

**U.S. ECONOMIC RECOVERY LOOKS TO BE ANAEMIC –
STOCK MARKET INDICES SLIDE**

There, certainly, was no shortage of news, last Monday:

- The price of crude oil slumped a little more than 3 percent; and,
- 2 more US banks had been closed.

Investors, locked into stocks and shares on Wall Street, were not amused.

With regard to the US banking industry, The **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)**, the department of the US Government that is in control of the banking industry in the country, shut down Irwin Union Bank and Trust Company of Columbus, Indiana, and Irwin Union Bank F.S.B. of Louisville, Kentucky.

Both banks were owned by Irwin Financial Corporation, a bank holding company with a history that may be traced back to 1871.

The closure of these 2 banks will cost the FDIC about \$US850 million.

The number of US banks that have failed since January 1, 2009, now stands at 94.

On international commodity exchanges, the price of crude oil slumped, materially.

The falls in the price of crude oil followed a report by The Centre for Global Energy Studies which maintains that the present prices for this strategic commodity are unsustainable due to the fact that the demand for crude oil does not warrant present price levels.

The Centre said:

‘There will be little or no sustained upward pressure on oil prices until global economic recovery is firmly established and reviving oil demand begins to draw down bulging oil inventories ...

‘Even next year, prices are unlikely to rise much unless clear signals emerge that the world is pulling out of recession in a sustainable fashion ...’.

On The **New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX)**, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in October fell to \$US69.71, down about 3.23 percent, compared with the closing level of Friday, September 18, 2009.

As for delivery in November, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US69.93, representing a fall of about 3.53 percent on the final quote of the previous Friday.

Hurt by the news of the demise of 2 more US banks and the drop, worldwide, in the price of crude oil, investors on Wall Street were not exactly jumping with joy.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average slumped 41.34 points, or about 0.42

percent, ending the light trading day at 9,778.86 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index managed a gain of 5.18 points, equivalent to about 0.24 percent, ending the trading day at 2,138.04 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 2.00:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.17:One on The NASDAQ.

On European equity markets, every key index of every major bourse lost traction as the following **TARGET** () list illustrates:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.73 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.40 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.61 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.74 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Minus 1.86 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 0.29 percent

In this part of the world, the weak oil markets and news about 2 more banks in the US, having failed, took the wind out of the sails of many investors.

The price of banking counters was among the hardest to feel the pressure.

In Asia, exactly half of the equity markets in the region were closed for national holidays.

Of the 5 equity markets that were trading, only the 2 equity markets of the People's Republic of China (PRC) made any gains, and those gains were only of fractions, at that.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, the territory's 2 stock markets lost ground.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the benchmark index, known as The Hang Seng Index, shed about 0.70 percent, ending the trading day at 21,472.85 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK57.50 billion, while the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 3.06:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.58 percent to \$HK78.40 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.27 percent to \$HK90.95 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)

Up 0.15 percent to \$HK6.49 per share

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

Down 2.27 percent to \$HK6.02 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Down 1.80 percent to \$HK35.45 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Down 3.16 percent to \$HK4.29 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Down 0.74 percent to \$HK10.74 per share

Kingboard Laminates Holdings Ltd (Code: 1888)

Down 8.46 percent to \$HK4.98 per share

BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)

Up 1.74 percent to \$HK17.54 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Down 0.64 percent to \$HK9.25 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
ABC Communications (Holdings) Ltd	30	16.40		2.56
Applied Development Holdings Ltd	519		15.30	0.25
APT Satellite Holdings Ltd	1045	69.60		1.95
Jackin International Holdings Ltd	630	25.80		0.61
Lung Cheong International Holdings Ltd	348	27.10		0.23
Minmetals Land Ltd	230	16.00		2.17
Yueshou Environmental Holdings Ltd	1191	16.00		0.181

On The **Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM)** of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 0.54 percent, dropping back to 656.80 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK491.14 million.

Declining counters outran advancing ones by the ratio of 1.22:One, exactly.

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

Sino-Life Group Ltd (Code: 8296)

Down 6.25 percent to \$HK2.25 per share

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

Down 12.50 percent to \$HK0.35 per share

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

Up 0.20 percent to \$HK25.45 per share

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)

Down 5.00 percent to \$HK0.57 per share

Cardlink Technology Group Ltd (Code: 8066)

Up 3.16 percent to \$HK1.96 per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Capinfo Company Ltd	8157	21.10		0.345
CIG Yangtze Ports PLC	8233	10.20		0.151
Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd	8116		12.50	0.35
Sanmenxia Tianyuan Aluminum Company Ltd	8253	19.70		0.455
Shanghai Fudan Microelectronics Company Ltd	8102	26.70		0.95
Sonavox International Holdings Ltd	8226	75.60		0.395

All equity markets of Japan were closed for a national holiday.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.70 percent to 21,472.85 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.54 percent to 656.80
Indonesia	Closed
Japan	TOPIX Index Closed Nikkei-225 Stock Average Closed

Malaysia	Closed
The Philippines	Closed
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.15 percent to 2,967.01 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.90 percent to 1,039.33
Singapore	Closed
South Korea	Minus 0.25 percent to 1,695.50
Taiwan	Minus 0.32 percent to 7,502.46
Thailand	Minus 0.07 percent to 713.16

Tuesday

Whether or not it was widespread speculation, one may never know, but it was fact that the price of crude oil on international commodity exchanges recovered about 80 percent of Monday's losses.

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 \$US71.55, representing a gain on the final quote of Monday of about 2.64 percent.

As for delivery in November, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US71.76, equivalent to an improvement of about 2.62 percent on the last settlement of Monday.

On Wall Street, for the most part, investors sat on their hands, awaiting the determination of the US Federal Reserve which convened a 2-day, Open Market Committee Meeting on Tuesday.

At this meeting, it was well expected that The Fed would consider what action it would take, if any, with regard to interest rates in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave.

The Fed was due to make an announcement early on Wednesday afternoon.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained about 0.52 percent, limping up to 9,829.87 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index put on about 0.39 percent as investors nudged it up to 2,146.30 points.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 2.50:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.25:One on The NASDAQ.

Trading was described as having been moderate.

On equity markets in Europe, all of the key indices of every important bourse made gains, but they were of small fractions, for the most part:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	0.44 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	0.29 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	0.71 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.16 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Plus	0.16 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	0.54 percent

As with Wall Street investors, in Europe, things were on hold, awaiting the determination of The Fed.

In Asia, 3 equity markets of the 10 major equity markets of the region remained closed for public holidays and, of the remaining 7 equity markets, the key indices of 3 of their number declined.

The 2 equity markets of the People's Republic of China (PRC) led the losers.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, both stock markets made useful gains.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index rose about 1.06 percent to 21,701.14 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK49.95 billion, while the ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 1.45:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 2.42 percent to \$HK80.30 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 1.97 percent to \$HK36.15 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.88 percent to \$HK91.75 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 0.46 percent to \$HK6.46 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Up 1.50 percent to \$HK6.11 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Up 0.93 percent to \$HK4.33 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Up 0.93 percent to \$HK10.84 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Up 1.41 percent to \$HK9.38 per share

BYD Company Ltd (Code: 1211)

Up 1.85 percent to \$HK68.75 per share

Esprit Holdings Ltd (Code: 330)

Up 3.87 percent to \$HK53.70 per share

The biggest, Main Board movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Addchance Holdings Ltd	3344	40.20		1.50
APT Satellite Holdings Ltd	1045		15.90	1.64
Berjaya Holdings (Hongkong) Ltd	288	27.60		0.74
China Jin Hui Mining Corporation Ltd	462	15.70		0.81
Global Flex Holdings Ltd	471	25.50		0.128
Heritage International Holdings Ltd	412		30.60	0.59
Premium Land Ltd	164	80.00		0.99
VST Holdings Ltd	856	18.00		1.57
Yeebo (International Holdings) Ltd	259	24.00		0.62

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index rose about 0.70 percent to 661.41 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK346.55 million.

Advancing counters outpaced declining ones by the ratio of 1.17:One, exactly.

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

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)

Up 10.53 percent to \$HK0.63 per share

Sino-Life Group Ltd (Code: 8296)

Down 2.22 percent to \$HK2.20 per share

China Nonferrous Metals Company Ltd (Code:

Up 3.39 percent to \$HK0.305 per share

8306)

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

Up 2.86 percent to \$HK0.36 per share

Computech Holdings Ltd (Code: 8081)

Up 11.83 percent to \$HK1.89 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asian Capital Resources (Holdings) Ltd	8025	18.50		0.77
Binhai Investment Company Ltd	8035	10.50		0.63
China E-Learning Group Ltd	8055		11.40	0.093
China Electric Power Technology Holdings Ltd	8053	12.70		0.275
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081	11.80		1.89
Longlife Group Holdings Ltd	8037	12.40		0.20
Sanmenxia Tianyuan Aluminum Company Ltd	8253	21.00		0.265
Sonavox International Holdings Ltd	8226		29.10	0.28
UURG Corporation Ltd	8192	23.60		0.241
Venturepharm Laboratories Ltd	8225	16.70		0.56
Xi'an Haitian Antenna Technologies Company Ltd	8227		12.10	0.211

All equity markets in Japan remained closed for a national holiday.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 1.06 percent to 21,701.14 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.70 percent to 661.41
Indonesia	Closed

Japan	TOPIX Index Closed Nikkei-225 Stock Average Closed
Malaysia	Closed
The Philippines	Minus 0.16 percent to 2,784.78
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 2.34 percent to 2,897.55 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 2.15 percent to 1,016.97
Singapore	Plus 1.42 percent to 2,685.63
South Korea	Plus 1.38 percent to 1,718.88
Taiwan	Minus 0.45 percent to 7,469.03
Thailand	Plus 1.57 percent to 724.37

Wednesday

The US Federal Reserve, as widely expected, kept interest rates unchanged at close to zero percent.

However, The Fed, also, by innuendo, suggested that the days of US Government's financial assistance may soon be coming to an end.

And it was this innuendo that took the wind out of the sails of many investors.

The following is a verbatim transcript of The Fed's Statement of last Wednesday afternoon:

'Information received since the Federal Open Market Committee met in August suggests that economic activity has picked up following its severe downturn. Conditions in financial markets have improved further, and activity in the housing sector has increased. Household spending seems to be stabilizing, but remains constrained by ongoing job losses, sluggish income growth, lower housing wealth, and tight credit. Businesses are still cutting back on fixed investment and staffing, though at a slower pace; they continue to make progress in bringing inventory stocks into better alignment with sales. Although economic activity is likely to remain weak for a time, the Committee anticipates that policy actions to stabilize financial markets and institutions, fiscal and monetary stimulus, and market forces will support a strengthening of economic growth and a gradual return to higher levels of resource utilization in a context of price stability.'

'With substantial resource slack likely to continue to dampen cost pressures and with longer-term inflation expectations stable, the Committee expects that inflation will remain subdued for some time.'

'In these circumstances, the Federal Reserve will continue to employ a wide range of tools to

promote economic recovery and to preserve price stability. The Committee will maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 0 to 1/4 percent and continues to anticipate that economic conditions are likely to warrant exceptionally low levels of the federal funds rate for an extended period. To provide support to mortgage lending and housing markets and to improve overall conditions in private credit markets, the Federal Reserve will purchase a total of \$1.25 trillion of agency mortgage-backed securities and up to \$200 billion of agency debt. The Committee will gradually slow the pace of these purchases in order to promote a smooth transition in markets and anticipates that they will be executed by the end of the first quarter of 2010. As previously announced, the Federal Reserve's purchases of \$300 billion of Treasury securities will be completed by the end of October 2009. The Committee will continue to evaluate the timing and overall amounts of its purchases of securities in light of the evolving economic outlook and conditions in financial markets. The Federal Reserve is monitoring the size and composition of its balance sheet and will make adjustments to its credit and liquidity programs as warranted.

'Voting for the FOMC monetary policy action were: Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman; William C. Dudley, Vice Chairman; Elizabeth A. Duke; Charles L. Evans; Donald L. Kohn; Jeffrey M. Lacker; Dennis P. Lockhart; Daniel K. Tarullo; Kevin M. Warsh; and Janet L. Yellen.'

On Wall Street, the key indices of US equity markets fell back.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed about 0.83 percent, ending the moderate trading day at 9,748.55 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ gave up about 0.69 percent, dropping to 2,131.42 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.80:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.60:One on The NASDAQ.

Banking counters and energy and energy related counters were among the worst hit on both stock markets, but housing stocks did not get off shot-free, also.

News Wise

- On international **foreign-exchange** markets (**FOREX**), the translation value of the **US dollar** fell to a one-year low against the euro: \$US1.4840; and,
- The Bureau of Labour Statistics, a branch of the US Government's Labour Department, announced that **mass layoffs** in August numbered 2,690 incidents, resulting in 259,307 workers, seasonally adjusted, filing for US Government unemployment insurance benefits. (A mass layoff is defined as a single employer, sacking at least 50 employees.) Compared with July's statistics, the August figures represented an increase of 533 incidents. During the 21 months from December 2007 to August 2009, the number of initial unemployment claims filed, seasonally adjusted in those events, was 4,556,636.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (**NYMEX**), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in November was \$US68.97, down about 3.89 percent on Tuesday's close.

<p>Last Tuesday was the last day of trading in October oil futures contracts. On Wednesday, November became the lead month.</p>

For delivery in December, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US69.51.

On European bourses, investors were eagerly awaiting the determination of The Fed and, as such, trading was fairly lifeless:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus 0.20 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.04 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.12 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.06 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Plus 0.64 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.14 percent

With the price of crude oil, falling rapidly on international commodity exchanges, energy and energy related counters were fair game for investors as they sold out part of their shareholdings for fear that more price erosions were on the cards.

In Asia, investors were in a decidedly bearish mood.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), losses in respect of the key indices of both equity markets were held to fractions, only, unlike the 2 equity markets of the PRC, proper, being distinct and separate from the HKSAR, where the losses in their key indices were very material. (Please see table below)

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index shed about 0.49 percent, dropping back to 21,595.52 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK58.54 billion, while the ratio of losers to gainers was about 1.93:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

Sinopharm Group Company Ltd (Code: 1099)	\$HK18.52 per share*
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.75 percent to \$HK80.90 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 1.52 percent to \$HK35.60 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 0.11 percent to \$HK9.39 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Down 0.82 percent to \$HK6.06 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 0.77 percent to \$HK6.41 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 1.04 percent to \$HK90.80 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Down 0.18 percent to \$HK10.82 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Down 1.15 percent to \$HK4.28 per share

China Telecom Corporation Ltd (Code: 728)

Down 1.30 percent to \$HK3.79 per share

* First Day of Trading

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
361 Degrees International Ltd	1361	18.70		4.00
China Mandarin Holdings Ltd	9	17.70		0.226
Geely Automobile Holdings Ltd	175	19.00		2.13
Good Friend International Holdings Incorporated	2398	33.30		1.60
Jackin International Holdings Ltd	630	19.30		0.68
Wo Kee Hong (Holdings) Ltd	720	34.00		0.67

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index shed about 0.56 percent to 657.68 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK319.77 million.

The ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.46:One.

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

Sino-Life Group Ltd (Code: 8296)

Down 8.18 percent to \$HK2.02 per share

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)

Down 4.76 percent to \$HK0.60 per share

B.A.L. Holdings Ltd (Code: 8079)

Up 11.36 percent to \$HK1.47 per share

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

Down 2.78 percent to \$HK0.35 per share

Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd (Code:
8182)

Up 4.05 percent to \$HK0.77 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
B.A.L. Holdings Ltd	8079	11.40		1.47
FlexSystem Holdings Ltd	8050		10.30	0.218
Jiangsu NandaSoft Technology Company Ltd	8045	15.70		0.295
Jilin Province Huinan Changlong Bio-pharmacy Company Ltd	8049	16.90		0.38
Ming Kei Energy Holdings Ltd	8239		11.40	0.07
Northeast Tiger Pharmaceutical Company Ltd	8197	10.40		0.117
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026	12.50		0.315
Sanmenxia Tianyuan Aluminum Company Ltd	8253		14.70	0.226
Sau San Tong Holdings Ltd	8200		15.20	0.028
Sing Lee Software (Group) Ltd	8076	22.90		0.295
UURG Corporation Ltd	8192		13.30	0.209

The equity markets of Japan stayed closed, last Wednesday.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.49 percent to 21,595.52 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.56 percent to 657.68
Indonesia	Closed
Japan	TOPIX Index Closed Nikkei-225 Stock Average Closed
Malaysia	Minus 0.17 percent to 1,219.07

The Philippines	Plus 2.07 percent to 2,842.51
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 1.89 percent to 2,842.72 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 2.88 percent to 987.66
Singapore	Plus 0.01 percent to 2,685.94
South Korea	Minus 0.43 percent to 1,711.47
Taiwan	Minus 1.24 percent to 7,376.76
Thailand	Plus 0.85 percent to 730.52

Thursday

The price of crude oil fell by more than 4 percent on international commodity exchanges, last Thursday, after it was revealed that inventories of crude oil and distillates in the US were running at very high levels.

In addition, confirmation that sales of existing home sales in the US were on the wane, once again, was yet a further indication that demand for crude oil in the near term was unlikely to be in strong demand.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in November came in at \$US65.89, down about 4.47 percent on Wednesday's closing level.

As for delivery in December, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US66.38, off about 4.50 percent, compared with Wednesday's final quote.

On Wall Street, the bulls had a very tough time of it.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, the key index of The New York Stock Exchange, shed about 0.42 percent, dropping back to 9,707.44 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ gave up about 1.12 percent, ending the trading day at 2,107.61 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 3.50:One on both equity markets.

News Wise

- **The National Association of Realtors** (of the US) said that sales of existing homes in the country fell by about 2.70 percent in August, Year-On-Year, to an annual rate of about 5.10 million units. The average price of houses fell by about 12.50 percent, Year-On-Year; and,
- The US Labour Department announced that new claims for **unemployment benefits** fell by about 21,000 for the week, ended Friday, September 18, 2009.

In Europe, investors, noting that which was taking place on Wall Street, offloaded some of their holdings on

major bourses, knocking down key indices, quite materially:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 1.54 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 1.65 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 1.69 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 1.16 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Minus 1.11 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 1.17 percent

Investors, in this part of the world, had been given to believe that things were on the mend in the US, but the reports from the US Labour Department and The National Association of Realtors put a new complexion on the US economy.

News Wise

- The largest motor-vehicle producer in Russia, **AvtoVAZ**, also known as **VAZ, Volzhsky Avtomobilny Zavod**, will sack not less than 27,600 workers. That is more than 25 percent of the company's existing Establishment Level. VAZ, Volzhsky Avtomobilny Zavod is the producer of the very popular motor car in Russia, Lada.

In Asia, the bearish mood continued on equity markets.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), both of the territory's 2 stock markets took material hits as investors offloaded stocks and shares.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index, the benchmark of the premier equity market, known as the Main Board, surrendered about 2.52 percent, dropping to 21,050.73 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK78.69 billion, while the ratio of losers to gainers was wide, at 3.76:One, exactly.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

Metallurgical Corporation of China Ltd (Code:
1618)

\$HK5.61 per share*

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 2.53 percent to \$HK78.85 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)

Down 2.96 percent to \$HK6.22 per share

Sinopharm Group Company Ltd (Code: 1099)

Up 7.88 percent to \$HK19.98 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 2.31 percent to \$HK88.70 per share

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

Down 2.81 percent to \$HK5.89 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Down 3.23 percent to \$HK34.45 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Down 3.97 percent to \$HK4.11 per share

China Everbright International Ltd (Code: 257)

Up 1.87 percent to \$HK3.26 per share

China Shanshui Cement Group Ltd (Code: 691)

Down 2.65 percent to \$HK5.50 per share

* First Day of Trading

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Yunnan Tin Minerals Group Company Ltd	263	18.40		0.187
Great China Holdings Ltd	141	21.20		0.80
Hembly International Holdings Ltd	3989	83.70		1.80
HyComm Wireless Ltd	499	17.20		1.16
Jackin International Holdings Ltd	630	22.10		0.83
Raymond Industrial Ltd	229		15.50	0.60
Sino-Tech International Holdings Ltd	724	15.80		0.44
Sun East Technology (Holdings) Ltd	365		15.10	0.203
Sun Innovation Holdings Ltd	547	22.10		0.221
Yun Sky Chemical (International) Holdings Ltd	663		25.60	0.151

Over on The **Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM)** of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its lone index, the Growth Enterprise Index, gave up about 1.47 percent to end the trading day at 648.00, exactly.

The volume of activity on this market was about \$HK305.21 million.

Declining counters outnumbered advancing ones by the wide ratio of about 3.64:One.

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

Sino-Life Group Ltd (Code: 8296)

Down 5.45 percent to \$HK1.91 per share

B.A.L. Holdings Ltd (Code: 8079)

Up 0.68 percent to \$HK1.48 per share

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)

Down 5.00 percent to \$HK0.57 per share

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

Down 0.97 percent to \$HK25.50 per share

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

Down 2.86 percent to \$HK0.34 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Changmao Biochemical Engineering Company Ltd	8208	21.60		1.24
China Electric Power Technology Holdings Ltd	8053		12.60	0.236
Sau San Tong Holdings Ltd	8200		10.70	0.025
Shanghai Fudan-Zhangjiang Bio-Pharmaceutical Company Ltd	8231	12.70		0.71
UURG Corporation Ltd	8192		15.80	0.176
Vertex Group Ltd	8228		10.10	0.08

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is the premier equity market of Japan, The TOPIX Index rose about 1.15 percent to 950.20 points, compared with the close for the trading week, ended September 18, 2009.

It was the first day of trading in stocks and shares in Japan, Monday to Wednesday, having been public holidays.

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, gained ¥173.68, surging to ¥10,544.22, an increase, compared with the close of trading on Friday, September 18, 2009, of about 1.67 percent.

News Wise

- **Aiful Corporation**, the second-largest lender to consumers in the country, announced that it would be

sacking about 2,000 of its workers. The company, also, stated that it was expecting to suffer a Loss Attributable to Shareholders for the Current Financial Year, ending March 31, 2010, of about ¥311 billion; and,

- **Japan Airlines International Company Ltd (JAL)** confirmed that it has asked the Government for a bail-out.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 2.52 percent to 21,050.73 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.47 percent to 648.00
Indonesia	Plus 0.48 percent to 2,468.90
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 1.15 percent to 950.20 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 1.67 percent to 10,544.22
Malaysia	Minus 0.08 percent to 1,218.06
The Philippines	Minus 0.18 percent to 2,837.34
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.38 percent to 2,853.55 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 0.44 percent to 983.32
Singapore	Minus 0.69 percent to 2,667.43
South Korea	Minus 1.03 percent to 1,693.88
Taiwan	Minus 0.71 percent to 7,324.22
Thailand	Minus 0.27 percent to 728.54

Friday

Stock and share prices retreated on the world's largest equity markets, last Friday.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average sagged about 0.44 percent to 9,665.19 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed about 0.79 percent to 2,090.92 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.20:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.33:One on The NASDAQ.

Trading was described as having been moderate.

There was a number of reasons for the widespread pessimism on the world's largest equity markets, last Friday, 3 of those reasons were:

1. A fall in US orders for durable goods;
2. Weaker than expected new, US home sales; and,
3. Disappointing financial projections from the maker of BlackBerry devices.

From The US Commerce Department, it was announced that order for durable goods – goods with an expected life of 3 years or more – fell in August by about 2.40 percent, Year-On-Year, after rising about 4.80 percent in July.

Not since January had there been a decline of this magnitude.

The Commerce Department, also, announced that August sales of new homes in the US fell about 3.40 percent, Year-On-Year, with the median sale price of a home, dropping about 11.70 percent to \$US195,200.

The median-sale price is the lowest since October 2003.

Lastly, from the Canadian company, Research In Motion Ltd, listed on The NASDAQ, came the news that its financial results were not good, at all – and are likely to get worse as the year winds to a halt.

Its share price fell a little more than 17 percent as a direct result.

For investors on Wall Street, the situation did not appear to be one of optimism in the near or foreseeable future.

The tally for the largest and most-influential equity markets of the world for the week, ended September 25, 2009, was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average	Minus 1.58 percent
The Composite Index of The NASDAQ	Minus 1.97 percent

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in November came in at \$US66.02, up about 0.20 percent on the final quote of Thursday.

As for delivery in December, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US66.42, up about 0.06 percent on the day.

On European equity markets, their respective key indices, for the most part, fell back.

Noting what was happening on Wall Street, investors in this part of the world struggled to adopt a defensive posture.

Banks were hit among the hardest, followed by energy and energy related counters.

This was how the situation looked on the major bourses, last Friday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.93 percent
-----------------------	--------------------

France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.51 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.42 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus 0.05 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Plus 0.62 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 0.61 percent

In Asia, the bearishness continued, unabated.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the volume of activity waned on both stock markets.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index shed about 0.13 percent to 21,024.40 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK56.41 billion.

The ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.66:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

Metallurgical Corporation of China Ltd (Code: 1618)	Up 1.25 percent to \$HK5.68 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.70 percent to \$HK78.30 per share
Sinopharm Group Company Ltd (Code: 1099)	Up 0.10 percent to \$HK20.00 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.73 percent to \$HK88.05 per share
Real Gold Mining Ltd (Code: 246)	Down 13.19 percent to \$HK9.81 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 0.44 percent to \$HK34.60 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Unchanged at \$HK4.11 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Up 0.32 percent to \$HK6.24 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Up 0.51 percent to \$HK5.92 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 0.57 percent to \$HK10.38 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Railsmedia Corporation Ltd	745	18.10		0.183
CVM Minerals Ltd	705	23.90		2.54
Golden Harvest Entertainment (Holdings) Ltd	1132	15.70		4.65
Huscoke Resources Holdings Ltd	704	19.50		0.49
Jolimark Holdings Ltd	2028	16.70		0.56
Kasen International Holdings Ltd	496	18.30		1.49
Nam Hing Holdings Ltd	986	27.50		0.65
Shun Cheong Holdings Ltd	650	18.20		0.52
Sun Innovation Holdings Ltd	547	15.40		0.255
Yun Sky Chemical (International) Holdings Ltd	663	23.80		0.187

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index put on about 0.44 percent, ending the trading week at 650.84 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK362.79 million, while the ratio of gainers to losers was about 1.27:One.

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

Sino-Life Group Ltd (Code: 8296)

Up 7.85 percent to \$HK2.06 per share

Core Healthcare Investment Holdings Ltd (Code: 8250)

Up 3.51 percent to \$HK0.177 per share

B.A.L. Holdings Ltd (Code: 8079)

Down 10.14 percent to \$HK1.33 per share

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

Up 0.20 percent to \$HK25.55 per share

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

Down 2.94 percent to \$HK0.33 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
B.A.L. Holdings Ltd	8079		10.10	1.33
Changmao Biochemical Engineering Company Ltd	8208		11.30	1.10
China Chief Cable TV Group Ltd	8153	18.50		0.385
Golife Concepts Holdings Ltd	8172	11.40		0.098
Seamless Green China (Holdings) Ltd	8150		14.90	0.08
Venturepharm Laboratories Ltd	8225	10.00		0.55

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

The Hang Seng Index Minus 2.77 percent

The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.44 percent

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index shed about 2.90 percent to 922.67 points.

Declining counters outpaced advancing ones by the ratio of about 7.82:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average shed about 2.64 percent.

This was how things panned out on other Asian equity markets, last Friday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.125 percent to 21,024.40 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.438 percent to 650.84
Indonesia	Minus 0.98 percent to 2,444.58
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 2.90 percent to 922.67 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 2.64 percent to 10,265.98
Malaysia	Minus 0.06 percent to 1,217.39
The Philippines	Minus 0.56 percent to 2,821.34

The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 0.52 percent to 2,838.84 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 0.66 percent to 976.80
Singapore	Minus 0.17 percent to 2,662.82
South Korea	Minus 0.14 percent to 1,691.48
Taiwan	Plus 0.29 percent to 7,345.22
Thailand	Minus 0.96 percent to 721.57

**Due To 2 Holidays That Fall This Week –
The National Day Of The PRC and
the Mid-Autumn Festival –
This Will Be The Last Stock-Market Report
To Be Published By TARGET Until Monday, October 12, 2009.**

-- 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.***

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which
they have read in **TARGET**, please feel free to e-mail your views to
editor@targetnewspapers.com. **TARGET** does not guarantee to publish
readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*

