec Group Ltd	1180		17.72	0.065
PME Group Ltd	379	13.21		0.12
Pricerite Group Ltd	996	32.88		0.97
Qingling Motors Company Ltd	1122	10.00		1.87
Takson Holdings Ltd	918		18.62	0.153
Universe International Holdings Ltd	1046	15.91		0.051

On The **Growth Enterprise Market** (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Growth Enterprise Index rose about 0.62 percent, ending the week at 915.86 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK75.99 million, while the ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.60:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 8138)	Up 2 percent to 11.10 cents per share
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd (Code: 8228)	Up 5 percent to 48.50 cents per share
Techpacific Capital Ltd (Code: 8088)	Up 17 percent to 23.40 cents per share
Golden Meditech Company Ltd (Code: 8180)	Up 8 percent to \$HK1.52 per share
Convenience Retail Asia Ltd (Code: 8052)	Unchanged at \$HK2.85 per share

The biggest GEM movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
B and S Entertainment Holdings Ltd	8167		12.77	0.041
Inno-Tech Holdings Ltd	8202	12.07		0.065
Q9 Technology Holdings Ltd	8129		15.09	0.045
Techpacific Capital Ltd	8088	17.00		0.234
Value Convergence Holdings Ltd	8101	11.25		1.78

The tally for the 2 equity markets of the HKSAR was:

The Hang Seng Index	Plus 1.57 percent
The Growth Enterprise Index	Plus 0.14 percent

Japanese equity markets were closed for the public holiday, last Friday.

The tally of Asia's largest equity market – The Tokyo Stock Exchange – for the 4-day trading week was:

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average	Minus 34 percent
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This was how other Asian equity markets ended the week of April 29, 2005:

The HKSAR	Minus 0.003 percent to 13,908.97
Indonesia	Minus 0.84 percent to 1,029.61
Japan	Closed
Malaysia	Plus 0.59 percent to 878.96
The Philippines	Plus 0.90 percent to 1,854.63
Singapore	Minus 0.70 percent to 2,125.25
South Korea	Minus 0.70 percent to 911.30
Taiwan	Minus 0.41 percent to 5,818.07
Thailand	Minus 0.06 percent to 658.88

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