

INVESTORS, AROUND THE WORLD, GO ON A WILD RIDE

Wall Street was relatively quiet, last Monday, as investors waited to learn who would be the next President of the United States of America: Senator John McCain or Senator Barack Obama?

Voting took place, last Tuesday, with Senator Barack Obama, being the firm favourite, according to most political forecasters.

Had it not been for this historic race to the White House, a race which was fully expected to result in the first black man, being sworn in as President, there was little doubt that the key indices of the world's largest equity markets would have drifted decidedly south.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average skidded to 9,319.83 points, down 5.18 points or about 0.06 percent.

As for The NASDAQ, its Composite Index went in the opposite direction to The Dow, rising 5.38 points, equivalent to about 0.31 percent, ending the quiet trading day at 1,726.33 points.

The ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 1.29:One on The New York Stock Exchange, while, over on The NASDAQ, it was a slightly different story as declining counters outnumbered advancing one by the ratio of about 1.25:One.

News Wise

- The **Institute of Supply Management (ISM)** announced that, according to its statistics, **US manufacturing activity** in October fell to its lowest level since 1982;
- **Motor vehicle sales** in the US plunged to a 25-year low in October. According to the latest, Year-On-Year statistics, the figures were:

General Motors Corporation	Down 45 percent
Chrysler LLC	Down 35 percent
Nissan Motor Company	Down 33 percent
Ford Motor Company	Down 30 percent
Toyota Motor Company	Down 29 percent
Honda Motor Company	Down 25 percent

- **Viacom Incorporated**, the beneficial owner of MTV Networks and Paramount Pictures Corporation, reported a 37-percent fall in third-quarter earnings. The figures were \$US401 million versus \$US641 for the like period in 2007.

On the world's commodity markets, the price of crude oil fell.

On The **New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX)**, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in December came in at \$US63.91, down 5.75 percent, exactly, compared with the final quote

of Friday, October 31, 2008.

As for delivery in January 2009, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US64.59, representing a fall of about 5.68 percent on the previous Friday's closing level.

In Europe, the key indices of the most-important bourses rose materially – in spite of the eurozone, being on the brink of recession:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	1.98 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	1.17 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	0.77 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	1.50 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus	1.52 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	1.31 percent

The European Commission announced that economic growth, throughout this region of the world, fell about 0.20 percent in the second quarter.

The European Commission warned: *'In 2009, the EU – European Union – economy is expected to grind to a standstill.'*

For many European investors, the US Presidential elections was of vital importance because, in their opinion, anything is better than nothing – and the Bush Administration is considered next to nothing, if not of negative value.

Equity investors in Asia were upbeat, last Monday.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), both of the territory's equity markets made gains.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, rose 2.69 percent, exactly, to 14,344.37 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK52.11 billion.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.39:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 4.42 percent to \$HK70.80 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 3.19 percent to \$HK21.00 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd	Up 5.08 percent to \$HK3.72 per share

(Code: 1398)

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Up 0.54 percent to \$HK92.50 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)

Up 2.70 percent to \$HK3.80 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Up 4.39 percent to \$HK5.95 per share

China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code:
386)

Down 4.17 percent to \$HK4.82 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Up 4.92 percent to \$HK6.61 per share

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

Up 2.50 percent to \$HK32.80 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Unchanged at \$HK2.21 per share

As for the biggest movers of the Main Board, there was a total of 174 counters that qualified for this dubious honour, with 26 losers and 148 winners.

Playmates Toys Ltd (Code: 869) was the biggest winner of the day, its share price, rising 160.87 percent to 12 cents.

Walker Group Holdings Ltd (Code: 1386) was the biggest loser, its share price, falling 28.89 percent to 32 cents.

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gained about 3.14 percent to 375.98 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK73.55 million, while the ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.57:One.

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

Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)

Unchanged at \$HK6.10 per share

Honbridge Holdings Ltd (Code: 8137)

Down 4.76 percent to \$HK0.40 per share

BIG Media Group Ltd (Code: 8167)

Up 13.70 percent to \$HK0.166 per share

Sun International Group Ltd (Code: 8029)

Down 4.67 percent to \$HK1.43 per share

Grand T G Gold Holdings Ltd (Code: 8299)

Unchanged at \$HK0.034 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Advanced Card Systems Holdings Ltd	8210	11.11		0.20
Asian Capital Resources (Holdings) Ltd	8025	11.11		0.11
B.A.L. Holdings Ltd	8079	17.86		0.033
BIG Media Group Ltd	8167	13.70		0.166
Cardlink Technology Group Ltd	8066	10.00		0.88
Challenger Group Holdings Ltd	8203		11.84	0.335
China Asean Resources Ltd	8186		12.31	0.057
China Chief Cable TV Group Ltd	8153	26.36		0.139
China Primary Resources Holdings Ltd	8117	17.24		0.034
China.com Incorporated	8006	22.75		3.13
Essex Bio-Technology Ltd	8151		31.25	0.11
Everpride Biopharmaceutical Company Ltd	8019		16.67	0.05
G.A. Holdings Ltd	8126		12.50	0.28
Golden Meditech Company Ltd	8180	10.00		1.21
Goldmond Holdings Ltd	8190	13.04		0.026
GreaterChina Technology Group Ltd	8032		22.86	0.027
Hua Xia Healthcare Holdings Ltd	8143		12.96	0.047
M Dream Inworld Ltd	8100		13.33	0.13
North Asia Strategic Holdings Ltd	8080	38.89		0.50
Polyard Petroleum International Group Ltd	8011	14.81		0.031

Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026		27.78	0.26
QUASAR Communication Technology Holdings Ltd	8171	37.93		0.08
Richfield Group Holdings Ltd	8136	19.23		0.062
Sau San Tong Holdings Ltd	8200	21.95		0.05
Shenzhen Mingwah Aohan High Technology Corporation Ltd	8301		17.39	0.095
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119	22.73		0.027
Tiger Tech Holdings Ltd	8046	21.69		0.23
Trasy Gold Ex Ltd	8063	28.00		0.32
Xi'an Haitian Antenna Technologies Company Ltd	8227		22.22	0.07

All equity markets were closed for a public holiday in Japan, last Monday.

This was how the other equity markets of Asia fared, last Monday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 2.69 percent to 14,344.37 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 3.14 percent to 375.98
Indonesia	Plus 7.64 percent to 1,352.72
Japan	TOPIX Index Closed Nikkei-225 Stock Average Closed
Malaysia	Plus 4.14 percent to 899.35
The Philippines	Plus 3.82 percent to 2,025.58
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 0.52 percent to 1,719.77 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 1.03 percent to 466.05
Singapore	Plus 4.99 percent to 1,883.75

South Korea	Plus 1.44 percent to 1,129.08
Taiwan	Plus 2.55 percent to 4,995.06
Thailand	Plus 7.84 percent to 449.19

Tuesday

It was dubbed as an Election Day Rally as voters went to the polls, throughout the United States of America, casting their ballots for a new President of the most-powerful country in the world, last Tuesday.

Senator Barack Obama was a hot favourite over Senator John McCain, but, as at last Tuesday morning, Asia time, the tally of ballots had not been completed.

Investors, from one end of the globe to the other, had had enough of the Administration of President George W. Bush and were longing for a change ... any change, it appeared.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose about 3.28 percent to 9,625.28 points while, over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shot up about 3.12 percent to 1,780.12 points.

Gaining counters outnumbered losing ones by the ratio of about 4:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 1.80:One on The NASDAQ.

Due to the US Presidential Elections, business news was few and far between.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in December was \$US70.53, a one-day gain of about 10.36 percent.

As for delivery in January 2009, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US71.19, representing an increase of about 10.22 percent on the final quote of Monday.

The reason for the fast rise in the price of crude oil was due to news that Saudi Arabia had, already, cut its exports of crude oil.

In Europe, seeing the reaction to the electioneering in the US, every key index of every bourse made very material upward movements:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Plus 6.63 percent

France's CAC 40 Index Plus 4.62 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index Plus 4.99 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Plus 4.41 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Plus 5.94 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Plus 2.66 percent

In addition to a change of guard in the US, investors in Europe were assuming that the **European Central Bank (ECB)** and The Bank of England would cut interest rates before the week was out.

In Asia, last Tuesday, investors were hesitant about taking any definitive stand with regard to equity trading and preferred to await the verdict of the US voting public as to who would sleep in the White House for the next 4 years.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the territory's 2 equity markets made gains on relatively low volumes of activity.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index rose about 0.28 percent to 14,384.34 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK45.25 billion, while the ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.32:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 1.19 percent to \$HK20.75 per share
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China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.85 percent to \$HK71.40 per share
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China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Up 4.74 percent to \$HK3.98 per share
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HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.11 percent to \$HK92.60 per share
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Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Up 2.15 percent to \$HK3.80 per share
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CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 5.45 percent to \$HK6.25 per share
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China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Down 1.24 percent to \$HK4.76 per share
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PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 2.52 percent to \$HK5.80 per share
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China Merchants Bank Company Ltd (Code: 3968)	Up 7.07 percent to \$HK12.72 per share
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China Railway Construction Corporation Ltd (Code: 1186)	Down 18.47 percent to \$HK7.99 per share
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There was a total of 117, double-digit movers on the Main Board, of which number, 80 counters' prices

advanced while the prices of 37 counters declined.

The Sincere Company Ltd (Code: 244) was, by far, the biggest gainer of the day, as its share price rose exactly 100 percent to 40 cents.

Vongroup Ltd (Code: 318) was the biggest loser, its share price, being shot down by about 29.41 percent to 7.20 cents.

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index rose 2.63 percent, exactly, ending the trading day at 385.87 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK61.78 million.

Advancing counters outran declining ones by the ratio of about 1.37:One.

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

Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8173)

Up 13.21 percent to \$HK0.24 per share

BIG Media Group Ltd (Code: 8167)

Up 6.02 percent to \$HK0.176 per share

Byford International Ltd (Code: 8272)

Up 38.10 percent to \$HK0.29 per share

Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)

Up 7.87 percent to \$HK6.58 per share

Sun International Group Ltd (Code: 8029)

Down 5.59 percent to \$HK1.35 per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asian Capital Resources (Holdings) Ltd	8025		13.64	0.095
Byford International Ltd	8272	38.10		0.29
Dahe Media Company Ltd	8243	21.21		0.20
Eco-Tek Holdings Ltd	8169		10.07	0.125
Emcom International Ltd	8220	20.00		0.024
Essex Bio-Technology Ltd	8151	16.36		0.128
Finet Group Ltd	8317	10.00		0.088
G.A. Holdings Ltd	8126	14.29		0.32

Goldmond Holdings Ltd	8190		11.54	0.023
Golife Concepts Holdings Ltd	8172		14.29	0.126
Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd	8173	13.21		0.24
Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd	8017	14.81		0.031
Melco LottVentures Ltd	8198		10.71	0.25
Mobile Telecom Network (Holdings) Ltd	8266	10.00		0.055
Ningbo Yidong Electronic Company Ltd	8249		12.50	0.035
Northeast Tiger Pharmaceutical Company Ltd	8197	27.91		0.055
Prosperity International Holdings (Hongkong) Ltd	8139	14.29		0.12
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026	34.62		0.35
Sau San Tong Holdings Ltd	8200		16.00	0.042
Soluteck Holdings Ltd	8111		11.11	0.08
Tianjin Tianlian Public Utilities Company Ltd	8290	11.11		0.55

Japan's equity markets were the biggest winners in Asia, last Tuesday.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is the premier equity market of the country, its TOPIX Index rose 43.58 points, equivalent to about 5.03 percent, to 910.70 points.

The ratio of winners to losers was, exactly, 4.91:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, which is a much-narrower gauge of trading on select blue chips, listed on the First Section of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, than is The TOPIX Index, rose 537.62 yen, or about 6.27 percent, to end the session at 9,114.60 yen.

News Wise

- **Bridgestone Corporation** announced that its Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders fell by about 40 percent in the first 9 months of its Financial Year, compared with the like period in 2007, to ¥49.47 billion.

And this was how things looked on other Asian equity markets, last Tuesday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 0.28 percent to 14,384.34 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 2.63 percent to 385.87
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Indonesia	Plus 1.26 percent to 1,369.78
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 5.03 percent to 910.70 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 6.27 percent to 9,114.60
Malaysia	Plus 0.69 percent to 905.58
The Philippines	Minus 1.11 percent to 2,003.04
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 0.76 percent to 1,706.70 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 1.95 percent to 456.97
Singapore	Minus 2.87 percent to 1,829.69
South Korea	Plus 2.15 percent to 1,153.35
Taiwan	Minus 0.05 percent to 4,992.63
Thailand	Plus 1.88 percent to 457.62

Wednesday

The United States of America is to have its first black President: Senator Barack Obama won the Presidential Election by a wide majority over his rival, Senator John McCain.

And the champagne bottles were popped, around the world.

When the houpla had subsided, it was back to business as usual: Down came the key indices on the world's largest equity markets.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which is the benchmark of The New York Stock Exchange, shed about 5.05 percent, falling back to 9,139.27 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index gave up about 5.53 percent, dropping to 1,681.64 points.

Grim economic news about the world's faltering economies dogged investors on Wall Street.

Every one of The Dow's 30 constituent stocks lost ground, last Wednesday.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 4:One on both The New York Stock Exchange and The NASDAQ.

The US Presidential Elections and the uncertainty as to the person who would be sleeping in the White

House for the next 4 years might have been relegated to history, but the sad state of affairs in the economies of the world remained.

President-elect Barack Obama will not take over as the head of the most-powerful country in the world until next January and, in the meantime, the world is awaiting the onslaught of a worldwide recession.

On major European bourses, investors took careful note of what was happening at the opening of Wall Street ... and followed the lead of their American counterparts:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 4.01 percent
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France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 1.97 percent
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Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 2.10 percent
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Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 2.34 percent
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Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 1.21 percent
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Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 3.48 percent
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For investors in Europe, it was back to business as usual: The reality of dealing with the sick economies of eurozone.

As Europe struggled with its problems, the focus of attention of investors shifted to the **European Central Bank (ECB)** and The Bank of England, which are, respectively, the central banks of the European Union and The United Kingdom.

Investors were laying off wagers on the probability of an interest-rate cut before the week was out.

On The **New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX)**, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in December was \$US65.30, representing a 7.42-percent drop on Tuesday's closing level.

As for delivery in January 2009, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US66.01, a one-day fall of about 7.28 percent.

In Asia, the US Presidential Elections took centre stage.

Investors, mistakenly, were of the opinion that the new, black President of the US would be able to cure the world's problems with a stroke of his pen.

The penny would drop in due course.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the 2 equity markets made material gains.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, rose about 3.17 percent to 14,840.16 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK63.37 billion.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 1.29:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 4.34 percent to \$HK21.65 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Up 3.68 percent to \$HK3.94 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Up 5.53 percent to \$HK4.20 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.28 percent to \$HK71.60 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 2.54 percent to \$HK94.95 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 4.31 percent to \$HK6.05 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Up 5.76 percent to \$HK6.61 per share
China Merchants Bank Company Ltd (Code: 3968)	Up 5.97 percent to \$HK13.48 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Up 5.13 percent to \$HK81.00 per share
Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China Ltd (Code: 2318)	Up 7.78 percent to \$HK36.00 per share

Of the 171, double-digit movers of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the share prices of 140 counters rose while the share prices of 31 counters fell.

The biggest gainer of the day was eSun Holdings Ltd (Code: 571), its share price, rising 61.29 percent to 50 cents.

The Sincere Company Ltd (Code: 244) was the biggest loser of the day as investors pulled down its share price by 25 percent to 30 cents.

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index moved up by about 1.30 percent to 390.89 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK81.19 million, while the ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 1.36:One.

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

Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199)	Down 2.00 percent to \$HK9.80 per share
Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)	Up 4.86 percent to \$HK6.90 per share

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089)

Up 47.06 percent to \$HK0.50 per share

Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8173)

Down 2.92 percent to \$HK0.233 per share

Grand T G Gold Holdings Ltd (Code: 8299)

Down 2.86 percent to \$HK0.034 per share

There was a total of 39, double-digit movers on The GEM, of which number, 29 fell and 15 rose.

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089) was the biggest gainer of the day, its share price, rising 47.06 percent to 50 cents.

Global Link Communications Holdings Ltd (Code: 8060) was the biggest loser of the day as investors marked down its share price to 5.10 cents, down 43.96 percent on Tuesday's close.

In Japan, the 3 equity markets of the country all enjoyed bullish trading sessions.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index rose about 6.17 percent to 966.91 points.

Advancing counters led declining ones by the ratio of about 10.13:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average lost about 4.46 percent, dropping back to 9,521.24 yen.

News Wise

- **Daikyo Incorporated**, one of Japan's largest builders of apartment buildings will sack about 600 of its workers; and,
- **Isuzu Motors Ltd** sounded the alarm bells, stating that its Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders is likely to fall to about ¥40 billion, down about 47 percent, Year-On-Year.

This was how the situation looked on other Asian equity markets, last Wednesday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 3.17 percent to 14,840.16 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 1.30 percent to 390.89
Indonesia	Minus 0.26 percent to 1,366.28
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 6.17 percent to 966.91 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 4.46 percent to 9,521.24
Malaysia	Plus 1.07 percent to 915.24
The Philippines	Plus 0.16 percent to 2,006.21

The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 3.16 percent to 1,760.61 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 3.04 percent to 470.86
Singapore	Plus 2.14 percent to 1,868.82
South Korea	Plus 2.44 percent to 1,181.50
Taiwan	Minus 0.29 percent to 4,978.26
Thailand	Minus 0.06 percent to 457.36

Thursday

Share prices collapsed on most equity markets around the world, last Thursday.

There was not just one reason for the massive losses, which saw hundreds of billions of US dollars, wiped off the market capitalisations of companies, but a whole host of reasons.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 4.85 percent, falling back to 8,695.79 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed about 4.34 percent as investors drove it down to 1,608.70 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 5:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 3.67:One on The NASDAQ.

The negative news, from international governmental agencies, independent intelligence agencies, as well as from publicly listed companies, around the world, was such that investors got ice-cold feet from the moment that Wall Street opened its doors for business.

Here are just some of the public announcements of last Thursday:

General Motors Corporation announced that it would be seeking financial assistance from the US Government. Its share price slide 13.70 percent to \$US4.80 on the news. The company is suffering some of the worst losses in its history;

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted that the economies of the developed nations of the world will shrink by about 0.30 percent in 2009, on average. Just one month earlier, the IMF predicted that the economies of the developed nations would grow by about 0.50 percent, on average. The IMF gave its readings with regard to the economies of the world as follows:

- (a) The United Kingdom, down about 1.30 percent;
- (b) Germany, down about 0.80 percent;
- (c) The US, down by about 0.70 percent;
- (d) Spain, down about 0.70 percent;
- (e) The People's Republic of China (PRC), down about 8.60 percentile points to 8.50 percent;
- (f) India, down about 8.70 percentile points to 6.30 percent; and,
- (g) Russia, down about 36.36 percentile points to 3.50 percent.

The International Council of Shopping Centers said that sales at US retail chains, during the month of October, were at their lowest levels since 1973; and,

Mattel Incorporated, the dominant player in the manufacture and sales of toys in the US, reported that it would be cutting out about 1,000 workers, representing about 3 percent of its total workforce.

In Europe, it was a similar story to that, being told on Wall Street – in spite of the **European Central Bank (ECB)** and The Bank of England, both slashing interest rates.

The ECB announced:

‘At today’s meeting the Governing Council of the ECB took the following monetary policy decisions:

- 1. The minimum bid rate on the main refinancing operations of the Eurosystem will be decreased by 50 basis points to 3.25%, starting from the operation to be settled on 12 November 2008.*
- 2. The interest rate on the marginal lending facility will be decreased by 50 basis points to 3.75%, with effect from 12 November 2008.*
- 3. The interest rate on the deposit facility will be decreased by 50 basis points to 2.75%, with effect from 12 November 2008’.*

The Bank of England announced:

‘The Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee today voted to reduce the official Bank Rate paid on commercial bank reserves by 1.5 percentage points to 3%.

‘The past two months have seen a substantial downward shift in the prospects for inflation in the United Kingdom. There has been a very marked deterioration in the outlook for economic activity at home and abroad. Moreover, commodity prices have fallen sharply.

‘Since mid-September, the global banking system has experienced its most serious disruption for almost a century. While the measures taken on bank capital, funding and liquidity in several countries, including our own, have begun to ease the situation, the availability of credit to households and businesses is likely to remain restricted for some time. As a consequence, money and credit conditions have tightened sharply. Equity prices have fallen substantially in many countries.

‘In the United Kingdom, output fell sharply in the third quarter. Business surveys and reports by the Bank’s regional Agents point to continued severe contraction in the near term. Consumer spending has faltered in the face of a squeeze on household budgets and tighter credit. Residential investment has fallen sharply and the prospects for business investment have weakened. Economic conditions have also deteriorated in the UK’s main export markets.

‘CPI inflation rose to 5.2% in September. The substantial rise since the beginning of the year largely reflects the impact of higher energy and food prices. But commodity prices have fallen sharply since mid-summer, with oil prices down by more than a half. Inflation should consequently soon drop back sharply, as the contribution from retail energy and food prices declines, notwithstanding the fall in sterling. Pay growth has remained subdued. And measures of inflation expectations have fallen back.

‘Since the beginning of the year, the Committee has set Bank Rate to balance two risks to the inflation outlook. The downside risk was that a sharp slowdown in the economy, associated with weak real income growth and the tightening in the supply of credit, pulled inflation materially below the target. The upside risk was that above-target inflation persisted for a sustained period because of elevated inflation expectations. In recent weeks, the risks to inflation have shifted decisively to the downside. As a consequence, the Committee has revised down its projected outlook for inflation which, at prevailing market interest rates, contains a substantial risk of undershooting the inflation target. At its November meeting, the Committee therefore judged that a significant reduction in Bank Rate was necessary now in

order to meet the 2% target for CPI inflation in the medium term, and accordingly lowered Bank Rate by 1.5 percentage points to 3.0%.'

In addition to the above, Switzerland cut its interest rate by 50 basis points, the second such interest-rate reduction in a month.

Denmark, also, cut its interest rate by 50 basis points.

But the interest-rate reductions, throughout Europe, did little to calm investors' nerves: Down came the key indices of every bourse in this region of the world:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 6.73 percent
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France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 6.38 percent
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Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 6.83 percent
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Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 5.70 percent
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Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 4.68 percent
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Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 4.08 percent
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On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in December was \$US60.77, down about 6.94 percent on the final quote of Wednesday.

As for delivery in January, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US61.47, representing a fall of about 6.88 percent, compared with Wednesday's last settlement.

In Asia, losses on equity markets were widespread, with investors, finding no haven to which to run.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, investors were somewhat shocked to see the extent on the carnage on the territory's 2 equity markets.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index shed about 7.08 percent, dropping back to 13,790.04 points on a Total Turnover of just \$HK48.25 billion.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.86:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 7.62 percent to \$HK20.00 per share
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China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 8.17 percent to \$HK65.75 per share
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HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 4.53 percent to \$HK90.65 per share
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Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd	Down 8.38 percent to \$HK3.61 per share
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(Code: 1398)

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 7.77 percent to \$HK5.58 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 5.77 percent to \$HK3.84 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 12.86 percent to \$HK5.76 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Down 9.58 percent to \$HK4.53 per share
China CITIC Bank Corporation Ltd (Code: 998)	Down 5.36 percent to \$HK3.00 per share
China Shenhua Energy Company Ltd (Code: 1088)	Down 12.19 percent to \$HK13.40 per share

There was a total of 146, double-digit movers of the Main Board, last Thursday, with only 21 of their number, managing to make any headway in the selling typhoon that beset this equity market, which is the second-largest in Asia.

The biggest loser of the day was China Railsmedia Corporation Ltd (Code: 745) as investors marked down its share price by 23.84 percent to 11.50 cents.

China Investment Fund Company Ltd (Code: 612) was the biggest gainer of the day, its share price, rising 30.95 percent to 5.50 cents.

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index shed about 2.58 percent to 380.82 points.

The volume of activity on this market was about \$HK40.68 million, while the ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 2.48:One.

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

BIG Media Group Ltd (Code: 8167)	Down 6.88 percent to \$HK0.149 per share
Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)	Down 1.45 percent to \$HK6.80 per share
Byford International Ltd (Code: 8272)	Down 14.29 percent to \$HK0.30 per share
China Information Technology Development Ltd (Code: 8178)	Down 1.75 percent to \$HK0.056 per share
Honbridge Holdings Ltd (Code: 8137)	Up 1.22 percent to \$HK0.415 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Byford International Ltd	8272		14.29	0.30
China Chief Cable TV Group Ltd	8153	58.71		0.246
Challenger Group Holdings Ltd	8203		14.67	0.32
China Bio Cassava Holdings Ltd	8129		15.38	0.022
China E-Learning Group Ltd	8055		12.50	0.35
China Ground Source Energy Ltd	8128	10.00		0.055
China Railway Logistics Ltd	8089		12.00	0.44
Emcom International Ltd	8220		10.00	0.027
Global Link Communications Holdings Ltd	8060	27.45		0.065
GreaterChina Technology Group Ltd	8032	16.67		0.028
Global Solution Engineering Ltd	8192	13.04		0.13
Intcera High Tech Group Ltd	8041		19.05	0.017
Jiangsu NandaSoft Technology Company Ltd	8045		11.18	0.151
Melco LottVentures Ltd	8198		15.25	0.25
Ming Kei Energy Holdings Ltd	8239	21.43		0.255
North Asia Strategic Holdings Ltd	8080		10.00	0.45
Palmpay China (Holdings) Ltd	8047		12.00	0.11
Polyard Petroleum International Group Ltd	8011		10.00	0.027
Sun International Group Ltd	8029		11.76	1.20
ThinSoft (Holdings) Incorporated	8096		11.54	0.69
Tianjin Tianlian Public Utilities Company Ltd	8290		10.84	0.37

Trasy Gold Ex Ltd	8063		11.11	0.28
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News Wise

- Somewhere in the region of **130,000 workers**, daily, are leaving the southern parts of the PRC, especially, Guangzhou, following the closure of tens of factories in the area, according to PRC railway officials.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index shed about 5.96 percent, dropping back to 909.30 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 6.77:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average lost about 6.53 percent, dropping back to 8,899.14 yen.

News Wise

- **Toyota Motor Corporation** said that its Group Operating Profit for the Fiscal Year, ending March 31, 2009, is likely to be about ¥600 billion, down about 73.60 percent, Year-On-Year. As for the Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders, the company said it anticipates a figure of about ¥550 billion, down about 68 percent, Year-On-Year.

And this was how things looked on other Asian equity markets, last Thursday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 7.08 percent to 13,790.04 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 2.58 percent to 380.82
Indonesia	Minus 4.27 percent to 1,307.90
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 5.96 percent to 909.30 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 6.53 percent to 8,899.14
Malaysia	Minus 2.11 percent to 895.95
The Philippines	Minus 3.22 percent to 1,941.62
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 2.44 percent to 1,717.72 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 1.67 percent to 463.01
Singapore	Minus 2.66 percent to 1,819.20
South Korea	Minus 7.56 percent to 1,092.22

Taiwan	Minus 5.71 percent to 4,694.12
Thailand	Plus 1.22 percent to 462.93

Friday

The unemployment level in the US hit 6.50 percent in October, official US Government figures showed.

It was the highest level of the past 14 years.

Also, in the month of October, not less than 240,000 workers lost their jobs in the US.

And both General Motors Corporation and Ford Motor Company lost billions of dollars in their respective third quarters.

These were just some of the horrific news of last Friday, but Wall Street investors appeared to brush it all aside and ploughed into stocks and shares.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 2.85 percent to 8,943.81 points while, over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index put on about 2.41 percent, ending the trading day at 1,647.40 points.

On The New York Stock Exchange, gaining counters outnumbered losing ones by the ratio of about 2.33:One and, over on The NASDAQ, gainers were ahead of losers by the ratio of about 1.55:One.

For the week, the tally for the largest and most-important equity market of the world was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average Minus 4.09 percent
The Composite Index of The NASDAQ Minus 4.27 percent

For investors, locked into stocks and shares, listed on US equity markets, the week, ended October 7, 2008, the Presidential election week, had been one, big wild ride.

The negative news just kept rolling in, throughout the week, and last Friday was no exception.

From The Bureau of Labour Statistics, a division of the US Government's Department of Labour, the Commissioner delivered the sad state of affairs to the nation.

The following is a verbatim transcript of Commissioner Keith Hall's statement:

'Nonfarm payroll employment fell by 240,000 in October, and the unemployment rate rose from 6.1 to 6.5 percent. Job losses over the last 3 months totaled 651,000, after accounting for downward revisions to employment estimates for August and September. So far this year, payroll employment has decreased by 1.2 million.'

'In October, manufacturing employment continued to fall (-90,000), with declines occurring throughout the sector. A large drop in transportation equipment employment (-40,000) reflected continued weakness in motor vehicles and parts as well as a strike involving 27,000 workers in the aerospace industry. Other sizable job losses occurred in fabricated metal products (-11,000), furniture (-10,000), wood products (-7,000), and plastics and rubber products (-6,000). Manufacturing hours and overtime were unchanged at 40.6 and 3.6 hours, respectively.'

'Construction employment declined by 49,000 over the month. Since its peak in September 2006, employment in this industry has fallen by 663,000. Most of the declines over this

period occurred in residential specialty trades (-349,000) and in residential building (-199,000).

'Retail trade employment fell by 38,000 in October, with the largest losses occurring among automobile dealers (-20,000) and department stores (-18,000). Wholesale trade employment fell by 22,000 over the month, with most of the loss occurring in durable goods distribution.

'Employment in financial activities declined by 24,000 in October; credit intermediation, which includes banking, accounted for about half of the loss. The securities industry shed 6,000 jobs in October, following a loss of 9,000 in September. The employment services industry, which includes temporary help agencies, continued to contract in October (-51,000) and has lost about half a million jobs since the most recent peak in August 2006.

'Health care employment rose by 26,000 in October and by 348,000 over the past 12 months. Mining added 7,000 jobs over the month. Since a low in April 2003, mining employment has increased by 246,000 (nearly 50 percent).

'Average hourly earnings for production and nonsupervisory workers in the private sector increased by 4 cents, or 0.2 percent, in October. Over the past 12 months, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.5 percent. From September 2007 to September 2008, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) rose by 5.4 percent.

'Turning to labor market measures from the survey of households, the unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percentage point to 6.5 percent in October. The rate was 4.8 percent a year earlier.

'About 10.1 million persons were unemployed in October, an increase of 603,000 over the month and 2.8 million over the past months. About 2.3 million individuals had been unemployed for 27 weeks or more, an increase of 249,000 over the month and 942,000 over the past 12 months.

'Both the labor force participation rate, at 66.1 percent, and the employment-population ratio, at 61.8 percent, were little changed over the month. The employment-population ratio has declined by 0.9 percentage point over the year and by 1.6 percentage points from its recent peak in December 2006.

'The number of persons working part time who would have preferred full-time employment increased by 645,000 in October to 6.7 million. Over the last 12 months, the number of such workers has grown by 2.3 million.

'In summary, nonfarm payroll employment declined by 240,000 in October, and the unemployment rate rose to 6.5 percent.'

News Wise

- **Ford Motor Company** announced that it had an Operating Loss of about \$US2.98 billion for the Third Quarter of its Fiscal Year;
- **General Motors Corporation** announced that its Operating Loss for its Third Quarter was about \$US4.20 billion; and,
- **USG Corporation**, a building materials producer, announced that it would be sacking about 900 of its workers, representing about 20 percent of its entire workforce. The company reported a Loss Attributable to Shareholders of about \$US125 million for the first 9 months of its Financial Year.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in December was \$US61.04, up about 0.44 percent, compared with Thursday's final quote.

As for delivery in January 2009, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US61.87, representing a one-day gain of about 0.65 percent.

In Europe, after what was described as a choppy trading session, most of the key indices of the most-important bourses ended the day in the black.

For most of the day, indices were way off Thursday's close, but an '*end play*' resulted in an investor change of heart, at least to some extent.

The following is **TARGET**'s list of the key indices of the most-important equity markets of this part of the world:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	1.96 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	2.41 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	2.59 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	2.68 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus	1.36 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	1.40 percent

In Asia, the key indices of the major equity markets of the region zigzagged for most of the trading day, resulting in a mixed result.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key indices of both stock markets ended the week in the black.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark for the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, rose about 3.29 percent to 14,243.43 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK48.80 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)	Up 3.57 percent to \$HK68.10 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Up 3.05 percent to \$HK3.72 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 3.25 percent to \$HK20.65 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Up 4.95 percent to \$HK4.03 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 1.49 percent to \$HK92.00 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Up 2.51 percent to \$HK5.72 per share

China Shenhua Energy Company Ltd (Code:
1088)

Up 6.42 percent to \$HK14.26 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388)

Down 1.62 percent to \$HK73.00 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Down 1.39 percent to \$HK2.13 per share

China Petroleum and Chemical
Corporation (Code: 386)

Up 0.44 percent to \$HK4.55 per share

There was a total of 93, double-digit movers on the Main Board, of which number, 71 counters' prices advanced while the prices of 22 counters declined.

Superb Summit International Timber Company Ltd (Code: 1228) was, by far, the biggest gainer of the day, as its share price rose 63.64 percent to 3.60 cents.

Global Tech (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 143) was the biggest loser, its share price, being shot down by about 21.74 percent to 1.80 cents.

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index put on about 0.25 percent, limping up to 381.77 points.

The volume of activity on this market was about \$HK53.54 million, with declining counters, outpacing advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.07:One.

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

Shandong Weigao Group Medical
Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199)

Down 5.79 percent to \$HK8.95 per share

Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)

Up 4.41 percent to \$HK7.10 per share

Golden Meditech Company Ltd (Code: 8180)

Down 1.48 percent to \$HK1.33 per share

Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8173)

Up 2.33 percent to \$HK0.22 per share

Tong Ren Tang Technologies Company Ltd (Code:
8069)

Up 3.52 percent to \$HK5.00 per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
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Argos Enterprise (Holdings) Ltd	8022	18.42		0.45
B.A.L. Holdings Ltd	8079	45.16		0.045
Cardlink Technology Group Ltd	8066	16.25		0.93
Challenger Group Holdings Ltd	8203	23.44		0.395
Eco-Tek Holdings Ltd	8169	12.00		0.14
Global Digital Creations Holdings Ltd	8271		23.53	0.065
Global Link Communications Holdings Ltd	8060		15.38	0.055
Goldmond Holdings Ltd	8190		12.50	0.021
GreaterChina Technology Group Ltd	8032	28.57		0.036
HC International Incorporated	8292	59.09		0.35
Info Communication Holdings Ltd	8082	56.10		0.064
Inno-Tech Holdings Ltd	8202		10.26	0.07
Jiangsu NandaSoft Technology Company Ltd	8045	12.58		0.17
Qianlong Technology International Holdings Ltd	8015		14.29	0.30
Rojam Entertainment Holdings Ltd	8075		14.81	0.023
Shaanxi Northwest New Technology Industry Company Ltd	8258		22.50	0.062
Shenzhen Neptunus Interlong Bio-technique Company Ltd	8329	15.38		0.75
Soluteck Holdings Ltd	8111		25.00	0.06
ThinSoft (Holdings) Incorporated	8096	13.04		0.78
Tianjin Tianlian Public Utilities Company Ltd	8290		10.81	0.33
Timeless Software Ltd	8028		17.50	0.033
WLS Holdings Ltd	8021	11.70		0.105
Zhejiang Shibao Company Ltd	8331	12.31		0.73

Zhongyu Gas Holdings Ltd	8070	17.65		0.40
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The tally for the second, most-important equity market of Asia was:

The Hang Seng Index Plus 1.97 percent
The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 4.73 percent

In Japan, it was a very different situation on the country's equity markets to that of the HKSAR.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index lost about 3.33 percent, dropping back to 879.00 points, exactly.

Losing counters outnumbered gaining ones by the ratio of about 4.59:One.

As for The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, it lost about 3.55 percent, dropping to 8,583.00, exactly.

The tally for Asia's largest and most-important equity market was:

The TOPIX Index Plus 1.37 percent
The Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.07 percent

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 3.29 percent to 14,243.43 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.25 percent to 381.77
Indonesia	Plus 2.33 percent to 1,338.36
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 3.33 percent to 879.00 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 3.55 percent to 8,583.00
Malaysia	Minus 0.22 percent to 893.95
The Philippines	Minus 1.04 percent to 1,921.34
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.75 percent to 1,747.71 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.94 percent to 467.35
Singapore	Plus 2.43 percent to 1,863.49
South Korea	Plus 3.87 percent to 1,134.49

Taiwan	Plus 1.03 percent to 4,742.33
Thailand	Plus 0.19 percent to 463.81

-- E N D --

*While **TARGET** makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published, **TARGET** cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.*

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