

Wall Street marks best week in a year

Wall Street closed out its best week in a year on Friday, snapping back from a long stretch of selling, as investors looked ahead to what many expect will be a solid earnings season.

Stocks ended near the day's highs, but trading was thin. Just 6.197 billion shares traded on the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange and Nasdaq, making it the slowest volume day of the year.

Google Inc helped lift the Nasdaq, rising 2.4 percent to \$467.46 after Beijing gave the company the green light to continue operating its China Internet search page.

The major stock indexes advanced 5 percent in the holiday-shortened week, as investors put a string of dismal data behind them to focus on what is expected to be another solid quarter for corporate results.

"We expect to see good margins, very healthy balance sheets and companies basically saying that even with the slowdown, we are very well prepared for it," said Marc Pado, U.S. strategist at Cantor Fitzgerald & Co. in San Francisco.

"We have been seeing from previous data that companies are not building inventory and not adding workers. In other words, they are very well positioned for the worst case scenario," Pado said.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 59.04 points, or 0.58 percent, at 10,198.03. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index was up 7.70 points, or 0.72 percent, at 1,077.95.

The earnings season unofficially begins with Alcoa Inc after the closing bell on Monday. Analysts are expecting overall second-quarter earnings to grow by 27 percent, according to Thomson Reuters data. This is up from the 22.4 percent that analysts were anticipating at the beginning of the year.



Shakil Rizvi, president of Dhaka Stock Exchange, and Muhammad A (Rumeel) Ali, chairman of BRAC Bank, inaugurate a branch of BRAC EPL at the DSE Annex Building in Motijheel, Dhaka recently.

Oil traded near 76 dollars in Asia on Friday, lifted by buoyant sentiment after the International Monetary Fund bumped up its global growth projections.

Stronger demand in the United States, shown by a drop in crude inventories, also helped push prices higher, analysts said.

In afternoon Asian trade, New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in August, was up 43 cents at 75.87 dollars a barrel, and Brent North Sea crude gained 38 cents to 75.09 dollars.

The IMF on Thursday upgraded its global growth forecast for this year despite renewed financial turbulence stemming from Europe's debt crisis.

Canada rate hikes seen after stunning job gain

Canada's economy created six times more jobs than forecast in June, a near-record gain that pressures the central bank to raise interest rates again this month even as cracks in the U.S. recovery threaten to cool the country's scorching growth.

The staggering employment gain contradicts a recent string of weaker data, including another report on Friday showing housing starts fell in June.

Statistics Canada said on Friday that employment surged by 93,200 in June, flying past market expectations for 15,000 jobs.

In the past year, services sector job growth has more than doubled that of the goods-producing sector. The trend continued in June.

Businesses are more confident about the domestic economy than export markets, particularly the United States, where demand for Canadian goods is faltering. That partly explains why services like retail stores and wholesalers created the most jobs in June, while factory owners dismissed workers.

The overall gains were the second largest on record after the 108,700 reported in April. The labour market has now nearly recovered the 417,000 jobs lost during the recession.



Md Abdu Jalil MP, chairman of Mercantile Bank Ltd, inaugurates the bank's 54th branch and 25th ATM booth at Patuakhali on Thursday. Dewan Mujibur Rahman, managing director, is also seen.

STOCK

Weekly Market Highlights July 4 - 08 2010

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Value. Includes DSE All Share Index, DSE General Index, DSE-20 Index, CSE All Share Index, CSE-20 Index, and CSE Selected Index.

Table with 3 columns: Company, Turnover (Vol., M.Tk.), and Closing Price. Lists various companies like Titlas Gas, AB Bank, and BEXIMCO.

Weekly Turnover Leaders

Table with 3 columns: Company, Turnover (Vol., M.Tk.), and Closing Price. Lists companies with high turnover such as Titlas Gas and AB Bank.

Weekly Capital Gainers/Losers

Table with 3 columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), and Close Price. Lists companies with significant price changes.

Weekly News Highlights from Trade Servers

Table with 3 columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), and Close Price. Lists companies with news highlights.

Weekly Traded Issues July 4 - 08, 2010

Large table listing various traded issues, including bank shares, government bonds, and other securities.

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Weekly Currency Roundup

July 4-8, 2010

International Markets

This week the euro, sterling and yen all gained grounds against the US dollar, after data showed that there was a drop in the non-farm payroll last month.

The reversal of census hiring (-225,000 in June) continues to distort the headline number, similar to our expectations, and this was largely ignored by the market.

Interestingly, unemployment fell to 9.5%, an unexpected decline from 9.7%. While this might appear to be a positive, the drivers are worrying.

The discouraged worker effect, where people give up looking for jobs and leave the workforce, has returned. The declines in the workforce (652,000 left in June, versus 322,000 in May) have helped to disguise the fall in employment.

Without this discouraged worker effect, the unemployment rate would now stand at 10.1%. This means people are once again pessimistic about their job prospects and the recovery.

This also ties in with the fall in the Conference Board's measure of consumer confidence in June (which fell to 52.9, from 62.7 in May).

The euro hit a two-month high against the dollar on Thursday after strong Australian jobs data boosted higher-risk currencies, while investors awaited European Central Bank comments on bank stress tests and the euro.

The euro has rallied on short covering after hitting a four-year low of \$1.1876 in early June, but analysts were not convinced it has snapped its downward trend. A jump in Australian employment in June drove the Australian dollar up more than 1 percent on the day against the dollar and nearly 2 percent higher against the yen.

Local Money Market

The call money rates dropped lower today, and averaging around 2.5% throughout the week.

Local Market FX

USD/BDT was relatively stable this week.

Standard Chartered Bank

Source: Capital Gainer/Losers tables are prepared on the basis of the close price change of the traded issues. EPS-Earnings Per Share, BV-Book Value per Share, ...