

International Figures of the Week

STOCKS

The capture of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had little impact on the Standard & Poor's Global 1200 during the week ended Dec. 16.

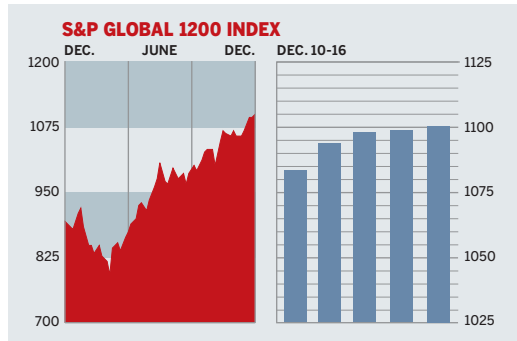
U.S. investors reacted favorably to strong industrial production data. Telecom, energy, and media equities showed the broadest gains.

Retailers were weak, with Sears Roebuck sliding 8.5% during the week.

European tech stocks slumped. Cap Gemini led the group lower, plunging 13.5% during Dec. 16, on news it cut its net profit margin forecast. Retailers also had a poor week.

Softbank fell 20.2% on the week. The Japanese Internet company said it wants to raise \$2 billion via new convertible bond and share issuances.

Data: BusinessWeek



S&P GLOBAL 1200 SECTOR PERFORMANCE Dec. 16

Sector	Dec. 16	Week	4 Weeks	Year
Consumer Discretionary	1208.0	0.4	3.6	28.2
Consumer Staples	1083.8	0.8	2.2	11.0
Energy	1201.7	1.4	8.8	16.7
Financials	1185.4	0.7	4.2	26.5
Health Care	1254.5	0.8	1.5	12.1
Industrials	1100.3	1.6	5.8	29.6
Information Technology	1219.6	1.1	1.8	33.3
Materials	1239.5	-0.4	6.5	33.9
Telecommunications	810.2	0.3	4.7	14.9
Utilities	879.7	1.6	6.6	21.6

S&P GLOBAL 100 BEST PERFORMING COMPANIES

Company	4-week %	Company	52-week %
General Motors (U.S.)	19.2	Alcatel (France)	117.9
Tyco International (U.S.)	17.5	Lucent Technologies (U.S.)	111.7
Deutsche Bank (Ger.)	14.4	Nortel Networks (Canada)	93.4
Ford Motor (U.S.)	13.8	EMC (U.S.)	92.5
DaimlerChrysler (Ger.)	13.7	Intel (U.S.)	69.6
Suez (France)	13.1	Ericsson (Sweden)	62.8

GLOBAL INDEXES

(U.S. Dollars)	Dec. 16	% change		
		Week	4 Weeks	Year
S&P Global 1200	1100.1	0.8	4.0	23.2
S&P 500 (US)	1075.1	1.4	4.0	19.1
S&P Europe 350	1043.7	0.3	5.1	27.8
S&P/TOPIX 150 (Japan)	1021.6	0.1	4.1	29.4
S&P Asia Pacific 100	1266.3	0.0	0.0	23.1
S&P/TSX 60 (Canada)	1301.3	-1.4	1.3	38.9
S&P Latin America 40	1103.1	-1.1	4.1	48.7

S&P EMERGING MARKETS INDEXES

Best-performing countries		Worst-performing countries	
Last 4 weeks %	Last 52 weeks %	Last 4 weeks %	Last 52 weeks %
Russia.....11.9	Argentina...117.8	Venezuela...-39.6	Zimbabwe...-59.6
India.....11.6	Thailand.....117.1	Sri Lanka...-10.7	Venezuela.....3.4
Thailand.....11.6	Brazil.....94.7	Mexico.....-3.8	Korea.....17.8
Brazil.....11.1	India.....84.1	Nigeria.....-2.8	Mexico.....18.2
China.....10.2	Russia.....80.4	Hungary.....-2.5	Hungary.....20.0

U.S. Dollars

STOCK INDEXES

LOCAL CURRENCIES

	Dec. 16	Dec. 9	% chg. year ago	
			Index	Currency
Australia / S&P ASX 200	3215.2	3218.8	7.6	31.3
Brazil / Bovespa	20759.6	21259.8	91.6	21.8
Britain / FTSE100	4333.0	4379.6	10.9	9.8
Canada / S&P TSX 60	446.9	446.2	19.1	16.6
Europe / S&P Europe 350	942.1	947.3	6.6	20.0
France / CAC 40	3486.6	3456.1	11.1	20.0
Germany / Xetra DAX	3866.0	3846.2	23.1	20.0
Hong Kong / Hang Seng	12260.3	12393.6	26.2	0.5
Italy / MIB 30	27242.0	27281.0	10.5	20.0
Japan / Nikkei 225	10271.6	10124.3	20.7	12.9
Mexico / IPC 35	8348.3	8429.0	35.3	-9.0
South Korea / Composite	810.8	787.4	15.1	0.8
Spain / IBEX 35	7487.0	7391.0	19.5	20.0

Data: Standard and Poor's

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

RETAIL SALES

Country	Month	% chg. from year ago		% change 2002
		Latest	Prior	
Britain	Oct.	2.8	3.2	5.6
Canada	Sept.	3.3	3.7	6.0
France	Sept.	3.8	1.1	2.8
Germany	Oct.	-1.3	-1.3	-0.8
Italy	Sept.	3.3	-0.6	2.5
Japan	Oct.	1.8	-3.2	-1.4
U.S.	Nov.	6.9	6.5	3.1

Data: Global Insight Inc.

TRADE-WEIGHTED EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Dec. 16	Weekly %	Yearly %
Britain	96.8	0.1	-3.0
Canada	110.4	-0.6	15.0
China	94.8	0.0	-7.7
Euro Zone	124.1	0.8	12.5
Japan	94.2	-0.5	6.9
Mexico	81.1	-1.1	-12.5
U.S.	93.4	0.1	-8.3

Indexes, 2000=100

Data: J.P. Morgan Chase

COUNTRY FOCUS / BRITAIN

On Dec. 10, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown switched the measure of inflation the Bank of England will use in monetary policy decisions. The

Consumer Price Index (CPI)—formerly called the Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices—replaces the Retail Price Index excluding mortgage interest payments (RPIX). In addition, the inflation target was reduced to 2%, from 2.5%.

The change gives the central bank some slack on lifting interest rates as the economy picks up steam. In November, the CPI fell to a yearly rate of 1.3%, from 1.4%.

But as the latest inflation and jobs data

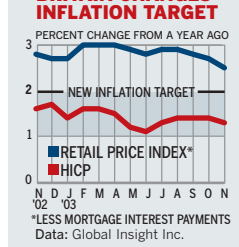
point out, there is little pressure on prices yet. Despite adding 228,000 jobs over the past year, wages for the three-month period ended in October grew a moderate

3.6% compared to the same period a year ago.

Still, the BOE's minutes for the Dec. 3-4 policy meeting showed the Bank may raise interest rates again, but not immediately. The 25-basis-point rate hike in November was aimed at rapidly growing household debt. The BOE is waiting to see what impact the move

will have. But if the Bank's economic outlook is right, "a further [rate increase] would be warranted at some point."

BRITAIN CHANGES INFLATION TARGET



INTEREST RATES

BENCHMARK BOND YIELDS

(10-YEAR GOVERNMENT*)

	Dec. 16	Dec. 9	Year ago		Dec. 16	Dec. 9	Year ago
Australia	5.78	5.75	5.45	Italy	4.42	4.47	4.52
Britain	4.75	4.92	4.54	Japan	1.33	1.34	0.96
Canada	4.70	4.85	4.99	South Korea (3-Year)	4.84	4.88	5.28
France	4.30	4.35	4.39	Spain	4.29	4.35	4.39
Germany	4.30	4.35	4.33	United States	4.21	4.35	4.12
Hong Kong	4.39	4.45	4.68				

*Average of Bid/Ask

Data: Standard & Poor's, Global Insight Inc.

CENTRAL BANK POLICY

	Policy rate*		Last action	
	Dec. 16	Year ago	Date	Type
U.S. Federal Reserve	1.00	1.25	6/25/2003	-0.25
European Central Bank	2.00	2.75	6/5/2003	-0.50
Bank of Japan	0.00	0.00	3/19/2001	-0.15
Bank of England	3.75	4.00	11/6/2003	0.25
Bank of Canada	2.75	2.75	9/3/2003	-0.25

*Target overnight rate