

INVESTORS' BLOOD SPILLED ON EQUITY MARKETS

The matter of the \$US14.30 trillion debt, owed by the United States of America, took centre stage, last Monday, with nobody, appearing to have a viable plan that would be acceptable to all lawmakers in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave.

Republicans and Democrats both launched their new plans, aimed at cutting the country's deficit, but neither of the plans would have raised the badly needed revenue to keep the creditor wolves away from the door of the White House.

The US Government risks default if a compromise agreement cannot be found to raise the borrowing limit by Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

On Wall Street, the uncertainty with regard to the problems on Capitol Hill took its toll of investor confidence.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 88.36 points, equivalent to about 0.70 percent, as investors pulled it back to 12,592.80 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed 16.03 points, or about 0.56 percent, ending the very light trading day at 2,842.80 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones on The New York Stock Exchange and The NASDAQ was about 4.00:One and 3.33:One, respectfully.

The volume of activity on the world's largest equity markets was equivalent to about 71 percent of the average daily turnover of 2010.

News Wise

- **Research In Motion Ltd (RIM)** announced that it would be sacking about **2,000 workers** in Canada. RIM is the producer of the smartphone, known as BlackBerry. The announcement means that about 11 percent of its RIM's total workforce will be walking the streets of the US and Canada, looking for alternative employment. Since the beginning of 2011, RIM's share price has fallen by about 50 percent.

On European bourses, most of the key indices of the major equity markets lost traction.

European investors are still not certain that the worst of their problems has been relegated to history.

On the streets of Spain, Portugal and Greece, protests continued; and, concern was being expressed in many circles about the financial health of Italy, the European nation, most exposed to Greek debts.

The economy of Italy is far too big to be saved, it is being conjectured.

This was how the key indices of **TARGET's** select list of the most-important equity markets of Europe ended their respective trading days, last Monday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Minus 0.39 percent

France's CAC 40 Index Minus 0.77 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index Plus 0.24 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Minus 0.16 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Minus 2.23 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 0.23 percent

News Wise

- Moody's Corporation, the credit-rating agency, has cut the credit rating of **Greece** from Caa1 to Ca. This is just 2 notches above a default rating.

Currencies

Currency	Last	High	Low	Change	Bid	Ask
EUR/USD	1.4369	1.4383	1.4361	-0.03%	1.4369	1.4374
GBP/USD	1.6275	1.6286	1.6269	-0.01%	1.6275	1.6279
USD/JPY	78.320	78.380	78.260	+0.08%	78.320	78.380
USD/CHF	0.80560	0.80680	0.80510	-0.04%	0.80560	0.80610
USD/CAD	0.94670	0.94740	0.94670	-0.02%	0.94670	0.94720
>AUD/USD	1.0834	1.0851	1.0825	-0.07%	1.0834	1.0839

On The **New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX)**, which is the largest commodity exchange in the world, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September came in at \$US99.20, down about 0.67 percent on the final quote of Friday, July 22, 2011.

As for delivery in October, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US99.60, representing a price-fall of about 0.60 percent, compared with the closing level of the previous Friday.

On Asian equity markets, the mood was generally bearish.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key indices of the territory's 2 stock markets gave up ground, but it was on the speculative, second-tier market that the most damage was done.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index, which is the

benchmark index of this market, gave up about 0.68 percent, dropping back to 22,293.29 points.

The Total Turnover dipped to about \$HK58.63 billion.

Declining counters outpaced advancing ones by the ratio of about 2.56:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 1.96 percent to \$HK88.65 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 2.91 percent to \$HK11.34 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 1.15 percent to \$HK17.12 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 1.10 percent to \$HK76.75 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 0.80 percent to \$HK6.18 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Down 1.67 percent to \$HK3.53 per share
CSR Corporation Ltd (Code: 1766)	Down 13.96 percent to \$HK5.98 per share
AIA Group Ltd (Code: 1299)	Up 1.67 percent to \$HK27.35 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Down 0.51 percent to \$HK5.84 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.64 percent to \$HK77.50 per share

The biggest movers of this market included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Bao Yuan Holdings Ltd	692		38.00	0.031
China Automation Group Ltd	569		19.10	3.80
China High Speed Transmission Equipment Group Company Ltd	658		15.50	5.99
China Water Industry Group Ltd	1129	15.40		0.105
Earnest Investments Holdings Ltd	339		15.00	0.68

Hengxin Technology Ltd	1085	21.90		1.95
Next Media Ltd	282	16.30		1.14
Simsen International Corporation Ltd	993	22.40		0.06
Wing Hing International (Holdings) Ltd	621	16.10		0.65
Yashili International Holdings Ltd	1230		18.30	1.43

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index surrendered about 1.52 percent, dropping to 661.61 points.

The Total Turnover on this (speculative) market hit another, one-year low of about \$HK155.36 million.

Declining counters outnumbered advancing ones by the ratio of about 2.48:One.

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

Honbridge Holdings Ltd (Code: 8137)

Down 3.63 percent to \$HK2.39 per share

Heng Xin China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)

Down 3.70 percent to \$HK1.30 per share

Viva China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8032)

Up 4.02 percent to \$HK0.233 per share

Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd (Code:
8017)

Down 2.17 percent to \$HK0.18 per share

China Netcom Technology Holdings Ltd (Code:
8071)

Up 2.61 percent to \$HK0.236 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Electric Power Technology Holdings Ltd	8053	10.80		0.072
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026	11.80		0.19
Soluteck Holdings Ltd	8111	15.90		0.51
Trasy Gold Ex Ltd	8063	10.80		0.92

On the largest equity market of Asia, that of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index lost about 0.79

percent, ending the trading day at 861.91 points.

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, moved down ¥82.10, or about 0.81 percent, ending the trading day at ¥10,050.01 compared with the closing level of Friday, July 22, 2011.

The ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was exactly 2.22:One.

On other Asian stock markets, this was how their respective key indices ended their trading days, last Monday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.68 percent to 22,293.29 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.52 percent to 661.61
Indonesia	Minus 0.48 percent to 4,087.09
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.79 percent to 861.91 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.81 percent to 10,050.01
Malaysia	Minus 0.35 percent to 1,559.60
The Philippines	Plus 0.05 percent to 4,480.50
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 2.96 percent to 2,688.75 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 3.75 percent to 1,165.70
Singapore	Minus 0.36 percent to 3,171.55
South Korea	Minus 0.96 percent to 2,150.48
Taiwan	Minus 0.93 percent to 8,683.51
Thailand	Plus 0.58 percent to 1,127.58

Tuesday

As the clock ticked closer to August 2, 2011, so, for the first time in the 235-year history of the US, the probability of the country, defaulting on its international financial obligations, loomed ever larger.

On Wall Street, the key indices of the largest equity markets of the world fell on the prospects of The Congress and the White House, being unable, or unwilling, to arrive at a compromise on the debt talks.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost about 0.73 percent, ending the very light trading day at 12,501.30 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed about one tenth of a percentage point, edging back to 2,839.96 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 2.00:One on both markets.

News Wise

- **Sales of new homes** in the month of June fell for the second, consecutive month, The US Commerce Department announced. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the annual rate of new home sales came in at about 312,000 units. Sales in June were off about one percent, seasonally adjusted, the US Government department calculated.

On the most-important, European equity markets, investors seemed to be awaiting news from Capitol Hill with regard to the debt talks.

It was considered unbelievable that a compromise agreement could not be reached between the Administration of President Barack Hussein Obama and US lawmakers.

Weighing hard on this market, however, was confirmation that the economy of the United Kingdom had slowed in the quarter, ended June 30, 2011.

This was how the key indices of **TARGET**'s select list of European bourses fared, last Tuesday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.15 percent
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France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.65 percent
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Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus 0.06 percent
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Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus 0.07 percent
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Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus 0.13 percent
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Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 0.46 percent
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News Wise

- The **Gross Domestic Product** of the United Kingdom grew by about 0.20 percent in the second quarter of this fiscal year, ended June 30, 2011. This value of 0.20 percent represented a drop of about 0.50 percent, compared with the first-quarter's statistic, according to The Office of National Statistics.

Currencies

Currency	Last	High	Low	Change	Bid	Ask
EUR/USD	1.4495	1.4534	1.4495	-0.09%	1.4495	1.4500
GBP/USD	1.6426	1.6437	1.6407	+0.15%	1.6426	1.6430
USD/JPY	77.830	78.010	77.800	-0.03%	77.830	77.890
USD/CHF	0.80180	0.80210	0.80080	+0.06%	0.80180	0.80230
USD/CAD	0.94430	0.94430	0.94320	+0.03%	0.94430	0.94480
>AUD/USD	1.1038	1.1060	1.0945	+0.77%	1.1038	1.1043

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September came in at \$US99.59, up about 0.39 percent on Monday's close.

As for delivery in October, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US100.01, representing a one-day, price-gain of about 0.41 percent.

In Asia, the key indices of the major equity market all rose.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the benchmark index of the premier equity market made a useful gain, but the lone index of the speculative market shed a fraction.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index rose about 1.25 percent to 22,572.08 points.

The Total Turnover on this, the premier equity market of the territory, was about \$HK62.63 billion.

Advancing counters outpaced declining ones by the ratio of about 2.30:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Up 1.76 percent to \$HK78.10 per share

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

Up 2.91 percent to \$HK6.01 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)

Up 2.91 percent to \$HK6.36 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Up 3.12 percent to \$HK3.64 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Down 0.35 percent to \$HK11.30 per share

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)

Up 0.17 percent to \$HK88.80 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Up 1.64 percent to \$HK17.40 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Up 0.58 percent to \$HK77.95 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388)

Up 0.56 percent to \$HK161.50 per share

GCL-Poly Energy Holdings Ltd (Code: 3800)

Up 5.79 percent to \$HK4.57 per share

The biggest movers on this market were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
HyComm Wireless Ltd	499	20.10		3.70
Mastermind Capital Ltd	905	27.80		0.23
Simsen International Corporation Ltd	993	15.00		0.069

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its lone index, known as The Growth Enterprise Index, gave up exactly 0.60 percent, dropping back to 657.64 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK194.74 million, with advancing counters, outrunning declining ones by the ratio of about 1.13:One.

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

Heng Xin China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)

Unchanged at \$HK1.30 per share

Honbridge Holdings Ltd (Code: 8137)

Down 3.77 percent to \$HK2.30 per share

Soluteck Holdings Ltd (Code: 8111)

Up 5.88 percent to \$HK0.54 per share

Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd (Code:
8017)

Up 1.11 percent to \$HK0.182 per share

Credit China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8207)

Up 5.00 percent to \$HK1.47 per share

The GEM's double-digit movers were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)

China Eco-Farming Ltd	8166		13.30	0.078
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081	17.20		0.238
Merdeka Resources Holdings Ltd	8163		10.00	0.081
TLT Lottotainment Group Ltd	8022	10.00		0.11

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index gained exactly one half of a percentage point, ending the trading day at 866.20 points.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average put on about 0.47 percent to ¥10,097.72.

Advancing counters outnumbered declining ones by the ratio of about 1.73:One.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 1.25 percent to 22,572.08 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.60 percent to 657.64
Indonesia	Plus 1.12 percent to 4,132.78
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 0.50 percent to 866.20 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.47 percent to 10,097.72
Malaysia	Plus 0.14 percent to 1,561.77
The Philippines	Minus 0.33 percent to 4,465.87
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.53 percent to 2,703.03 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.48 percent to 1,171.27
Singapore	Plus 0.47 percent to 3,186.57
South Korea	Plus 0.85 percent to 2,168.70
Taiwan	Plus 1.28 percent to 8,794.24
Thailand	Minus 0.53 percent to 1,121.63

Wednesday

There was something of a bloodbath on the world's largest and most-influential equity markets, last Wednesday.

The reasons for the fast erosion of stock and share prices:

1. The inability of the Administrative of President Barack Hussein Obama to persuade The Congress to agree to its plans and, thus, break the impasse in respect of the debt-ceiling debate; and,
2. A number of disastrous announcements from some Wall Street '*darlings*'.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell about 1.59 percent to 12,302.55 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ gave up about 2.65 percent, dropping to 2,764.79 points.

The volume of activity was surprisingly high, almost equal to the average daily turnover of 2010.

Statistically, the market prices of about 14 stocks fell for every one that rose.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones on The New York Stock Exchange and The NASDAQ was about 14.00:One and about 7.00:One, respectively.

During the trading day, some high-flying technology counters were savaged by investors with their share prices, being pulled down between about 7 percent and 21 percent.

News Wise

- Standards and Poor's, a US credit-rating agency, has cut Greece's credit rating from CCC to CC. The credit-rating agency said that the eurozone plans to restructure Greece's debts constituted a '*selective default.*'

On European bourses, investors followed the lead of Wall Street.

Crunch!

Aside from the inability of the lawmakers of the largest, single economy in the world to reach a consensus in respect of the debt-ceiling debate, European investors were beset with their own, home-grown problems: The eurozone region's dodgy financial situation.

Greece was a sizeable problem which, for the time being, has been sorted out, but there are larger economies of the European Union whose financial situations have yet to be sorted out, satisfactorily, with Italy, standing foremost in the minds of many economists, France, being not that far distance from Italy.

This was how the key indices of the largest and most-important bourses of this part of the world fared, last Wednesday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 1.08 percent
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France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 1.42 percent
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Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 1.31 percent
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Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Minus 1.23 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Minus 2.65 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 1.44 percent

Currencies

Currency	Last	High	Low	Change	Bid	Ask
EUR/USD	1.4371	1.4376	1.4360	+0.03%	1.4371	1.4376
GBP/USD	1.6330	1.6336	1.6322	+0.01%	1.6330	1.6334
USD/JPY	77.970	77.980	77.890	+0.03%	77.970	78.020
USD/CHF	0.80130	0.80170	0.80110	-0.02%	0.80130	0.80180
USD/CAD	0.94910	0.94980	0.94920	-0.04%	0.94910	0.94960
>AUD/USD	1.1036	1.1041	1.1015	+0.17%	1.1036	1.1042

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September came in at \$US97.40, down about 2.20 percent on Tuesday's closing level.

As for delivery in October, its last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US97.84, representing a one-day, price-fall of about 2.17 percent.

In Asia, the general feeling was that of bullishness, but that was, clearly, going to change in short order.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key indices of both equity markets moved back and forth, during the entire trading day.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index shed about 0.14 percent, dropping to 22,541.69 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK73.86 billion, with the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones, being about 1.09:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Pacific Insurance (Group) Company Ltd
(Code: 2601)

Down 4.54 percent to \$HK30.50 per share

Sun Art Retail Group Ltd (Code: 6808)

\$HK10.12 per share*

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:

Unchanged at \$HK6.36 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Up 0.55 percent to \$HK3.66 per share

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

Down 0.33 percent to \$HK5.99 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 0.38 percent to \$HK77.80 per share

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)

Up 0.11 percent to \$HK88.90 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 0.71 percent to \$HK77.40 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Down 0.57 percent to \$HK17.30 per share

Tencent Holdings Ltd (Code: 700)

Down 0.96 percent to \$HK206.00 per share

* First Day of Trading

The biggest movers of this equity market included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Chaoyue Group Ltd	147	15.00		0.345
China Agri-Products Exchange Ltd	149	22.40		0.12
Lee and Man Handbags Holding Ltd	1488	18.20		1.30
Mastermind Capital Ltd	905	15.20		0.265

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index rose about 0.18 percent, ending the trading day at 658.80 points.

The Total Turnover on this (speculative) market was about \$HK138.24 million, with advancing counters and declining ones, being exactly equal at One:One.

The volume of activity of last Wednesday marked a fresh, one-year low for this equity market.

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

Honbridge Holdings Ltd (Code: 8137)

Down 1.74 percent to \$HK2.26 per share

Credit China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8207)

Up 4.08 percent to \$HK1.53 per share

Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd (Code:
8017)

Down 3.30 percent to \$HK0.176 per share

Heng Xin China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)

Up 1.54 percent to \$HK1.32 per share

China Leason Investment Group Company Ltd
(Code: 8270)

Down 1.49 percent to \$HK0.66 per share

The GEM's double-digit movers were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China AU Group Holdings Ltd	8176	10.30		0.172
Mobile Telecom Network (Holdings) Ltd	8266	13.00		0.209
Polyard Petroleum International Group Ltd	8011	10.10		0.098
Trasy Gold Ex Ltd	8063	12.00		0.93

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is the largest equity market of Asia, its TOPIX Index gave up about 0.82 percent as investors pulled it down to 859.11 points.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average lost about 0.50 percent, falling back to ¥10,047.19.

Losers outnumbered gainers by the ratio of about 4.56:One.

News Wise

- **JFE Holdings Incorporated**, a Japanese producer of steel, reported a nearly 75-percent drop in first-quarter earnings. The Net Income came in at about ¥7.12 billion for the quarter, ended June 30, 2011. That was down exactly 74.57 percent, compared with the comparable quarter in 2010.

On other Asian equity markets, this was how their respective key indices ended their trading days:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.14 percent to 22,541.69 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.18 percent to 658.80
Indonesia	Plus 1.00 percent to 4,174.11
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.82 percent to 859.11 Nikkei-225 Stock Average

	Minus 0.50 percent to 10,047.19
Malaysia	Minus 0.23 percent to 1,558.17
The Philippines	Plus 0.38 percent to 4,482.89
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.76 percent to 2,723.49 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 1.67 percent to 1,190.84
Singapore	Plus 0.22 percent to 3,193.54
South Korea	Plus 0.26 percent to 2,174.31
Taiwan	Plus 0.26 percent to 8,817.49
Thailand	Plus 0.81 percent to 1,130.71

Thursday

Investors never appreciated uncertainty and, last Thursday, there was plenty of that commodity, plainly in sight, from one part of the world to another.

The debt-debate continued to wage on on Capitol Hill, with no compromise between the Democrats and the Republicans in sight.

And, in the meantime, Tuesday, August 2, 2011, loomed ever closer.

On Wall Street, the key index of the largest equity market of the world lost a little more traction.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost about 0.51 percent, ending the moderately active trading day at 12,240.11 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index rose about 0.05 percent to 2,766.25 points.

Losing counters outpaced gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.50:One on The New York Stock Exchange but, on The NASDAQ, gainers and losers were, just about, equal at One:One.

On European equity markets, investors were gun-shy – in the extreme.

Investors in this part of the world, aside from being gravely concerned that the US would default on its international financial obligations if a consensus could not be reached in respect of the debt-ceiling debate in short order, there was, also, the matter of European banks' financial health as became only too evident by a shock announcement from Credit Suisse Group AG (Please see [News Wise](#), below).

This was how the key indices of **TARGET**'s select list of the largest and most-important bourses of Europe, fared last Thursday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Minus 0.16 percent

France's CAC 40 Index Minus 0.57 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index Minus 0.86 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Plus 0.28 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Plus 0.32 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 0.54 percent

News Wise

- **Credit Suisse Group AG** announced that it would be sacking about 4 percent of its global workforce by the end of next year, at the latest. That means that about 2,000 of the bank's employees will be given their pink slips and will have to head for European cities, looking for alternate employment. Credit Suisse is known to have more than 250 branches in Switzerland with operations in more than 50 countries. The bank said, also, that, in respect of its second quarter, the Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders was about 768 million Swiss francs (about \$US959 million; £586 million). That result was a 52-percent drop from the comparable quarter of 2010.

Currencies

Currency	Last	High	Low	Change	Bid	Ask
EUR/USD	1.4306	1.4338	1.4308	-0.17%	1.4306	1.4311
GBP/USD	1.6349	1.6377	1.6352	-0.13%	1.6349	1.6353
USD/JPY	77.790	77.850	77.680	+0.17%	77.790	77.850
USD/CHF	0.80220	0.80240	0.80100	+0.15%	0.80220	0.80270
USD/CAD	0.95040	0.95080	0.94880	+0.13%	0.95040	0.95090
>AUD/USD	1.0986	1.1009	1.0985	-0.15%	1.0986	1.0991

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September came in at \$US97.44, up about 0.04 percent on the day.

As for delivery in October, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US97.87, up about 0.03 percent on the final quote of Wednesday.

In Asia, investors were in a bearish mood, generally.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the

volume of activity on the territory's 2 equity markets fell back, again.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, rose about 0.13 percent to 22,570.74 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK65.65 billion.

The ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.58:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)

Up 2.98 percent to \$HK91.55 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:
939)

Down 0.94 percent to \$HK6.30 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 0.06 percent to \$HK77.75 per share

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

Down 0.50 percent to \$HK5.96 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 0.06 percent to \$HK77.35 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Up 1.04 percent to \$HK17.48 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Down 1.23 percent to \$HK11.20 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Down 0.55 percent to \$HK3.64 per share

Tencent Holdings Ltd (Code: 700)

Down 0.49 percent to \$HK205.00 per share

International Mining Machinery Holdings Ltd
(Code: 1683)

Up 1.85 percent to \$HK7.70 per share

There were only 2, large movers on this, the premier equity market of the HKSAR, last Thursday:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Hengli Commercial Properties (Group) Ltd	169	21.30		0.57
Lee and Man Handbags Holding Ltd	1488		18.50	1.06

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 0.61 percent, dropping back to 654.79 points.

The Total Turnover on this (speculative) marketplace was about \$HK155.08 million.

Losing counters outnumbered gaining ones by the ratio of about 2.19:One.

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

Honbridge Holdings Ltd (Code: 8137)

Up 1.77 percent to \$HK2.30 per share

Focus Media Network Ltd (Code: 8112)

\$HK0.75 per share*

Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd
(Code: 8017)

Down 12.50 percent to \$HK0.154 per share

Computech Holdings Ltd (Code: 8081)

Down 2.40 percent to \$HK0.244 per share

Seamless Green China (Holdings) Ltd (Code:
8150)

Down 2.61 percent to \$HK1.12 per share

*First Day of Trading

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Eco-Farming Ltd	8166		10.30	0.07
Inno-Tech Holdings Ltd	8202	14.60		0.51
Jian ePayment Systems Ltd	8165		15.80	0.139
Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd	8017		12.50	0.154
Vinco Financial Group Ltd	8340	15.00		0.13

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index gave up about 1.25 percent as investors pulled it back to 848.37 points.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average lost about 1.45 percent, ending the erratic trading day at ¥9,901.35.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 4.63:One.

News Wise

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has gone on record, stating that the **Japanese economy** will contract by about 0.05 percent in 2011. In April, the ADB said that the Japanese economy would grow

by about 1.50 percent this year. For the 2012 Fiscal Year, the ADB prognosticated that the third-largest economy of the world would grow by about 3.20 percent.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 0.13 percent to 22,570.74 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.61 percent to 654.79
Indonesia	Minus 0.68 percent to 4,145.83
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 1.25 percent to 848.37 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 1.45 percent to 9,901.35
Malaysia	Minus 0.40 percent to 1,551.91
The Philippines	Minus 0.002 percent to 4,482.80
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 0.54 percent to 2,708.78 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 0.14 percent to 1,189.13
Singapore	Minus 0.12 percent to 3,189.85
South Korea	Minus 0.85 percent to 2,155.85
Taiwan	Minus 0.57 percent to 8,767.20
Thailand	Plus 0.32 percent to 1,134.38

Friday

Investors, locked into US equity markets, saw rivers of their blood, cover trading floors as tens of billions of dollars were wiped off the market capitalisations of publicly listed corporations.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost another 0.79 percent, dropping to 12,143.24 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index gave up about 0.36 percent, ending the trading week at 2,756.38 points.

Trading was spirited, exceeding the daily average turnover of 2010 by about 2 percent.

Declining counters outnumbered advancing ones by the ratio of about 2.00:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 1.40:One on The NASDAQ.

Statistically, for the trading week, ended July 29, 2011, it was the worst week in terms of losses in the market capitalisations of publicly listed companies, quoted on the world's largest equity market, of the past 12 months.

The reasons for the selloff, last week, was a combination of a number of factors, the most-worrying of all, of course, was the possibility of the United States, defaulting on its international financial obligations.

Last Friday, The Congress, still, could not agree on a debt ceiling.

And August 2, 2011, was fast approaching.

Other factors, discouraging investors on Wall Street, last Friday, included:

- The US Government's **Commerce Department** reported that the US economy grew by about 1.30 percent in the second quarter of this Fiscal Year. Further, the growth in the first quarter was revised down to 0.04 percent, a drop of about 79 percentile points from the Commerce Department's earlier pronouncements. Further, for the fourth quarter of 2010, the US Commerce Department lowered its statistics with regard to the growth of the US economy from 3.10 percent to 2.30 percent, a fall of about 26 percentile points. Therefore, as far back as 7 months ago, the US economy was seen to have been in retreat; and,
- **Merck and Company Incorporated** announced that it would be sacking between 12,000 workers and 13,000 workers within the next few years. That number of jobs to be lost represents between 13 percent and 14 percent of the global workforce of about 91,000 bodies. In 2010, this drug producer sacked about 12,500 workers.

For the week on Wall Street, the tally was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average	Minus 4.24 percent
The Composite Index of The NASDAQ	Minus 3.58 percent

On European equity markets, it was a similar situation to that that existed on Wall Street: Every key index of every equity market, without exception, lost ground, some very heavily.

This was how the situation looked on the largest and most-important, European bourses, last Friday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 1.00 percent
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France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 1.07 percent
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Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.43 percent
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Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.98 percent
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Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.65 percent
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Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 1.49 percent
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Currencies

Currency	Last	High	Low	Change	Bid	Ask
EUR/USD	1.4396	1.4411	1.4234	+0.45%	1.4396	1.4402
GBP/USD	1.6419	1.6468	1.6262	+0.29%	1.6419	1.6423
USD/JPY	76.760	77.850	76.780	-1.16%	76.760	76.810
USD/CHF	0.78550	0.80310	0.78550	-1.94%	0.78550	0.78600
USD/CAD	0.95520	0.95890	0.94880	+0.63%	0.95520	0.95570
>AUD/USD	1.0994	1.1015	1.0915	-0.08%	1.0994	1.0999

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in September came in at \$US95.70, off about 1.79 percent, compared with the final quote of Thursday.

As for delivery in October, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US96.13, representing a one-day, price-fall of about 1.78 percent.

In Asia, the US debt crisis was the main topic of conversation among institutional investors, banks and financial entities, alike.

Nearly all of the key indices of equity markets in this part of the world were in reverse gear for most of their respective trading days.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key indices of both stock markets lost ground.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index gave up about 0.58 percent, dropping to 22,440.25 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK66.78 billion.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 2.83:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China ZhengTong Auto Services Holdings Ltd
(Code: 1728)

Down 8.36 percent to \$HK10.30 per share

AIA Group Ltd (Code: 1299)

Up 3.43 percent to \$HK28.65 per share

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)

Down 0.76 percent to \$HK90.85 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 0.26 percent to \$HK77.55 per share

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

Down 0.50 percent to \$HK5.93 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 1.03 percent to \$HK76.55 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)

Down 0.32 percent to \$HK6.28 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Down 1.37 percent to \$HK3.59 per share

China Pacific Insurance (Group) Company Ltd
(Code: 2601)

Down 2.64 percent to \$HK29.55 per share

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)

Up 0.76 percent to \$HK118.60 per share

The biggest movers on this market included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Green (Holdings) Ltd	904		16.30	4.31
PacMOS Technologies Holdings Ltd	1010		18.20	0.81
Wing Hing International (Holdings) Ltd	621		24.60	0.49

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 0.76 percent, falling back to 649.79 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK153.35 million.

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

Honbridge Holdings Ltd (Code: 8137)

Down 0.44 percent to \$HK2.29 per share

Focus Media Network Ltd (Code: 8112)

Up 4.00 percent to \$HK0.78 per share

Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd (Code:
8017)

Down 1.30 percent to \$HK0.152 per share

Seamless Green China (Holdings) Ltd (Code:
8150)

Down 0.89 percent to \$HK1.11 per share

Heng Xin China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)

Down 0.76 percent to \$HK1.31 per share

The GEM's double-digit movers included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
abc Multiactive Ltd	8131		11.10	0.40
China Eco-Farming Ltd	8166	14.30		0.08
China Electric Power Technology Holdings Ltd	8053	11.10		0.07
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081		11.90	0.215
Dahe Media Company Ltd	8243	10.50		0.315
Inno-Tech Holdings Ltd	8202	11.80		0.57
Jilin Province Huinan Changlong Bio-pharmacy Company Ltd	8049	10.00		1.10
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026		10.50	0.17
Soluteck Holdings Ltd	8111		10.60	0.465

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

The Hang Seng Index	Minus 0.02 percent
The Growth Enterprise Index	Minus 3.28 percent

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index surrendered about 0.83 percent, hitting 841.37 points by the close of the trading day.

The Nikkei 225 Stock Average lost about 0.69 percent, falling back to ¥9,833.03.

The ratio of losers to gainers on this market was about 4.16:One.

For the largest equity market of Asia and the second-largest in the world, the tally for the week was:

The TOPIX Index	Minus 3.16 percent
The Nikkei 225 Stock Average	Minus 2.95 percent

On other equity markets of the most-populous part of the world, their respective key indices closed out the week as follows:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.58 percent to 22,440.25 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.76 percent to 649.79
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Indonesia	Minus 0.36 percent to 4,130.80
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.83 percent to 841.37 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.69 percent to 9,833.03
Malaysia	Minus 0.20 percent to 1,548.81
The Philippines	Plus 0.46 percent to 4,503.63
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 0.26 percent to 2,701.73 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 0.88 percent to 1,178.70
Singapore	Minus 0.02 percent to 3,189.26
South Korea	Minus 1.05 percent to 2,133.21
Taiwan	Minus 1.40 percent to 8,644.18
Thailand	Minus 0.07 percent to 1,133.53

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