

FINANCIAL FRONTLINE NEWSLETTER

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- •Despite producing only modest gains, this week saw major market indexes reaching significant benchmarks with the S&P 500 at its highest in 10 months, after a 0.3% gain this week, and the Dow at its highest in about 4 years.
- •Trade early on in the week was sporadic and uneventful as investors continued to be skeptical of the markets' increase after their constant climb in the past recent weeks.
- •These gains had very little influence from the recent news of improvement in the Consumer Sentiment Survey in February or European news.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

- Unfolding optimism about Greece and encouraging Italian bond auctions Friday sent the euro to near three-month highs versus the dollar and near four-month peaks against the yen, as much of the gloom that has recently shrouded the single currency lifted momentarily. After securing an 11th hour bailout package worth EUR130 billion (\$175 billion) earlier this week, Athens launched a bond swap offer to private-sector creditors Friday. The EUR100 billion debt write-down plan is designed to extricate the Hellenic republic from a crushing debt load, helping to bring closure to the uncertainty that battered European bond markets for more than two years.
- Latin American currencies continued their winning streak on Thursday, after a drop in U.S. unemployment cheered markets, but emerging European currencies struggled to stay in positive territory. Emerging market debt held steady, as markets look ahead to a key U.S. jobs report. Investors continue to hunt for higher-yielding assets as they aim to put their cash to work and as rates remain ultra-low in the developed world.

FIXED INCOME

- Big Bond Funds disagree on the future of the \$2.3 trillion market for emerging-market debt, continuing the debate over the European crisis's impact on global growth. Bond giant PIMCO, a unit of Allianz SE, revealed its plans to reduce its exposure to emerging markets, while Franklin Templeton Investments continues to pile on. Whether investors' passion for emerging markets will continue appears to hinge on their feelings toward the euro-zone crisis.
- A new tool is relieving the troubles of executives of multinational corporations, as debt markets open to foreign borrowers. Companies can utilize bonds denominated in the local currencies, rather than future contracts or currency swaps, to reduce the need for currency conversions. A growing number of companies are issuing dim-sum bonds in China, upon recent permission to issue bonds in Chinese yuan.

<u>Market Highlights</u>									
Dow Jones	12,982.95								
Industrial Ave.	↑ 33.08								
S&P 500	1,365.74								
	1 4.51								
NYMEX	99.59								
	1 1.18								
10-YR. TREAS.	2%								
FED Funds Rate	0.11								
Unemploy- ment Rate	8.30%								

COMMODITIES

- Oil is expected to be more expensive as rising demand is likely to surpass supply. Its price hit highs when the euro rebounded against the
 dollar. Oil prices also surged in dollar terms, increasing 13% this month. Deutsche Bank analysts said that threats have not been this severe
 since 1980's.
- Asian refiners have shifted to buying more crude oil from West Africa as Middle East, and East Africa has experienced a series of disruptions on oil-supply. Demand from the East has become a strong price signal. Demand from Asia hit 20.8 million barrels a day, up 3.1% from the previous year.

M&A & CAPITAL MARKETS

- Metro PCS Communications was in talks with Sprint Nextel about its acquisition. But the deal fell apart last Friday as Sprint rejected the
 deal for unclear reasons. The proposed deal was that the current MetroPCS shareholders would receive Sprint stock at around a 30% premium before the stock jumped on Thursday along with a small amount of cash. Sprint Nextel tried to acquire T-Mobile USA last year, but
 lost out to AT&T.
- Johnson & Johnson has submitted its bid to the EU to continue with its \$21.3 billion takeover of Synthes, a Swiss-American medical tools maker. The proposed acquisition is expected to have a ruling by April 26, extended from the original April 12. But regulators are concerned that this acquisition will reduce competition, as Johnson & Johnson will dominate the market the more now. But to appease these regulators, they have been thinking to sell just the Synthes trauma unit. Johnson & Johnson already has a similar trauma business, and is more focused on acquiring Synthes's spine division, but has not commented.

WORD SEARCH

ALLIANZ BAILOUT	V	S	М	E	T	R	0	L	S	Y	В	Ν	Z	U	I
CRUDE	V	R	Ρ	T	Q	Α	D	0	\mathbf{T}	D	Α	0	Ν	Ν	K
DEUTSCHE	G	С	Q	R	G	D	E	S	Μ	U	Ι	Х	A	Ε	Т
DIMSUM DOLLAR	E	R	R	C	Т	Ν	Y	R	Y	Н	Y	В	Т	М	N
EMERGING	M	II	т.	т	т	N	Ā	Т	T	\cap	N	Ā	т.	Р	E
EURO GREECE		_	т.		_			_	_	_	14		_	_	_
LATIN	E	D	S	P	T	L	Т	Ε	D	Μ	Ш	U	L	Ъ	М
METRO	R	\mathbf{E}	S	H	L	\mathbb{C}	Η	N	I	0	V	X	A	0	I
MIDDLEEAST MULTINATIONAL	G	D	Ε	0	Ν	C	V	D	E	Q	E	E	0	Y	Т
PIMCO	Т	S	D	7.	S	Ā	n	K	_	X	7.	_	R	M	N
REFINERS			_	_					_						
SENTIMENT	Ν	Ν	U	T	Ε	L	Ρ	Μ	Ε	Т	T	Ε	U	Ε	Ε
SIGNAL SPINE	G	Ν	U	Α	E	S	I	G	Ν	Α	L	Ε	E	Ν	S
SPRINTNEXTEL	U	E	I	Ε	Μ	U	S	Μ	I	D	\mathbb{C}	R	L	T	U
SWAP SYNTHES	D	Μ	Α	Т	U	0	L	Ι	Α	В	В	G	K	Μ	R
TEMPLETON	V	s	ន	W	Α	Ρ	K	U	С	0	C	М	I	Р	V
UNEMPLOYMENT YUAN	Т	Υ	Υ	Μ	С	L	Х	R	E	F	I	N	E	R	S