

**JOB LOSSES IN THE U.S. ARE 'WIDESPREAD':
FEARS OF A U.S. RECESSION LOOM LARGE**

Key Equity Market Indices Take A Beating

All US equity markets were closed, last Monday, for the Labour Day holiday, the one day of the year that is set aside in honour of the working class, a holiday that was initiated in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave in 1882 by The Knights of Labour.

Today, it is, simply put, a day for a big booze-up by the working class – and they get paid for imbibing too much alcohol and over-eating too much food and indulging in whatever else they care to attempt on this festival day.

In Europe, the key indices of major bourses vacillated, most of the day, and appeared to suggest no definitive direction.

The volumes of activity on major European bourses were comparatively light, for the most part.

What European traders still wanted to know was how badly had the subprime, mortgage-lending industry hurt other areas of the US and European economies, if at all.

This was how the key indices of major European equity markets ended their respective trading days, last Monday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Plus 0.50 percent

France's CAC 40 Index Minus 0.20 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index Plus 0.13 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Plus 0.18 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Plus 0.34 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 0.04 percent

In Asia, it was about 50-50 – that is, about 50 percent of the key indices of major equity markets lost ground while about 50 percent of the key indices of major equity markets managed to record fractional gains.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), both equity markets lost some of the fat that they managed to accumulate, during the previous week's trading.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index shed about one third of a percentage point, ending the trading day at 23,904.09 points.

The Total Turnover on this, the premier equity market of the HSKAR, was about \$HK84.42 billion, while the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.04:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 0.93 percent to \$HK37.30 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.55 percent to \$HK104.50 per share
China Communications Construction Company Ltd (Code: 1800)	Up 4.39 percent to \$HK17.60 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 0.31 percent to \$HK6.51 per share
China Eastern Airlines Corporation Ltd (Code: 670)	Up 75.07 percent to \$HK6.53 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.14 percent to \$HK139.90 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Up 2.02 percent to \$HK146.40 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Down 1.18 percent to \$HK5.02 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 0.53 percent to \$HK11.46 per share
Aluminum Corporation of China Ltd (Code: 2600)	Down 2.11 percent to \$HK20.90 per share

There was a total of 44, double-digits movers of the day, with the managements of 32 counters, seeing their respective share capitalisations rise by 10 percent or more, while the remaining 12 counters lost 10 percent or more of their respective previous values.

South East Group Ltd (Code: 726) was the biggest gainer of the day as investors pushed up its share price by 79.75 percent to 71 cents.

EganaGoldpfeil (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 48) was the biggest loser of the day with a fall of about 46.79 percent as disheartened investors drove it back to \$HK1.16 per share.

Over on The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index shed about 1.43 percent of its value, grinding to a halt at 1,485.08 points.

The Total Turnover on this speculative market was about \$HK408.11 million.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.44:One.

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

Global Digital Creations Holdings Ltd (Code:
8271)

Down 0.97 percent to \$HK3.07 per share

Trasy Gold Ex Ltd (Code: 8063)

Down 5.08 percent to \$HK0.168 per share

Universal Technologies Holdings Ltd (Code:
8091)

Up 23.19 percent to \$HK0.425 per share

Xteam Software International Ltd (Code: 8178)

Down 1.27 percent to \$HK0.78 per share

Galileo Holdings Ltd (Code: 8029)

Up 18.46 percent to \$HK0.77 per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
abc Multiactive Ltd	8131	12.50		0.45
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081		10.91	0.49
Era Information and Entertainment Ltd	8043		12.70	0.55
FlexSystem Holdings Ltd	8050	10.00		0.55
Galileo Holdings Ltd	8029	18.46		0.77
Inno-Tech Holdings Ltd	8202	11.11		0.90
Linefan Technology Holdings Ltd	8166		18.92	0.30
Shenzhen Neptunus Interlong Bio-technique Company Ltd	8329	10.00		2.20
New Universe International Group Ltd	8068	40.54		0.26
ProSticks International Holdings Ltd	8055	18.00		0.59
Soluteck Holdings Ltd	8111	11.48		0.34
SYSCAN Technology Holdings Ltd	8083		14.47	0.325
Universal Technologies Holdings Ltd	8091	23.19		0.425

Venturepharm Laboratories Ltd	8225	11.11		1.30
Vertex Group Ltd	8228	12.16		0.415
Zhejiang Yonglong Enterprises Company Ltd	8211		18.18	0.72

In The Land of The Rising Sun, beset as it is with more and more moral decay, becoming publicly known, month after month, as one senior, Japanese Government minister after another admits to being, or having been, a crook, and being, or having been, associated with members of the yakuza or what-have-you, the key indices of major equity markets started, once again, to lose ground.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is the premier equity market of the country, its TOPIX Index shed 2.81 points, equivalent to about 0.17 percent, ending the lacklustre trading day at 1,605.44 points.

Advancing counters just managed to outpace declining ones by the ratio of about 1.02:One.

As for The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, which is a much-narrower gauge of trading of select blue chips, listed on The First Section of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, than is The TOPIX Index, it gave up 44.16 yen, or about 0.27 percent, ending the day at 16,524.93 yen.

News Wise

- For the eighth consecutive month, **wages** in Japan contracted, according to the statistics of the Government's Labour Ministry. In the month of July, wages fell by about 1.90 percent, representing the fastest fall of any month in the past 3 years; and,
- **Investments** by corporations in Japan declined by about 4.90 percent for the quarter, ended June 30, 2007, The Finance Ministry released, last Monday. In the first quarter, capital spending by Japanese corporations rose by about 13.60 percent.

In other Asian stock markets, this was how their respective key indices fared, last Monday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.33 percent to 23,904.09 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.43 percent to 1,485.08
Indonesia	Plus 0.88 percent to 2,213.57
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.17 percent to 1,605.44 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.27 percent to 16,524.93
Malaysia	Plus 0.80 percent to 1,284.14
The Philippines	Plus 0.11 percent to 3,369.14
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.96 percent to 5,321.06 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 2.06 percent to 1,487.89

Singapore	Minus 0.20 percent to 3,386.22
South Korea	Plus 0.46 percent to 1,881.81
Taiwan	Minus 0.02 percent to 8,979.96
Thailand	Plus 0.86 percent to 820.19

Tuesday

After the 3-day, Labour Day festivities had drawn to a close, it was back to business as usual on Wall Street.

And share prices rallied on the first session of trading for the 4-day working week, last Tuesday.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 91.12 points, equivalent to about 0.68 percent, ending the trading day at 13,448.86 points.

The NASDAQ's Composite Index outpaced The Dow with a gain of 33.88 points, or about 1.30 percent, rushing up to 2,630.24 points.

Optimism over the future of technology counters was said to have been the chief reason for the gains on Wall Street.

Gaining counters outpaced losing counters by 2.40:One, exactly, on The New York Stock Exchange, and by about 2:One on The NASDAQ.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of crude oil rose somewhat dramatically due to the approach of rather large and well-formed storms in the Caribbean.

If the storms move into The Gulf of Mexico, there is the fear that there could be a disruption in the oil refinery installations in the area.

The last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in October was \$US75.08, representing an increase of about 1.40 percent, compared with the final quote of Friday, August 31, 2007.

As for delivery in November, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US74.26, equivalent to an increase of about 1.28 percent on the previous Friday's last settlement.

Europe was upbeat about the prospects for stocks and shares in the short haul, with all of the key indices of the major bourses, making very useful gains.

The European Central Bank (ECB) was scheduled to convene a meeting, last Thursday, and the consensus was that interest rates in eurozone would remain unchanged at the conclusion of the meeting.

Banks in the region are of the opinion that the turmoil in the banking industry, globally, has been relegated to history and that financial face a bright future, at least for the remainder of the year.

The following **TARGET** () list indicates how the key indices of the most-important bourses fared, last Tuesday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Plus 1.07 percent

France's CAC 40 Index Plus 0.37 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX IndexPlus	0.95 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Plus	0.97 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index Plus	0.20 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Plus	0.99 percent

News Wise

- **PSA Peugeot Citroën S.A.** plans to sack about 8,000 of its European workforce, the company announced. That figure represents a cutback of about 12 percent of its European Establishment.

Dull trading conditions were maintained on Asian equity markets, last Tuesday, as investors waited to see what would happen when Wall Street re-opened for business, following the 3-day holiday.

With the lone exception of the Indonesian stock market, all of the key indices of the other equity markets of the region fell.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the territory's 2 equity markets lost ground to selling pressure.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index gave up about 0.08 percent of its value, slipping back to 23,886.07 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK92.18 billion.

The ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 1.02:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Up 2.15 percent to \$HK6.65 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.67 percent to \$HK103.80 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Up 0.60 percent to \$HK5.05 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 0.13 percent to \$HK37.25 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.29 percent to \$HK139.50 per share
China COSCO Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 1919)	Up 2.84 percent to \$HK19.56 per share
China Communications Construction Company Ltd (Code: 1800)	Up 1.02 percent to \$HK17.78 per share
China Grand Forestry Resources Group	Down 7.38 percent to \$HK2.51 per share

Ltd (Code: 910)

Bank of Communications Company Ltd (Code:
3328)

Up 0.68 percent to \$HK8.87 per share

Fosun International Ltd (Code: 656)

Up 5.06 percent to \$HK12.88 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)
Asia Resources Holdings Ltd	899		11.59	0.61
China Haidian Holdings Ltd	256		11.11	0.96
China Strategic Holdings Ltd	235		10.94	0.57
E2-Capital (Holdings) Ltd	378	25.00		1.90
EganaGoldpfeil (Holdings) Ltd	48		17.24	0.96
Far East Holdings International Ltd	36	17.39		1.89
Henry Group Holdings Ltd	859	12.00		1.40
Magician Industries (Holdings) Ltd	526		19.64	0.45
Mitsumaru East Kit (Holdings) Ltd	2358		20.00	1.20
National Investments Fund Ltd	1227		11.76	0.45
Paradise Entertainment Ltd	1180		13.58	0.229
Perennial International Ltd	725	11.84		0.85
Poly (Hongkong) Investments Ltd	119	11.81		10.70
Premium Land Ltd	164	16.67		1.47
Smart Rich Energy Finance (Holdings) Ltd	1051	10.71		0.465
Sunway International Holdings Ltd	58	10.29		0.375
Termbray Industries International (Holdings) Ltd	93	20.13		1.85

Titan Petrochemicals Group Ltd	1192	19.35		0.74
The United Laboratories International Holdings Ltd	3933	10.00		5.06
Wang Sing International Holdings Group Ltd	2389		17.05	0.73
Yardway Group Ltd	646	10.58		1.15

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index sank by about 1.25 percent to 1,466.50 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK400.77 million.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 1.65:One.

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

Galileo Holdings Ltd (Code: 8029)

Up 12.99 percent to \$HK0.87 per share

Trasy Gold Ex Ltd (Code: 8063)

Down 2.98 percent to \$HK0.163 per share

MP Logistics International Holdings Ltd (Code: 8239)

Down 1.94 percent to \$HK1.01 per share

Universal Technologies Holdings Ltd (Code: 8091)

Down 10.59 percent to \$HK0.38 per share

Xteam Software International Ltd (Code: 8178)

Up 1.28 percent to \$HK0.79 per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Era Information and Entertainment Ltd	8043	12.73		0.62
Espco Technology Holdings Ltd	8299	17.65		1.00
Galileo Holdings Ltd	8029	12.99		0.87
Hua Xia Healthcare Holdings Ltd	8143		14.06	0.275
Launch Tech Company Ltd	8196		13.41	1.55
Linefan Technology Holdings Ltd	8166		11.67	0.265
Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd	8017		10.59	0.38

Longlife Group Holdings Ltd	8037		11.43	0.31
Shenzhen Neptunus Interlong Bio-technique Company Ltd	8329	20.91		2.66
Powerleader Science and Technology Company Ltd	8236	20.55		0.88
Tai Shing International (Holdings) Ltd	8103		21.05	0.60
Universal Technologies Holdings Ltd	8091		10.59	0.38
Zhejiang Prospect Company Ltd	8273	14.04		3.25

In Japan, the situation on the country's 3 equity markets was similar to that of most parts of Asia.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index lost about 0.54 percent of its value, dropping back to 1,596.74 points.

Declining counters outnumbered advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.46:One.

As for The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, it shed about 0.63 percent, dropping back to 16,420.47 yen.

As for the other Asian equity markets, the following is **TARGET**'s list of the closings of their respective key indices:

The HKSA	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.08 percent to 23,886.07 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.25 percent to 1,466.50
Indonesia	Plus 0.07 percent to 2,215.12
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.54 percent to 1,596.74 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.63 percent to 16,420.47
Malaysia	Minus 0.03 percent to 1,283.75
The Philippines	Minus 1.69 percent to 3,312.30
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 0.51 percent to 5,294.05 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 1.18 percent to 1,470.39
Singapore	Minus 0.30 percent to 3,376.06

South Korea	Minus 0.38 percent to 1,874.74
Taiwan	Minus 0.63 percent to 8,922.98
Thailand	Minus 1.14 percent to 810.86

Wednesday

The **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has warned that there is a risk of the economy of the United States of America, falling into another recession.

The 30 member countries, comprising the OECD, fully expect that the second half of the year will see a sharply lower growth in the US economy.

The bugbears: The US housing market crisis, exacerbated by the subprime, mortgage-lending industry's chaos.

Said Mr Jean-Phillippe Cotis, Chief Economist of the OECD:

'We are looking at a slowdown in the US economy which is quite significant ... What we (the OECD) had not forecast was the extent of the spread of this financial risk beyond the boundaries of the US...'

Investors on Wall Street sat up straight on learning of the prognostications of the OECD.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 143.39 points, equivalent to about 1.07 percent, dropping back to 13,305.47 points.

As for the Composite Index of The NASDAQ, it gave up 24.29 points, or about 0.92 percent, ending the trading day at 2,605.95 points.

Hurting the mood of investors was a report, emanating from The (US) National Association of Realtors, which indicated that its Pending Home Sales Index had fallen to 89.90 points, the lowest level since September 2001.

The latest reading of the Pending Home Sales Index was based on the signed contracts for the month of July.

News Wise

- **Countrywide Financial Corporation**, the largest, mortgage-lending company in the US, announced that it would be sacking 900 of its workers, across the country.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of crude oil continued to rise.

For delivery in October, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US75.73, representing a one-day gain of about 0.87 percent.

As for November delivery, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US74.67, equivalent to a 0.55-percent improvement over Tuesday's last settlement.

In Europe, the report from the OECD was somewhat devastating for many an investor: Down came all of the key indices of every major bourse in the region:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Minus 1.50 percent

388)

China Petroleum and Chemical
Corporation (Code: 386)

Down 0.71 percent to \$HK8.43 per share

China Communications Construction Company
Ltd (Code: 1800)

Up 0.56 percent to \$HK17.88 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)
Allied Properties (Hongkong) Ltd	56	18.65		2.29
China Power New Energy Development Company Ltd	735	12.07		1.30
China Strategic Holdings Ltd	235	14.04		0.65
Concepta Investments Ltd	1140	26.13		1.40
Easyknit Enterprises Holdings Ltd	616	20.10		0.245
EganaGoldpfeil (Holdings) Ltd	48		27.08	0.70
Franshion Properties (China) Ltd	817	13.02		3.56
G-Vision International (Holdings) Ltd	657	10.00		0.44
Great Wall Technology Company Ltd	74	12.46		3.34
China Huiyuan Juice Group Ltd	1886	10.57		11.30
Ju Teng International Holdings Ltd	3336	10.94		3.55
Karl Thomson Holdings Ltd	7	10.40		1.91
Kiu Hung International Holdings Ltd	381	21.26		1.54
Magician Industries (Holdings) Ltd	526	11.11		0.50
New Times Group Holdings Ltd	166		10.00	0.63
Paladin Ltd	495	14.08		0.405

Poly Investments Holdings Ltd	263	16.39		2.13
SIM Technology Group Ltd	2000	29.01		2.09
South China (China) Ltd	413	11.84		0.85
South China Financial Holdings Ltd	619	29.52		0.215
South China Holdings Ltd	265	20.37		1.30
Termbray Industries International (Holdings) Ltd	93	18.92		2.20
Theme International Holdings Ltd	990	22.22		0.077
Wang Sing International Holdings Group Ltd	2389	12.33		0.82
Wing Hong (Holdings) Ltd	745	10.14		1.63

On The **Growth Enterprise Market** (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index improved by about 0.52 percent to end the trading session at 1,474.17 points.

The Total Turnover on this speculative market was about \$HK527.42 million.

Advancing counters outpaced declining ones by the ratio of about 1.11:One.

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

Tong Ren Tang Technologies Company Ltd
(Code: 8069)

Up 6.74 percent to \$HK18.70 per share

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089)

Down 11.75 percent to \$HK8.34 per share

Galileo Holdings Ltd (Code: 8029)

Up 14.94 percent to \$HK1.00 per share

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd
(Code: 8138)

Up 1.04 percent to \$HK0.195 per share

Century Sunshine Ecological
Technology Holdings Ltd (Code: 8276)

Up 18.60 percent to \$HK1.02 per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
BIG Media Group Ltd	8167		13.56	0.51

CCID Consulting Company Ltd	8235	22.39		0.41
Century Sunshine Ecological Technology Holdings Ltd	8276	18.60		1.02
China Railway Logistics Ltd	8089		11.75	8.34
Core Healthcare Investment Holdings Ltd	8250		13.89	0.31
ePRO Ltd	8086	14.29		0.36
EVOC Intelligent Technology Company Ltd	8285	22.77		2.75
Excel Technology International Holdings Ltd	8048	10.00		0.22
Galileo Holdings Ltd	8029	14.94		1.00
Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd	8173		11.56	0.153
Linefan Technology Holdings Ltd	8166	11.32		0.295
Longlife Group Holdings Ltd	8037	12.90		0.35
Medical China Ltd	8186	11.76		0.57
New Chinese Medicine Holdings Ltd	8085		15.25	1.00
QUASAR Communication Technology Holdings Ltd	8171	21.21		0.40
Value Convergence Holdings Ltd	8101	18.25		4.99

As for the losing equity markets of Asia, Japan took the cake, so to speak.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index surrendered about 1.71 percent of its former value, dropping back to 1,569.47 points.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 9.37:One on Asia's largest and most-important equity market.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average gave up 262.02 yen, equivalent to about 1.60 percent, as investors pushed it down to 16,158.45 yen.

And, on other Asian equity markets, the situation was as follows:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 0.77 percent to 24,069.17 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.52 percent to 1,474.17
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Indonesia	Minus 0.02 percent to 2,214.62
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 1.71 percent to 1,569.47 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 1.60 percent to 16,158.45
Malaysia	Plus 1.10 percent to 1,297.93
The Philippines	Plus 0.91 percent to 3,342.35
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.31 percent to 5,310.72 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.39 percent to 1,476.10
Singapore	Plus 2.04 percent to 3,445.08
South Korea	Minus 0.49 percent to 1,865.59
Taiwan	Minus 0.10 percent to 8,913.85
Thailand	Plus 0.45 percent to 814.50

Thursday

The US housing market continues to bleed, according to statistics, compiled by the Mortgage Bankers Association (of the US).

In the second quarter of 2007, foreclosures hit a record high, The Association reported, due to the inability of existing home-owners to find methods to refinance their adjustable-rate mortgages.

It was the third consecutive quarter that the foreclosure rate had risen to record levels.

And the worst is still to come, The Association warned.

On Wall Street, the news was not welcomed although it was well expected.

Countering the report from The Association, the US Labour Department released its revised statistics in respect of productivity and costs for the second quarter of 2007.

The following is the gist of that Release:

‘PRODUCTIVITY AND COSTS Second Quarter 2007, Revised

‘The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor today reported revised productivity data—as measured by output per hour of all persons—for the second quarter of 2007. The seasonally adjusted annual rates of productivity change in the second quarter were:

3.5 percent in the business sector and
2.6 percent in the nonfarm business sector.

'In both sectors, the second-quarter productivity gains were larger than the preliminary estimates reported on August 7.

'In manufacturing, the revised productivity changes in the second quarter were:

1.8 percent in manufacturing,
4.7 percent in durable goods manufacturing, and
-1.4 percent in nondurable goods manufacturing.

'Manufacturing productivity grew slightly faster in the second quarter of 2007 than was reported on Aug. 7, reflecting upward revisions to output per hour in nondurable manufacturing; durable manufacturing productivity was not revised. Output and hours in manufacturing, which includes about 12 percent of U.S. business-sector employment, tend to vary more from quarter to quarter than data for the aggregate business and nonfarm business sectors ...

'The data sources and methods used in the preparation of the manufacturing series differ from those used in preparing the business and nonfarm business series, and these measures are not directly comparable. Output measures for business and nonfarm business are based on measures of gross domestic product prepared by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Quarterly output measures for manufacturing reflect indexes of industrial production independently prepared by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

'Business

'From the first quarter to the second quarter of 2007, productivity in the business sector grew 3.5 percent as output increased 4.6 percent and hours worked by all persons engaged in the sector—employees, proprietors, and unpaid family workers—rose 1.0 percent (tables A and 1). Productivity had increased 0.2 percent during the first quarter of 2007, as output increased 0.2 percent and hours were unchanged (seasonally adjusted annual rates).

'Hourly compensation in the business sector grew at a 5.5 percent annual rate in the second quarter of 2007, the same rate of growth as one quarter earlier. Hourly compensation includes wages and salaries, supplements, employer contributions to employee benefit plans, and taxes. Real hourly compensation, which takes into account changes in consumer prices, fell 0.5 percent in the second quarter of 2007 after increasing 1.6 percent in the first quarter of the year.

'Unit labor costs, which reflect changes in hourly compensation and productivity, rose 1.9 percent in the second quarter of 2007. Unit labor costs had increased 5.3 percent in the first quarter of 2007. From the second quarter of 2006 to the second quarter of 2007, these costs increased 5.1 percent—the largest four-quarter increase since unit labor costs increased 5.2 percent between the fourth quarter of 1989 and the fourth quarter of 1990. The implicit price deflator for business output, which exhibits changes in unit labor costs and unit nonlabor payments, rose 2.5 percent in the second quarter of 2007 and 4.1 percent in the first quarter.

'Nonfarm business

'Productivity in the nonfarm business sector grew at a 2.6 percent annual rate in the second quarter of 2007, reflecting increases of 5.0 percent in output and 2.3 percent in hours of all persons (tables A and 2). In the first quarter of 2007, productivity increased 0.7 percent, output rose 0.3 percent, and hours fell 0.3 percent.

'Hourly compensation increased 4.1 percent in the second quarter of 2007, but when the 6.0 percent jump in consumer prices was taken into account, real hourly compensation fell 1.8 percent in the second quarter. As revised, hourly compensation increased 5.9 percent in the first quarter of 2007.

'Unit labor costs rose 1.4 percent in the second quarter of 2007, following a 5.2-percent increase in the first quarter. Unit labor costs increased 4.9 percent from the second quarter of 2006 to the second quarter of 2007, more than during any four-quarter period since third-quarter 1999 to third-quarter 2000, when they increased 5.0 percent. The implicit price deflator for nonfarm business output increased 2.4 percent in the second quarter of 2007 and 3.6 percent one quarter earlier.'

'Manufacturing

'Productivity increased 1.8 percent in manufacturing in the second quarter of 2007, as output grew 4.0 percent and hours of all persons increased 2.1 percent (seasonally adjusted annual rates). Productivity grew 4.7 percent in the durable goods sector, reflecting a 6.8-percent increase in output and 2.0-percent rise in hours. In nondurable goods, productivity fell 1.4 percent when output grew 0.8 percent but hours grew faster, 2.3 percent.'

'The hourly compensation of all manufacturing workers increased 3.4 percent during the second quarter of 2007, reflecting increases in hourly compensation of 1.7 percent in durable goods industries and 6.8 percent in the nondurable goods sector. Real hourly compensation in the total manufacturing sector fell 2.4 percent in the second quarter after consumer prices were taken into account. Revised results for the first quarter of 2007 show that hourly compensation had increased 8.9 percent and real hourly compensation had increased 4.8 percent in total manufacturing.'

'Unit labor costs in manufacturing increased 1.6 percent in the second quarter of 2007 following a revised first-quarter increase of 7.0 percent. Unit labor costs fell 2.8 percent in durable goods and rose 8.4 percent in nondurable goods in the second quarter.'

'Nonfinancial corporations

'Preliminary second-quarter 2007 measures of productivity and costs were reported today for nonfinancial corporations (tables B and 6). Productivity increased 3.5 percent during the second quarter, reflecting 4.6-percent growth in output and a 1.0-percent rise in employee hours (seasonally adjusted annual rates). In the first quarter of 2007, output per hour rose 0.7 percent, output increased 0.9 percent, and employee hours rose 0.2 percent (as revised). Nonfinancial corporations include all corporations doing business in the United States except those classified as depository institutions, nondepository institutions, security and commodity brokers, insurance carriers, regulated investment offices, small business investment offices, and real estate investment trusts.'

'Hourly compensation rose 4.7 percent in the second quarter of 2007, following a 4.5 percent gain in the first quarter (as revised). When the rise in consumer prices is taken into account, real hourly compensation fell 1.2 percent in the second quarter after increasing 0.6 percent one quarter earlier. Unit labor costs for nonfinancial corporations increased 1.1 percent in the second quarter of 2007.'

'Unit profits increased 8.6 percent in second quarter 2007, following an 11.8-percent increase in the first quarter. The implicit price deflator for nonfinancial corporate output rose 1.5 percent in the second quarter.'

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 57.88 points, equivalent to about 0.44 percent, ending the trading day at 13,363.35 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ put on 8.37 points, or about 0.32 percent, limping up to 2,614.32 points.

According to some Wall Street observers, it appeared that many investors were changing horses and switching to what they determined were *'defensive'* stocks and shares.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of crude oil continued to rise for the third consecutive day of the working week.

For delivery in October, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US76.30, representing

an increase of about three quarters of a percentage point, compared with Wednesday's closing level.

For delivery in November, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US75.31, an increase of about 0.86 percent on Wednesday's final quote.

In Europe, the key indices of the major equity markets rose, but not because of what was happening on Wall Street but because of the determinations of the **E**uropean **C**entral **B**ank (ECB) and The Bank of England.

Both the ECB and The Bank of England left well-enough alone: No movement in interest rates.

The pressure was off – at least, for the time being.

The following are the published releases of the ECB and The Bank of England, respectively.

The ECB's one-paragraph statement:

'At today's meeting, the Governing Council of the ECB decided that the minimum bid rate on the main refinancing operations and the interest rates on the marginal lending facility and the deposit facility will remain unchanged at 4.00%, 5.00% and 3.00% respectively.'

The Bank of England's full statement:

'The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) today voted to maintain the official Bank Rate paid on commercial bank reserves at 5.75%.

'In its August Inflation Report, the Committee's central projection was for inflation to remain close to the 2% target over the forecast period and for output growth to ease, reflecting a slowing in both consumer spending and business investment.

'In recent weeks, heightened concerns about a variety of asset-backed securities have led to disruption around the world, not only in markets for those financial instruments but also in money markets more generally. The MPC's mandate is to set interest rates to meet the Government's 2% target for CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation. So the Committee discussed these developments and other economic data in terms of their implications for the outlook for inflation.

'CPI inflation fell back to 1.9% in July and may remain around, or a little below, the 2% target for the next few months. Pay pressures remain muted. There are tentative signs of a slowing in consumer spending. But the recent solid pace of output growth has been sustained and the margin of spare capacity appears limited. Indicators of pricing pressure remain somewhat elevated.

'It is too soon to tell how far the disruption in financial markets will impair the availability of credit to companies and households. As stated in its August Report, the MPC is monitoring closely the evolution of both credit spreads and the quantities of credit extended, alongside all other data relevant to the outlook for inflation.

'Against that background, the Committee judged that no change in Bank Rate was necessary at this meeting to keep inflation on track to meet the target in the medium term.'

This was how the key indices of the most-important equity markets of Europe responded to the above:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Plus 0.80 percent

France's CAC 40 Index Plus 0.45 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index Plus 0.44 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Plus 0.67 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Plus 0.18 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 0.14 percent

In spite of Wall Street, coming unstuck on Wednesday, in Asia, the majority of the key indices of the equity markets of the region managed to score pluses.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), lower volumes of activity marked these markets, which are the second, most-important in the region.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index shed about 0.08 percent, slipping back to 24,050.40 points.

The Total Turnover on this, the premier equity market of the territory, fell back to about \$HK79.41 billion.

The ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 1.24:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 1.99 percent to \$HK103.50 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Up 0.67 percent to \$HK37.35 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:
939)

Up 2.86 percent to \$HK6.84 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 0.43 percent to \$HK139.10 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388)

Up 2.07 percent to \$HK148.00 per share

MTR Corporation Ltd (Code: 66)

Up 7.04 percent to \$HK22.05 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Down 0.71 percent to \$HK11.16 per share

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd
(Code: 1398)

Up 0.99 percent to \$HK5.09 per share

China Communications Construction Company
Ltd (Code: 1800)

Up 0.67 percent to \$HK18.00 per share

Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China
Ltd (Code: 2318)

Up 3.16 percent to \$HK79.90 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
CASIL Telecommunications Holdings Ltd	1185	22.76		1.51
Celestial Asia Securities Holdings Ltd	1049	14.75		1.40
China Nickel Resources Holdings Company Ltd	2889	33.54		4.38
Dynamic Global Holdings Ltd	231		12.70	0.213
eSun Holdings Ltd	571	13.13		5.60
Haier Electronics Group Company Ltd	1169	18.36		2.45
Hualing Holdings Ltd	382	22.06		0.83
HyComm Wireless Ltd	499	15.23		0.174
IRICO Group Electronics Company Ltd	438	16.67		1.05
Jade Dynasty Group Ltd	970	10.29		0.75
K and P International Holdings Ltd	675		10.98	0.365
Hainan Meilan International Airport Company Ltd	357	11.16		10.66
National Investments Fund Ltd	1227	12.05		0.465
Nority International Group Ltd	660		10.00	1.80
Paradise Entertainment Ltd	1180	11.37		0.235
PME Group Ltd	379	35.07		1.81
Poly Investments Holdings Ltd	263		15.96	1.79
Prime Investments Holdings Ltd	721	26.67		0.95
Quam Ltd	2961	16.28		1.00
Shandong Molong Petroleum Machinery Company Ltd	568	15.00		2.07
SinoCom Software Group Ltd	299	12.61		1.34

South China (China) Ltd	413	14.12		0.97
South China Holdings Ltd	265	15.38		1.50
Sunny Global Holdings Ltd	1094	10.00		0.275
Winbox International (Holdings) Ltd	474	21.74		0.84
Wonderful World Holdings Ltd	109		10.40	0.224
World Houseware (Holdings) Ltd	713	18.99		0.47

Over on The **Growth Enterprise Market** (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gained about 0.49 percent, rising to 1,481.45 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK376.99 million.

Declining counters outran advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.13:One.

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

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089)

Up 4.92 percent to \$HK8.75 per share

Galileo Holdings Ltd (Code: 8029)

Up 7.00 percent to \$HK1.07 per share

Xteam Software International Ltd (Code: 8178)

Up 1.27 percent to \$HK0.80 per share

Century Sunshine Ecological
Technology Holdings Ltd (Code: 8276)

Down 4.90 percent to \$HK0.97 per share

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd
(Code: 8138)

Down 1.03 percent to \$HK0.193 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Armitage Technologies Holding Ltd	8213	14.81		0.155
Capinfo Company Ltd	8157	14.00		0.57
Shanghai Fudan-Zhangjiang Bio-Pharmaceutical Company Ltd	8231	12.94		0.96
Xi'an Haitian Antenna Technologies Company Ltd	8227		10.96	0.325

Linefan Technology Holdings Ltd	8166		10.17	0.265
New Chinese Medicine Holdings Ltd	8085	12.00		1.12
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026	15.69		1.18

In The Land of The Rising Sun, trading was relatively quiet on the country's equity markets.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index shed about 0.06 percent of its former value, ending the trading day at 1,568.52 points.

Losing counters outnumbered gaining ones by the ratio of about 2.15:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average rose about 0.61 percent to 16,257.00 yen, exactly.

This was how the other Asian equity markets fared, last Thursday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.08 percent to 24,050.40 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.49 percent to 1,481.45
Indonesia	Plus 0.28 percent to 2,220.78
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.06 percent to 1,568.52 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.61 percent to 16,275.00
Malaysia	Plus 0.07 percent to 1,298.85
The Philippines	Minus 0.47 percent to 3,326.53
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.56 percent to 5,393.66 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.68 percent to 1,486.18
Singapore	Plus 0.61 percent to 3,466.06
South Korea	Plus 1.24 percent to 1,888.81
Taiwan	Plus 1.16 percent to 9,017.08
Thailand	Minus 0.57 percent to 809.82

Friday

The key indices of equity markets, around the world, took a beating, last Friday.

Investors in Asia expected the worst from the US Government in respect of the weekly report from the US Labour Department.

And they were correct.

Just prior to Wall Street, opening its doors for business, The Labour Department told the US equity markets of the situation in respect of the August employment statistics.

The following is the verbatim statement of the Deputy Commissioner of The Bureau of Labour Statistics, released at 8:30 a.m., last Friday:

'Nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in August (-4,000), and the unemployment rate held at 4.6 percent. Payroll employment has grown little during the past 3 months (44,000 per month on average), following downward revisions to June and July estimates. In contrast, payroll employment growth averaged 147,000 per month for the first 5 months of the year. Continuing job losses in manufacturing and construction, slower job growth in some service-providing industries, and declines in local government education contributed to the recent weakness in payroll employment.'

'In August, manufacturing employment fell by 46,000. Job losses were widespread throughout the industry and included notable declines in motor vehicles, machinery, wood products, and semiconductors. Construction employment continued to trend down over the month (-22,000), with most of the decline among residential specialty trade contractors. Construction employment peaked last September; since then, 96,000 jobs have been lost.'

'Employment in health care remained on a strong growth trend in August, increasing by 35,000. Social assistance employment rose by 14,000.'

'Over the month, employment continued to trend up in professional and technical services (which includes industries such as architectural services and management consulting). The pace of job growth in professional and technical services has slowed to an average of 17,000 per month in the past 3 months compared with 25,000 per month during the first 5 months of this year.'

'In the leisure and hospitality industry, food services added 24,000 jobs in August. Over the past 3 months, average employment growth in food services was 21,000, down from an average of 31,000 for the first 5 months of the year. Employment in accommodations has trended down over the past 3 months.'

'Employment in local government education declined by 50,000 in July and by 32,000 in August. Employment estimates for local government education can be volatile, particularly during the summer months.'

'Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers increased by 5 cents in August to \$17.50. Over the year, average hourly earnings rose by 3.9 percent.'

'Turning to measures from the survey of households, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.6 percent in August. The jobless rate has remained in the narrow range of 4.4 to 4.6 percent since last September. The unemployment rates for the major worker groups showed little or no change in August.'

'The labor force participation rate decreased to 65.8 percent in August, largely reflecting a decline in participation among teens. The labor force participation rate of teenagers declined by 1.5 percentage points to 39.7 percent. The household survey reference period fell relatively late this August (covering the week from Sunday, August 12 through Saturday, August 18) and, as a result, a larger-than-usual number of teens had left the labor force to return to school when surveyed. While the movement in August may have been exaggerated by the timing of the survey week, the labor force participation rate of teenagers had been'

declining recently--from 43.4 percent in December 2006 to 41.2 percent in July 2007.

'Total employment, as measured by the household survey, has been flat thus far in 2007. The employment-population ratio was 62.8 percent in August, 0.6 percentage point lower than in December.

'In summary, nonfarm payroll employment was essentially unchanged in August, and the unemployment rate held at 4.6 percent.'

On The New York Stock Exchange, as the Elvis Presley song goes, investors were *'all shook up'*.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 249.97 points, equivalent to about 1.87 percent, ending the very active trading day at 13,113.38 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed 48.62 points, or about 1.86 percent, falling back to 2,565.70 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 3.25:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 4:One on The NASDAQ.

Clearly, it was being speculated, the US Federal Reserve will have to be aggressive at the next scheduled Open Market Committee Meeting and cut interest rates in order to allay the fears of investors and the leaders of industry alike.

That is, unless it becomes proactive and takes action sooner than September 18, 2007.

News Wise

- **Countrywide Financial Corporation** announced that it would be sacking another 12,000 of its workers; and,
- **IndyMac Bancorp**, one of the largest, independent US mortgage lenders, announced that it would be sacking 1,000 of its employees, equivalent to about 10 percent of its workforce.

The tally for the 4-day working week for the largest and most-important equity markets of the world was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average Minus 1.83 percent
The NASDAQ's Composite Index Minus 1.18 percent

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of crude oil, again, moved to higher levels.

For delivery in October, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US76.70, equivalent to a gain of about 0.52 percent on the closing level of Thursday.

The last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in November was \$US75.62, representing an increase of about 0.41 percent, compared with Thursday's last settlement.

In Europe, every key index of every major equity markets suffered very substantial losses.

The prices of banking stocks were very hard hit as investors scampered for what they perceived were safer havens lest banks be forced to make further provisions for losses in respect of the subprime, mortgage-lending industry.

The following is **TARGET**'s list of last Friday's closing levels of the key indices of major European bourses:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 1.85 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 2.62 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index Minus 2.42 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Minus 1.93 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Minus 2.07 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 1.74 percent

In Asia, investors were not privy to the facts, released by the US Labour Department's report, but there remained a great deal of foreboding, nevertheless.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), share prices retreated on the premier equity market, but rose on the speculative, secondary market.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the key index of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, lost about 0.28 percent of its value, slipping back to 23,982.61 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK109.06 billion, while the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was nearly equal, at about 1.01:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 2.42 percent to \$HK101.00 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Up 1.08 percent to \$HK11.28 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388)

Up 6.76 percent to \$HK158.00 per share

Bank of Communications Company Ltd (Code:
3328)

Up 1.67 percent to \$HK9.14 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Down 0.27 percent to \$HK37.25 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Up 0.07 percent to \$HK139.20 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Up 2.73 percent to \$HK9.78 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:
939)

Up 1.46 percent to \$HK6.94 per share

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd
(Code: 1398)

Up 0.98 percent to \$HK5.14 per share

China Petroleum and Chemical
Corporation (Code: 386)

Up 1.06 percent to \$HK8.56 per share

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, there was a total of 37, double-digit movers, of which number only 3 counters lost ground.

The biggest loser of the day was Quam Ltd (Code: 2961), the share price of which shed 14 percent to 86 cents.

The biggest gainer of the day was Kenfair International (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 223) as investors pushed up its share price by 40.37 percent to \$HK1.53.

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gained about 0.64 percent, rising to 1,490.86 points.

The Total Turnover on this speculative market was about \$HK753.07 million.

In spite of the lone index of this market, being in positive territory, declining counters beat off advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.24:One.

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

Value Convergence Holdings Ltd (Code: 8101) Down 4.70 percent to \$HK4.46 per share

Galileo Holdings Ltd (Code: 8029) Up 30.84 percent to \$HK1.40 per share

Shandong Weigao Group Medical
Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199) Up 3.96 percent to \$HK18.90 per share

Anhui Tianda Oil Pipe Company Ltd (Code: 8241) Down 1.93 percent to \$HK6.10 per share

Xteam Software International Ltd (Code: 8178) Down 1.25 percent to \$HK0.79 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
abc Multiactive Ltd	8131	11.11		0.50
Advanced Card Systems Holdings Ltd	8210	26.92		0.33
Cardlink Technology Group Ltd	8066	18.67		1.78
Era Information and Entertainment Ltd	8043		13.11	0.53
Galileo Holdings Ltd	8029	30.84		1.40
Xi'an Haitian Antenna Technologies Company Ltd	8227	13.85		0.37

Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd	8173	10.34		0.16
New Chinese Medicine Holdings Ltd	8085		10.71	1.00
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026		12.71	1.03
Rojam Entertainment Holdings Ltd	8075	12.26		0.174
South China Land Ltd	8155	26.67		0.38
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119		12.77	0.164
Vodatel Networks Holdings Ltd	8033		10.34	0.26

For Asia's second, most-important equity market, the tally for the week was:

The Hang Seng Index Minus 0.006 percent
The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.04 percent

In Japan, investors continued to fear for the worst with regard to the US economy, the continuing international fallout from the US subprime, mortgage-lending industry crisis and the possibility of further financial problems for banks, both domestic and international.

Property companies suffered as investors ran from bricks and mortar for fear that the knock-on effect from the many problems, facing the economies of the world, would put a damper on profits for months to come.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index shed about 0.73 percent, falling to 1,557.02 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.40:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average gave up about 0.83 percent, dropping back to 16,122.16 yen.

For The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is the most-important equity market of Asia, the tally for the week was:

The TOPIX Index Minus 3.19 percent
The Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 2,70 percent

This was how things looked on other Asian equity markets, last Friday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.28 percent to 23,982.61 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.64 percent to 1,490.86
Indonesia	Plus 0.86 percent to 2,239.90
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.73 percent to 1,557.02 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.83 percent to 16,122.16

Malaysia	Plus 0.47 percent to 1,304.90
The Philippines	Plus 0.19 percent to 3,332.97
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 2.16 percent to 5,277.18 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 1.91 percent to 1,457.80
Singapore	Plus 0.66 percent to 3,488.97
South Korea	Minus 0.21 percent to 1,884.90
Taiwan	Plus 0.01 percent to 9,018.08
Thailand	Minus 1.03 percent to 801.46

-- E N D --

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