

DR BEN S. BERNANKE STOKES
STOCK-MARKET FIRES FROM WYOMING:
IS THE U.S. ECONOMY, PULLING OUT OF RECESSION ?

In spite of the fact that Germany, France, the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Japan claim that they have all emerged from recession, stock and share prices collapsed, around the world, last Monday.

The reasons:

1. One quarter of positive economic growth does not negate the many previous quarters of negative growth;
2. One quarter of positive economic growth does not, necessarily, mean that a country/territory will be able to record positive economic growth in the next and subsequent quarters;
3. In the US, consumers are continuing to avoid High Streets due to the simple fact that many households do not know when the weekly pay cheques will stop flowing; and,
4. In the US, the build-up of vacant real estate is such that it will take a great many quarters to whittle down the inventory levels whereby new orders of any great magnitude will be placed with builders.

On The New York Stock Exchange, last Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gave up 186.06 points, equivalent to exactly 2.00 percent, as investors pulled it back to 9,135.34 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed 54.68 points, or about 2.75 percent, dropping back to 1,930.84 points.

Trading was relatively light with losing counters, outrunning gaining ones by the ratio of about 9.00:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 4.00:One on The NASDAQ.

On European equity markets, it was a similar story to that, being told on Wall Street.

Every key index of every major bourse fell to sellers:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 2.08 percent
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France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 2.16 percent
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Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 2.02 percent
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Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 1.46 percent
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Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Minus 2.63 percent
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Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 1.65 percent

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September came in at \$US66.75, down about 1.13 percent, compared with the closing level of Friday, August 14, 2009.

As for delivery in October, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US68.81, representing a fall of about 1.14 percent, compared with the final quote of the previous Friday.

On Asian equity markets, it was only red ink that was used to fill in the final scores of the key indices of every major equity market.

In the HKSAR, both equity markets lost big time.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of this, the second-largest equity market in Asia, ended the day at 20,137.65 points for a one-day fall of about 3.62 percent.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK74.74 billion.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 4.27:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Down 2.03 percent to \$HK5.30 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 2.78 percent to \$HK5.94 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 5.35 percent to \$HK84.00 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 2.96 percent to \$HK81.90 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 4.46 percent to \$HK32.10 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Down 3.88 percent to \$HK3.72 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Down 4.61 percent to \$HK142.90 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 5.03 percent to \$HK8.50 per share
Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China Ltd (Code: 2318)	Down 5.85 percent to \$HK61.20 per share

China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation
(Code: 386)

Down 4.71 percent to \$HK6.47 per share

The biggest movers of the Main Board included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Applied Development Holdings Ltd	519	26.10		0.435
CT Holdings (International) Ltd	1008	43.60		2.47
Greater China Holdings Ltd	431	58.30		0.475
NewOcean Energy Holdings Ltd	342	15.20		0.57
Vitop Bioenergy Holdings Ltd	1178	34.60		0.14
Wonderful World Holdings Ltd	109	16.90		0.485
Zhong Hua International Holdings Ltd	1064		16.50	0.71

On The **Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM)** of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index shed about 2.39 percent, falling back to 630.80 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK336.23 million.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 4.76:One.

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

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

Up 3.47 percent to \$HK20.90 per share

Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd
(Code: 8116)

Down 6.85 percent to \$HK0.34 per share

Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)

Down 3.70 percent to \$HK12.48 per share

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)

Down 8.77 percent to \$HK0.52 per share

CCT Resources Holdings Ltd (Code: 8163)

Up 6.15 percent to \$HK0.345 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Aptus Holdings Ltd	8212	10.00		0.275
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081		12.60	0.38
ePRO Ltd	8086		14.30	0.12
FAVA International Holdings Ltd	8108		11.30	0.133
First China Financial Holdings Ltd	8123		11.50	0.23
Longlife Group Holdings Ltd	8037		17.50	0.198
Mobile Telecom Network (Holdings) Ltd	8266		10.00	0.135
Northeast Tiger Pharmaceutical Company Ltd	8197		15.80	0.101
Sanmenxia Tianyuan Aluminum Company Ltd	8253		10.10	0.31
Shenzhen Neptunus Interlong Bio-technique Company Ltd	8329		12.80	1.09
Tianjin Binhai Teda Logistics (Group) Corporation Ltd	8348		11.60	1.14
Tianjin TEDA Biomedical Engineering Company Ltd	8189	19.10		0.405
Tianjin Tianlian Public Utilities Company Ltd	8290		11.80	0.97

In Japan, there were mainly losers on the premier equity market of the country.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is the largest and, therefore, the most-important equity market of Asia – at least for the time being – its TOPIX Index fell about 2.46 percent to 949.59 points.

Declining counters outpaced advancing ones by the ratio of about 5.73: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 the TOPIX Index, gave up ¥328.72 to ¥10,268.61, a fall, compared with the close of trading on Friday, August 14, 2009, of about 3.10 percent.

News Wise

- **The Government of Japan** announced that, in the quarter, ended June 30, 2009, the third-largest economy of the world grew by about 0.90 percent. That growth comes after 4 consecutive quarters of losses. Ergo, theoretically, Japan is no longer in the grips of a recession.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 3.62 percent to 20,137.65 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 2.39 percent to 630.80
Indonesia	Closed
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 2.46 percent to 949.59 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 3.10 percent to 10,268.61
Malaysia	Minus 1.64 percent to 1,169.05
The Philippines	Minus 2.77 percent to 2,771.18
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 5.79 percent to 2,870.63 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 6.56 percent to 955.87
Singapore	Minus 3.25 percent to 2,545.98
South Korea	Minus 2.79 percent to 1,547.06
Taiwan	Minus 1.95 percent to 6,931.80
Thailand	Minus 3.39 percent to 632.05

Tuesday

Share prices rebounded on the world's largest equity markets, last Tuesday, but the volume of activity did not suggest that the gains were likely to be sustained for any great length of time.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose about 0.90 percent to 9,217.94 points while, over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index gained about 1.30 percent, ending the trading day at 1,955.92 points.

Trading was described as being light.

Gaining counters outpaced declining ones by the ratio of about 4.00:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 3.00:One on The NASDAQ.

There was a great deal of bad news that hit the world's most-influential equity markets, last Monday.

From the US Commerce Department, it was announced that, after 3 consecutive months of increasing

construction of homes in the country, July saw a decided fall-off, Year-On-Year.

The Commerce Department said that the number of new properties, completed in the month of July, fell by about one percent to an annual rate of about 581,000 units.

Clearly, the housing market of the US remains weak.

Meanwhile, statistics, compiled by The Commerce Department, indicated that US wholesale prices declined by about 0.90 percent in July, compared with June's figures, and, on a Year-To-Year basis, by about 6.80 percent.

Not very promising news.

Then, it was reported that the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) is reducing its exposure to US Government debt.

In fact, the PRC Government reduced its holding in Treasuries in the month of June by about \$US25 billion, a drop of about 3.10 percent.

This was the biggest fall in about 9 years, as far as the PRC Government's holdings in US treasuries are concerned.

The PRC is the largest, single holder of US Government debt.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September was \$US69.19, an increase of about 3.66 percent, compared with Monday's closing level.

As for delivery in October, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US71.09, up about 3.31 percent on the day.

On major equity markets of Europe, it was a matter of follow-the-leader: Wall Street.

Every key index of every major bourse rose in this part of the world:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	0.86 percent
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France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	0.90 percent
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Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	0.94 percent
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Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.87 percent
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Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Plus	1.33 percent
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Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	1.19 percent
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Stronger crude-oil prices resulted in European investors, chasing energy and energy related counters.

But the news from the US Government's Commerce Department tended to put a damper on most gains.

In Asia, there was a bit of a half-hearted surge in share prices, with select banks, leading the pack of gainers.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, the volume of activity waned after the morning session saw share prices fall out of bed, once again.

By the close of the trading day, however, the benchmark index of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index, was firmly in positive territory, but, on The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its lone index, The Growth Enterprise Index, was most certainly deep in negative territory.

The Hang Seng Index finished the day at 20,306.27 points, a one-day gain of about 0.84 percent on a Total Turnover of about \$HK71.49 billion.

That ratio of gainers to losers was very close, at about 1.006:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 1.89 percent to \$HK83.45 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Unchanged at \$HK5.94 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.36 percent to \$HK84.30 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 0.78 percent to \$HK32.35 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Up 0.38 percent to \$HK5.32 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Up 1.08 percent to \$HK3.76 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Up 0.70 percent to \$HK143.90 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Unchanged at \$HK10.24 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Up 1.85 percent to \$HK6.59 per share
China Shenhua Energy Company Ltd (Code: 1088)	Up 1.47 percent to \$HK31.00 per share

The biggest movers of the Main Board included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Chaoyue Group Ltd	147	24.60		0.76

CT Holdings (International) Ltd	1008	35.60		3.35
Greater China Holdings Ltd	431		15.80	0.40
Green Global Resources Ltd	61	22.90		2.68
The Hongkong Building and Loan Agency Ltd	145	17.00		1.24
Kong Sun Holdings Ltd	295	33.70		0.111
NewOcean Energy Holdings Ltd	342	15.80		0.66
Poly Development Holdings Ltd	1141		52.40	0.60
Takson Holdings Ltd	918		24.90	0.142

On The GEM, its Growth Enterprise Index shed about 1.75 percent to 619.79 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK353.08 million.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.90:One.

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

Byford International Ltd (Code: 8272)

Up 10.00 percent to \$HK0.55 per share

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

Down 1.91 percent to \$HK20.50 per share

Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd
(Code: 8116)

Down 2.94 percent to \$HK0.33 per share

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)

Down 4.81 percent to \$HK0.495 per share

Kaisun Energy Group Ltd (Code: 8203)

Down 10.13 percent to \$HK0.71 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Aptus Holdings Ltd	8212	14.50		0.315
Beijing Beida Jade Bird Universal Sci-Tech Company Ltd	8095		10.10	0.31

Byford International Ltd	8272	10.00		0.55
CCID Consulting Company Ltd	8235	17.60		0.18
China Metal Resources Holdings Ltd	8071		10.90	0.164
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081	10.50		0.42
Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd	8182		11.00	0.81
ePRO Ltd	8086	10.80		0.133
Excel Technology International Holdings Ltd	8048	18.10		0.098
Jilin Province Huinan Changlong Bio-pharmacy Company Ltd	8049	13.20		0.30
Kaisun Energy Group Ltd	8203		10.10	0.71
Mobile Telecom Network (Holdings) Ltd	8266	11.10		0.15
Ningbo Yidong Electronic Company Ltd	8249	11.10		0.11
Shanghai Jiaoda Withub Information Industrial Company Ltd	8205		13.20	0.295
Sing Lee Software (Group) Ltd	8076	10.90		0.255
Tianjin TEDA Biomedical Engineering Company Ltd	8189	28.40		0.52
Vinco Financial Group Ltd	8340		10.30	0.175

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, trading was quiet.

The TOPIX Index rose about 0.007 percent to 949.66 points.

Losing counters outpaced gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.29:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average rose about 0.16 percent to ¥10,284.96.

News Wise

- **Departmental store sales** fell about 11.70 percent in July, compared with the like month in 2008, The Japan Department Stores Association claimed. The July statistics marked the 17th consecutive month of declining sales at Japanese-based, departmental stores.

This was the way that things looked on other Asian equity markets, last Tuesday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 0.84 percent to 20,306.27 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.75 percent to 619.79
Indonesia	Minus 2.09 percent to 2,336.99
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 0.07 percent to 949.66 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.16 percent to 10,284.96
Malaysia	Minus 0.40 percent to 1,164.41
The Philippines	Minus 1.43 percent to 2,731.55
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.40 percent to 2,910.88 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 1.31 percent to 968.39
Singapore	Plus 0.85 percent to 2,567.72
South Korea	Plus 0.21 percent to 1,550.24
Taiwan	Minus 2.05 percent to 6,789.77
Thailand	Plus 1.30 percent to 640.25

Wednesday

The price of crude oil on international commodity exchanges rose, materially, last Wednesday, following a report of declining stocks in the US.

According to the US Energy Information Administration, for the week, ended August 14, 2009, US stockpiles of crude oil were off by about 8.40 million barrels.

Imports of crude oil into the US dropped to their lowest levels since September 2008.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September came in at \$US72.42, a one-day rise of about 4.67 percent.

As for delivery in October, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US73.83, representing an increase on the closing level of Tuesday of about 3.85 percent.

Wall Street seemed to like the idea of higher, crude-oil prices because it meant, at least for the energy sector

of equity markets, higher profits, provided that prices remained high for an extended period of time.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose about 0.66 percent to 9,279.16 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ gained about 0.68 percent to close out the day at 1,969.24 points.

Trading, however, was relatively light.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.50:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.89:One on The NASDAQ.

Other than the increase in the price of crude oil, there was little else to commend the US equity markets of last Wednesday.

On European equity markets, investors in this part of the world were not as sure as their American counterparts that the higher price of crude oil was a good thing, at all.

The key indices of the most-important equity markets drifted for most of the trading day, resulting in fractional changes, being recorded, only, by supper-time:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.14 percent
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France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.01 percent
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Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.35 percent
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Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus 0.08 percent
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Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Minus 0.43 percent
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Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.45 percent
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Banks took a beating on European bourses as investors determined that banks and financials were far from being out of the financial woods and that, come the end of the year, the truth would be known.

In Asia, there was a decided negative ambiance on equity markets as key indices tumbled, following another bad day on the 2 stock markets of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, the key indices of the territory's 2 stock markets drifted lower.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index shed about 1.73 percent, dropping back to 19,954.23 points.

The Total Turnover dropped, also, falling to about \$HK64.41 billion.

The ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 2.78:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:
939)

Down 1.85 percent to \$HK5.83 per share

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

Down 0.94 percent to \$HK5.27 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 1.54 percent to \$HK81.55 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 1.48 percent to \$HK83.05 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Down 0.93 percent to \$HK32.05 per share

China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation
(Code: 386)

Up 1.21 percent to \$HK6.67 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Down 2.13 percent to \$HK3.68 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Down 1.95 percent to \$HK10.04 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388)

Down 1.18 percent to \$HK142.20 per share

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

Down 1.46 percent to \$HK60.65 per share

The biggest movers on this market included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Broad Intelligence International Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd	1149	15.50		0.67
Chaoyue Group Ltd	147	34.20		1.02
China Properties Investment Holdings Ltd	736		29.70	0.135
Co-Prosperity Holdings Ltd	707	20.30		0.355
CT Holdings (International) Ltd	1008	43.30		4.80
eForce Holdings Ltd	943		19.10	0.144
Kong Sun Holdings Ltd	295		33.30	0.074

National Investments Fund Ltd	1227		16.50	0.116
Poly Development Holdings Ltd	1141		35.80	0.385
Shenzhou International Group Holdings Ltd	2313	16.10		6.35
Superb Summit International Timber Company Ltd	1228		20.40	0.039
Takson Holdings Ltd	918	16.20		0.165
Theme International Holdings Ltd	990	152.20		0.87
Wonderful World Holdings Ltd	109	15.50		0.56

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 1.02 percent, ending the trading day at 613.50 points.

The Total Turnover on this market dropped back to about \$HK281.75 million.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 1.95:One.

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

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

Up 4.15 percent to \$HK21.35 per share

Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd
(Code: 8116)

Unchanged at \$HK0.33 per share

Byford International Ltd (Code: 8272)

Up 9.09 percent to \$HK0.60 per share

Richfield Group Holdings Ltd (Code: 8136)

Down 1.21 percent to \$HK0.41 per share

Honbridge Holdings Ltd (Code: 8137)

Up 7.27 percent to \$HK0.59 per share

The double-digit movers of The GEM included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Vanguard Group Ltd	8156		18.60	0.48
ePRO Ltd	8086		15.80	0.112
Era Holdings Global Ltd	8043	10.00		0.275

Launch Tech Company Ltd	8196		10.70	0.50
Ningbo Yidong Electronic Company Ltd	8249		16.40	0.092
Powerleader Science and Technology Group Ltd	8236	12.80		0.265
Sing Lee Software (Group) Ltd	8076	13.70		0.29
South China Land Ltd	8155		12.10	0.233
Sun International Group Ltd	8029	13.20		0.60

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange – which is the premier equity market of Japan – its TOPIX Index fell about 0.67 percent to 943.25 points.

Declining counters outran advancing ones by the ratio of about 2.36:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average lost about 0.79 percent to ¥10,204.00, exactly.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 1.73 percent to 19,954.23 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.02 percent to 613.50
Indonesia	Minus 2.53 percent to 2,277.75
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.67 percent to 943.25 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.79 percent to 10,204.00
Malaysia	Minus 0.76 percent to 1,155.53
The Philippines	Plus 1.07 percent to 2,760.89
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 4.30 percent to 2,785.58 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 4.86 percent to 921.32
Singapore	Minus 1.75 percent to 2,522.78
South Korea	Minus 0.28 percent to 1,545.96

Taiwan	Minus 0.02 percent to 6,788.58
Thailand	Minus 1.40 percent to 631.28

Thursday

A bounce-back on the 2 equity markets of the People's Republic of China (PRC) was thought to have been the catalyst that caused the key indices of many equity markets, around the world, to rise, last Thursday.

The Shanghai Composite Index regained about 4.52 percent of its past glory and the Shenzhen Composite Index rose about 3.82 percent.

On Wall Street, investors took the position that the PRC Government would continue to inject fresh capital into its economy and the resultant effects of those stimulus packages would have a cascading effect, internationally.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, the benchmark of The New York Stock Exchange, rose about 0.76 percent to 9,350.05 points and, over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index put on about 1.01 percent to end the day at 1,989.22 points.

Financial counters were said to have been among the biggest movers of the day ... for no apparent reason, as it turned out.

On The New York Stock Exchange and The NASDAQ, the ratio of gainers to losers was about 2.75:One and 1.89:One, respectively.

Trading, once again, was light.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September came in at \$US72.54, up about 0.17 percent.

As for delivery in October, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US72.91, representing a fall of about 1.25 percent, compared with the closing level of Wednesday.

Europe followed Wall Street's lead.

The key indices of the most-important bourses all rose, materially:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Plus 1.43 percent

France's CAC 40 Index Plus 1.59 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index Plus 1.51 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Plus 1.42 percent

Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share Plus 1.20 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Plus 0.85 percent

Scrip of energy and energy related counters continued to be in high demand in view of the continuing increases in the price of crude oil, the world's most important, single, strategic commodity.

In Asia, only the key indices of the stock markets of The Philippines and Taiwan did not rise.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, both equity markets reached for higher ground.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index improved by about 1.88 percent to 20,328.86 points on a substantially reduced Total Turnover of about \$HK57.23 billion.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 2.76:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.24 percent to \$HK82.85 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Unchanged at \$HK5.27 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Up 1.03 percent to \$HK5.89 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Up 3.45 percent to \$HK6.90 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 2.34 percent to \$HK32.80 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Up 2.99 percent to \$HK3.79 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 1.72 percent to \$HK82.95 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 2.72 percent to \$HK8.69 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Up 3.19 percent to \$HK10.36 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Up 1.97 percent to \$HK145.00 per share

The Main Board's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
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Alltronics Holdings Ltd	833	28.70		0.56
Automated Systems Holdings Ltd	771		15.60	2.17
Chaoyue Group Ltd	147	16.70		1.19
China Fortune Holdings Ltd	110	19.40		0.37
China HealthCare Holdings Ltd	673	16.70		0.35
International Elite Ltd	1328	22.00		1.00
Mingyuan Medicare Development Company Ltd	233	15.90		0.80
Pak Tak International Ltd	2668		18.20	0.27
Superb Summit International Timber Company Ltd	1228	23.10		0.048
Tomorrow International Holdings Ltd	760	21.80		0.67
World Houseware (Holdings) Ltd	713	15.60		0.185

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index put on about 0.82 percent, rising to 618.52 points.

The Total Turnover, also running at much-lower levels, these days, was about \$HK273.55 million.

Advancing counters outran declining ones by the ratio of about 1.64:One.

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

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

Down 2.11 percent to \$HK20.90 per share

Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd
(Code: 8116)

Unchanged at \$HK0.33 per share

Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)

Up 1.03 percent to \$HK11.82 per share

Heng Xin China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)

Up 12.86 percent to \$HK0.79 per share

China Vanguard Group Ltd (Code: 8156)

Up 10.42 percent to \$HK0.53 per share

As for The GEM's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Armitage Technologies Holding Ltd	8213		14.60	0.088
China Vanguard Group Ltd	8156	10.40		0.53
Crosby Capital Ltd	8088	17.50		0.222
Everpride Biopharmaceutical Company Ltd	8019	19.30		0.105
HC International Incorporated	8292		12.60	0.38
Heng Xin China Holdings Ltd	8046	12.90		0.79
Honbridge Holdings Ltd	8137	10.20		0.65
Jilin Province Huinan Changlong Bio-pharmacy Company Ltd	8049	10.30		0.32
Powerleader Science and Technology Group Ltd	8236	13.20		0.30
Shenzhen Mingwah Aohan High Technology Corporation Ltd	8301	26.00		0.31
South China Land Ltd	8155		14.60	0.199
Sun International Group Ltd	8029	16.70		0.70
Tianjin TEDA Biomedical Engineering Company Ltd	8189	13.70		0.54
Vinco Financial Group Ltd	8340		11.40	0.155
WLS Holdings Ltd	8021	10.70		0.217

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index gained about 1.63 percent to 958.59 points.

Gaining counters outran losing ones by the ratio of 4.80:One, exactly.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average put on 1.76 percent, ending the trading day at ¥10,383.41.

On other Asian equity markets, this was how their respective key indices fared last Thursday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 1.88 percent to 20,328.86 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.82 percent to 618.52
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Indonesia	Plus 2.23 percent to 2,328.64
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 1.63 percent to 958.59 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 1.76 percent to 10,383.41
Malaysia	Plus 0.68 percent to 1,163.43
The Philippines	Minus 1.47 percent to 2,720.18
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 4.52 percent to 2,911.58 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 3.82 percent to 956.52
Singapore	Plus 1.46 percent to 2,559.57
South Korea	Plus 1.97 percent to 1,576.39
Taiwan	Minus 0.82 percent to 6,733.23
Thailand	Plus 1.54 percent to 640.98

Friday

The Chairman of the US Federal Reserve informed the world that, in his view of things, the US economy is emerging out of the abyss of recession.

Speaking from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at the Annual Conference of The Fed, Dr Ben S. Bernanke said, inter alia:

‘The prospects for a return to growth in the near term appear good ... The economic recovery (of the US) is likely to be relatively slow at first, with unemployment, declining only gradually from high levels ... After contracting sharply over the past year, economic activity appears to be leveling out, both in the United States and abroad.’

However, not everybody agreed with the Chairman of The Fed.

The President of the European Central Bank, Mr Jean-Claude Trichet, expressed what may be considered grave concern at what he maintained was premature talk of a full economic recovery.

Be that as it may, from The (US) National Association of Realtors came the announcement that sales of previously owned homes in the US – those are old homes – rose about 7.20 percent in July, Year-On-Year, to an annual rate of 5.24 million units.

This is the fastest pace of recovery in this category of home in nearly 2 years.

However, distress home sales accounted for about 31 percent of the total number of July transactions, statistics indicated.

In addition, the real-estate gains were in respect of the cheapest category of homes; as the asking prices of homes rose, there were no gains in Month-On-Month or Year-On-Year bases, only negative figures.

In short, the July statistics may come to mean little or naught at the end of the day.

On Wall Street, there was a rush to buy stocks and shares lest supplies ran out ... or so it appeared to the crush of investors.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose about 1.67 percent to 9,505.96 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ managed a gain of about 1.59 percent, ending the trading day at 2,020.90 points.

Gaining counters outnumbered losing ones by the ratio of about 4.00:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 2.86:One on The NASDAQ.

The tally for the week for the world's largest and most-important equity markets was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average	Plus	1.98 percent
The Composite Index of The NASDAQ	Plus	1.78 percent

On the major bourses of Europe, investors followed the charge on Wall Street and jumped in, boots and all, fearful that the Wall Street '*bus*' would leave the terminus without them on board.

The key indices of every equity market of eurozone rose, spectacularly, no doubt helping to drive away the fears that lingered earlier in the week.

The scrip of banks and finance companies were the early gainers in Europe, with energy and energy related companies, bringing up the rear.

This was how the key indices of major European bourses fared, last Friday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	2.21 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	3.15 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	2.85 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	1.98 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Plus	2.25 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	1.78 percent

On international commodity exchanges, the price of crude oil rose, in tandem to Wall Street's steep rise.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in October came in at \$US73.89, representing a one-day gain of about 1.34 percent.

October became the front month, last Friday, September futures contracts, having expired.

For delivery in November, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US74.82.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key benchmark index of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd lost ground to the bears of the market.

By the close of last Friday's trading day, The Hang Seng Index had fallen back by about 0.64 percent to 20,199.02 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK60.16 billion, while the ratio of declining counters to gaining ones was about 1.42:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 3.44 percent to \$HK80.00 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Down 0.57 percent to \$HK5.24 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.30 percent to \$HK82.70 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 0.85 percent to \$HK5.84 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Up 0.29 percent to \$HK6.92 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 0.76 percent to \$HK32.55 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Down 0.79 percent to \$HK3.76 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 1.04 percent to \$HK8.60 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 0.39 percent to \$HK10.32 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Down 0.76 percent to \$HK143.90 per share

The Main Board's biggest movers of the day were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Automated Systems Holdings Ltd	771		15.70	1.83
Chaoyue Group Ltd	147	25.20		1.49
First Mobile Group Holdings Ltd	865	28.00		0.315
Forefront Group Ltd	885	15.30		0.128
G-Prop (Holdings) Ltd	286	22.80		0.35
Karce International Holdings Company Ltd	1159	15.20		0.174
Proview International Holdings Ltd	334	15.00		0.345
South East Group Ltd	726	18.20		0.39
Theme International Holdings Ltd	990	43.60		1.12
Wonderful World Holdings Ltd	109	20.40		0.65
Wonson International Holdings Ltd	651	22.60		0.65
Zhongtian International Ltd	2379	19.60		1.10

Over on The **Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM)** of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gained about 1.04 percent, rising to 624.97 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK277.99 million, while the ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 1.04:One.

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

Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)

Up 3.89 percent to \$HK12.28 per share

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)

Unchanged at \$HK0.50 per share

Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd
(Code: 8116)

Unchanged at \$HK0.33 per share

Heng Xin China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)

Down 5.06 percent to \$HK0.75 per share

Kaisun Energy Group Ltd (Code: 8203)

Up 9.59 percent to \$HK0.80 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China E-Learning Group Ltd	8055	10.40		0.17
FAVA International Holdings Ltd	8108		10.40	0.138
Ming Kei Energy Holdings Ltd	8239		15.30	0.061
Mobile Telecom Network (Holdings) Ltd	8266	15.30		0.173
Powerleader Science and Technology Group Ltd	8236		10.00	0.27
Seamless Green China (Holdings) Ltd	8150		11.00	0.325
Sun International Group Ltd	8029	11.40		0.78
TeleEye Holdings Ltd	8051	12.90		0.219
Vertex Group Ltd	8228	13.40		0.093

The tally for the week for the second, most-important equity market of Asia was:

The Hang Seng Index	Minus 3.32 percent
The Growth Enterprise Index	Minus 3.29 percent

The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is the premier equity market of Japan, its TOPIX Index surrendered about 1.17 percent, dropping back to 947.34 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 3.41:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average shed about 1.40 percent, coming to rest at ¥10,238.20.

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

The TOPIX Index	Minus 2.69 percent
The Nikkei-225 Stock Average	Minus 3.39 percent

This was how other Asian equity markets fared, last Friday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.64 percent to 20,199.02 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 1.04 percent to 624.97
Indonesia	Plus 0.23 percent to 2,333.90

Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 1.17 percent to 947.34 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 1.40 percent to 10,238.20
Malaysia	Plus 0.03 percent to 1,163.79
The Philippines	Closed
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.69 percent to 2,960.77 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 2.45 percent to 979.99
Singapore	Minus 0.57 percent to 2,544.86
South Korea	Plus 0.29 percent to 1,580.98
Taiwan	Minus 1.16 percent to 6,654.80
Thailand	Plus 0.57 percent to 644.63

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