

EAST ASIA SECURITIES COMPANY LIMITED

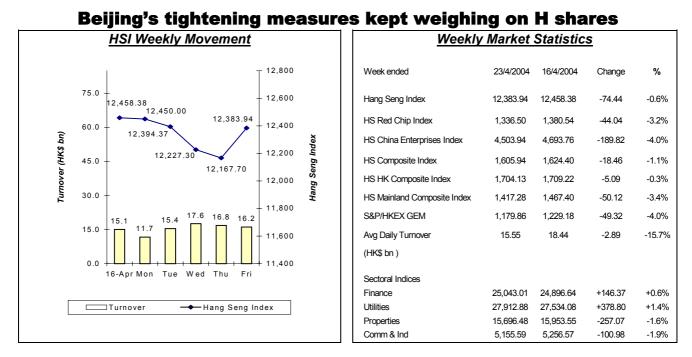
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HONG KONG RESEARCH

Weekly Report 24th April, 2004



Review & Outlook of Market Performance

Following last week's heavy losses, Hong Kong stocks extended its weak run with 4-consectuive-day declines, before eventually staging a rebound of 216.24 points on Friday. Funds were seen being switched into neighbouring regions and investors remained skittish on interest-rate-hike fears. Moreover, the tumbles in H shares did have a minor spillover effect to the broader market. Accordingly, the HSI closed Friday at 12,383.94, down 0.6% or 74.44 points w-o-w, with an average daily turnover of HK\$15.55 billion, down from last week's HK\$18.44 billion.

Blue chips were mostly meagre this week and property counters led the fall, as Fed chairman Alan Greenspan's comment ignited threats of earlier than expected rate hikes, possibly thumping the local flat-buying sentiment. The HS Properties Sub-index dropped 1.6% w-o-w, with major developers Cheung Kong (HK\$62.25, -2.4% wo-w), SHKP (HK\$70.25, -2.1% w-o-w) and Wheelock (HK\$9.70, -3% w-o-w) all pressured. Later in the week, PCCW (HK\$5.60, -0.9% w-o-w) proposed to effect a capital reduction by eliminating the entire sum standing to the credit of its share premium account (HK\$173,460 million). Such credit will be applied in writing off the accumulated losses of approximately HK\$151,966 million. The proposed accounting treatment will give way for PCCW to declare dividend in the future.

H shares continued to be dented by talks of further economic measures to cool the country's rampant economic growth, with the HSCEI down 4% w-o-w. During the week, basic metal prices (including copper and aluminium) plunged at the London Metal Exchange amid the strengths in US dollar, and shares of Chalco (HK\$5.50, -11.3% w-o-w) and Jiangxi Copper (HK\$3.425, -16.5% w-o-w) were battered.

SARS fears were rekindled later the week after China reported new cases. However, the impact on the market would be fleeting given that the cases were not widespread. Next week, trading in the local bourse would be volatile amid the expiry of April HSI futures contracts. Without any external stimuli, the HSI is expected to rangetrade between 12,100 and 12,500.

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US & Regional Markets Weekly Update

Date	US	US	JAPAN	SINGAPORE	MALAYSIA	BANGKOK	TAIPEI
	Dow Jones	Nasdaq	Nikkei Avg	STI	KLSE Index	SET Index	Weighted Index
Week to							
23rd April	10,472.84	2,049.77	12,120.66	1,867.64	875.50	681.88	6,748.10
16th April	10,451.97	1,995.74	11,824.56	1,853.99	861.81	712.20	6,818.20
-							
Change	+20.87	+54.03	+296.10	+13.65	+13.69	-30.32	-70.10
%	+0.20%	+2.71%	+2.50%	+0.74%	+1.59%	-4.26%	-1.03%

Major Changes in Index Constituent Stocks (week ended 23rd April 2004)

Hang Seng Index (HSI)

Stock	Stock Code	Closing Price @23/04/04	W-O-W Changes		Remarks / Comments
			Absolute	%	
Cathay Pacific	0293	HK\$14.90	-HK\$0.75	-4.8%	The airliner was weaker this week amid the renewed SARS fears after China reported a suspected case.

Hang Seng China-Affiliated Corp Index (HSCCI)

Stock	Stock Code	Closing Price @23/04/04	W-O-W Changes		Remarks / Comments
			Absolute	%	
Silver Grant	0171	HK\$1.84	-HK\$0.21	-10.2%	The counter succumbed to profit taking this week following last week's rally of over 13%.

Hang Seng China Enterprises Index (HSCEI)

Stock	Stock Code	Closing Price @23/04/04	W-O-W Changes		Remarks / Comments
			Absolute	%	
Angang New Steel	0347	HK\$3.55	-HK\$0.65	-15.5%	The dual plummeted as investors were concerned about the possible oversupply
Maanshan Iron & Steel	0323	HK\$2.925	-HK\$0.750	-20.4%	of steel in the mainland amid the credit tightening on property and infrastructure sectors.
Beijing Capital Int'l Airport	0694	HK\$2.800	+HK\$0.075	+2.8%	The airport operator and railway operator outperformed other H shares on hopes
Guangshen Railway	0525	HK\$2.30	+HK\$0.05	+2.2%	that their profits would be boosted as a huge number of mainland tourists are set to travel during the weeklong Labour holidays in May.

Summary of US Economic News

Indicator	Change/Index	Comments
Leading indicators - March	115.3	The index of leading economic indicators swung higher in March with a 0.3% rise to 115.3 after a flat growth in February's reading.
Producer price index - March	+0.5% m-o-m	The producer-price index increased 0.5% in March after rising by 0.1% in February. The "core" index rose 0.2% in March after a 0.1% gain in February.
Durable-goods orders - March	+3.4% m-o-m	Durable-goods orders rose 3.4% in March, marking the 3 rd gain in 4 months. In addition, February's increase was revised higher to a gain of 3.8%.



Forthcoming Important Announcements / Events

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26 th April 2004 (Monday)	ΗK	:	
			Shanghai Real Estates (1207)- final results
			Stone Group (0409)- final results
			Tianjin Development (0882)- final results
			Tong Reng Tang (8069)- Q1 results
			Wah Yuen (2349)- final results
			Zhejiang Glass (0739)- final results
	US	:	New-home sales- March
			Chubb Corp- Q1 results
27 th April 2004 (Tuesday)	ΗK	:	Moulin International (0389)- final results
			Qingling Motors (1122)- final results
	US	:	Existing-home sales- March
			Consumer confidence- April
			McDonald's- Q1 results
		1	Omnicom Group- Q1 results
		1	Sina Corp- Q1 results
			US Airways- Q1 results
			UTStarcom Inc- Q1 results
28 th April 2004 (Wednesday)	HK	:	TCL International (1070)- Q1 results
	US	:	
			Anheuser-Busch Cos- Q1 results
			Boeing Co- Q1 results
			Coca-Cola Enterprises- 1 results
			Estee Lauder- Q3 results
			Goodyear Tyre- Q1 results
			Janus Capital- Q1 results
			K-Swiss- Q1 results
			Macromedia Inc- Q4 results
			Moody's- Q1 results
			Sohu.com- Q1 results
		1	Symantec- Q4 results
		1	Timer Warner Inc- Q1 results
29 th April 2004 (Thursday)	НК		Tom Online (8282)- Q1 results
	US		GDP (advance)- Q1
	00	•	Dow Chemical- Q1 results
		1	Exxon Mobil- Q1 results
		1	Gateway- Q1 results
		1	Gillette- Q1 results
		1	Kenneth Cole- Q1 results
		1	Nasdag Stock Market- Q1 results
			Nortel Network- Q1 results
30 th April 2004 (Friday)	нк	-	Launch Tech (8196)- final results
50 April 2004 (Fluay)			
	US	1:	
		1	Personal spending- March
		<u> </u>	Cigna- Q1 results