

General Market Overview

The markets took somewhat of a roller-coaster ride last week, however both the Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 indices ended the week up 0.87%. The Russell 2000 index of small cap stocks rallied throughout the week, adding nearly 3%. Tech stocks also performed well, as the Nasdaq garnered almost 2%. The US dollar continues to strengthen, as the Dollar Index, which compares the dollar against six major currencies, has risen 7.59% since December 1, 2009 to about 80.22. Despite the stronger dollar, gold and crude oil also made solid gains for the week, increasing 1.12% and 4.19%, respectively. 10-year Treasuries added 10 basis points.

Major Indices and Rates

Index	Week Close	Week % Chg	YTD
S&P 500	1,075.51	0.87%	-3.15%
Dow Jones	10,099.14	0.87%	-3.55%
Nasdaq	2,183.53	1.98%	-3.77%
Russell 2000	610.72	2.99%	-2.35%

Asset	Week Begin	Week End	% Change
10yr T-Note	3.59	3.69	2.79%
Gold	1,070.00	1,082.00	1.12%
Crude Oil	71.15	74.13	4.19%

Source: Briefing.com, eia.doe.gov, ustreas.gov, lbma.org.uk, finance.yahoo.com

Political Forefront

The US Senate is shaping a \$15 billion job-stimulus plan that would attempt to combat the jobless rate in America. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has trimmed the plan of lengthy provisions to instead focus on the hiring tax break, an increase in highway spending, extending the Build America Bond program, and tax breaks for small businesses. Meanwhile the US House is in a whole different ballgame, taking measures to push through a \$150 billion stimulus lead by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Source: bloomberg.com

Economic Indicators and Announcements

While the US unemployment rate still stands at an alarming 9.7%, what's more shocking is that 41% of those out of work have been jobless for at least six months - the highest level since 1948 when the Bureau of Labor Statistic started reading the figure, according to bloomberg news. This week's major announcements include the Treasury Budget on Monday, January Housing Starts on Wednesday, Producer Price Index Thursday, and the Consumer Price Index on Friday. The PPI and CPI aim to measure the rate of inflation by measuring the price change for a constant market basket of goods from the standpoint of the producer (PPI) and consumer (CPI).

Source: Briefing.com, federalreserve.gov

Earnings Calendar

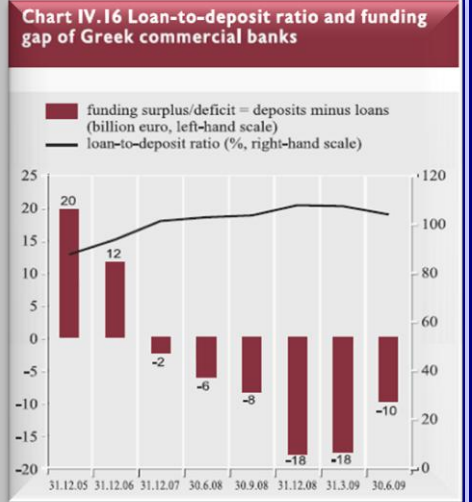
Date	Company	Sym.	Price	Est.
US 2/16	Abercrombie&Fitch	ANF	33.85	0.87
2/16	Barclays PLC	BCS	16.68	na
2/16	Kraft Foods	KFT	29.09	0.45
2/16	Merck&Co., Inc.	MRK	36.92	0.78
2/16	Quest Comm.	Q	4.43	0.08
2/16	Whole Foods Market	WFMI	29.75	0.26
2/17	Deere & Company	DE	53.11	0.18
2/17	ING Groep NV	ING	8.74	na
2/18	ABB	ABB	17.87	0.27
2/18	MORNINGSTAR INC	MORN	45.19	0.42
2/18	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	WMT	52.90	1.12
2/19	JCPenny	JCP	24.89	1.82
WI 2/19	Brady Corp	BRC	28.79	0.33
2/19	Bucyrus	BUCY	58.42	0.92

Source: finance.yahoo.com, earnings.com

Greece Seeks Financial Lubrication

Greece faces financial pressure with debt obligations standing at about 113% of GDP, and a 13% budget deficit for 2009. The 16-nation European Union has called action to help prevent the country from defaulting on its debt obligations, however there is no strategy and some EU members such as Germany are concerned that they will shoulder a larger proportion of the burden. Pressures from Greece's debt burden

may cause a slippery slope for the EU in an already weak global economy, making recovery an even more difficult task. As a major economic partner with the EU, the US may also feel the resulting effects, slowing down economic recovery. The diagram on the right depicts the severity of Greece's debt problem from a commercial bank standpoint.



Source: Bank of Greece, WSJ.com

Quote of the Week

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all." -Dale Carnegie

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