

EAST ASIA SECURITIES COMPANY LIMITED

9/F, 10 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong.

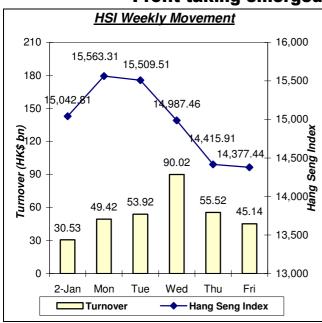
Dealing: 3608 8000 Research: 3608 8098 Facsimile: 3608 6132

HONG KONG RESEARCH

Restricted circulationAnalyst: Kelvin Li

Weekly Report
9th January 2009

Profit taking emerged as recession fear grows



Weekly Market Statistics						
Week ended	09/1/2009	02/1/2009	Change	%		
Hang Seng Index	14,377	15,043	-665	-4.4%		
HS Red Chip Index	3,227	3,442	-214	-6.2%		
HS China Enterprises Index	7,724	8,314	-590	-7.1%		
HS Composite Index	1,963	2,066	-103	-5.0%		
HS HK Composite Index	1,465	1,472	-7	-0.5%		
HS Mainland Composite Index	2,579	2,784	-205	-7.4%		
Growth Enterprise Index	374	382	-8	-2.1%		
Avg Daily Turnover (HK\$ bn)	58.8	28.1	+31	+109.3%		
Sectoral Indices						
Finance	21,393	22,832	-1,439	-6.3%		
Utilities	33,800	33,861	-61	-0.2%		
Properties	17,986	17,832	+154	+0.9%		
Comm & Ind	7,918	8,280	-362	-4.4%		

Review & Outlook of Market Performance

Hong Kong equities ended lower, as profit taking kicked in after the blue-chip index failed to break through the recent high at 15,781 set on Dec 11. Investors became more cautious over a deepening recession in the US, after a survey showed corporate cut a much higher-than-expected number of jobs in Dec, triggering a sell-off in the stock market during the week. Meanwhile, sizable placement of China Construction Bank ("CCB") and Bank of China ("BOC") shares by their respective cornerstone investors and fear for similar action from other corporate investors also led to further pressure on the market. Over the week, the Hang Seng Index lost 4.4% to 14,377.44, while the HSCEI tumbled 7.1% to 7,723.81. Market turnover was higher with the daily average more than doubled w-o-w, mainly driven by the HK\$22 billion placement of CCB shares and reviving trading activities after the New Year holiday break.

Mainland banking plays led the market down this week, amid share sale and market talks of further sell-off by their respective cornerstone investors. During the week, Bank of America sold more than 5.62 billion CCB shares at a 12% discount raising a hefty HK\$22 billion, while the Li Ka Shing Foundation offloaded 2 billion BOC shares at a 7.5% discount for more than HK\$4 billion. CCB plunged 13.3% w-o-w, while BOC dropped 9.7%. ICBC tumbled 15.1%, but Bank of Communications outperformed with a 4.4% loss after HSBC said it has no intention to cut its stake in BoCom. Meanwhile, the Mainland issued the long-awaited 3G licenses to China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom, but the trio ended down over the week as investors "sell on fact". In fact, selling pressure arose as investors became more concerned about the future competitive landscape in the 3G era. HK property developers generally outperformed, as figures showed the number of residential property transactions revived by 44% in Dec from a month earlier.

For the coming week, HK equities should remain sluggish, as the US Dec payrolls report (due Jan 9 GMT 13:30) is seen disappointing with jobless rate surging to 7.0% from 6.7% in Nov. Besides, investors would also keep theirs eyes on the US Dec retail sales due next Wed, as consumer spending accounts for about two-third of US economic activity. On the technical front, the HSI should see initial support near 13,900.

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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
9th January	8,742.46*	1,617.01*	8,836.80	1,806.02	919.07	459.06	4,502.74
2nd January	9,029.20	1,632.21	8,859.56^	1,799.72	894.36	449.96^	4,591.22**
Change	-286.74	-15.20	-22.76	+6.30	+24.71	+9.10	-88.48
%	-3.2%	-0.9%	-0.3%	+0.4%	+2.8%	+2.0%	-1.9%

Remarks: (*) closing as of 8th January 2009, (**) closing as of 31st December 2008, (^) closing as of 30th December 2008

Major Changes in Index Constituent Stocks (Week ended 9th January 2009)

Hang Seng Index (HSI)

Stock	Stock Code	Closing Price @09/01/09	W-O-W Change		Remarks / Comments
			Absolute	%	
Cathay Pacific Airways	00293	HK\$8.90	-HK\$0.01	-0.11%	Cathay issued its 3 rd profit warning since July last year, as it incurred huge losses from jet fuel hedging. Cathay also revealed that advanced booking for its premium class in Q1 was disappointing. The stock retreated sharply from the intra-week high of HK\$10.26 (-13.3%), but was flat from a week earlier.
China Mobile	00941	HK\$75.30	-HK\$5.90	-7.27%	China finally awarded the 3G licenses to the country's three mobile and telecom operators. As expected, China Mobile will be awarded the home-grown TD-
China Unicom	00762	HK\$8.95	-HK\$1.17	-11.56%	SCDMA license, China Telecom the CDMA2000 license and China Unicom the WCDMA license. In the 3G era, industry rivalry is seen intensifying, as the trio fights hard to gain market share.

Hang Seng China Enterprises Index (HSCEI)

Stock	Stock Code	Closing Price @09/01/09	W-O-W Change		Remarks / Comments
			Absolute	%	
China Construction Bank	00939	HK\$3.92	-HK\$0.60	-13.27%	BOA sold 5.62 billion CCB shares, while the Li Ka Shing Foundation placed 2 billion BOC shares amid rising need for liquidity. The share placements
Bank of China	03988	HK\$1.96	-HK\$0.21	-9.68%	triggered fear for further sell-off from other corporate investors and led to pressure over other PRC banking plays.

Hang Seng China-Affiliated Corporations Index (HSCCI)

Stock	Stock Code	Closing Price @09/01/09	W-O-W Change		Remarks / Comments
			Absolute	%	
Lenovo	00992	HK\$1.73	-HK\$0.46	-21.00%	Lenovo said it plans to cut 2,500 jobs worldwide, accounting for 11% of its total workforce. Due to the restructuring, Lenovo warned that it would incur a loss during the Oct-Dec quarter last year.



Summary of US Economic News

Indicator	Change/Index	Comments
Construction spending – November 2008	-0.6%	Construction spending slipped 0.6% m-o-m in Nov, better than market expectation of a drop of 1.3%. The October figure was also revised to a milder 0.4% fall from the original 1.2% loss.
Factory orders - November 2008	-4.6%	Factory orders fell 4.6% m-o-m in Nov, the fourth monthly drop in a row and worse than consensus forecast of a 2.6% fall.
ISM non-manufacturing index – December 2008	40.6	ISM's non-manufacturing index rose to 40.6 in Dec from 37.3 in Nov, bucking expectations of a slip to 37.0. However, it stayed below the reading of 50, implying that the US service sector was still contracting.
Initial jobless claims – Week ended 3 rd January 2009	-24,000	Initial jobless claims unexpectedly fell 24,000 last week to 467,000, versus forecast of a rise to 550,000, mainly due to the New Year holiday break.

Forthcoming Important Announcements / Events

12 th January 2009 (Monday)	HK	:	United Pacific Industries (00176) – final results Simsen International (00993) – interim results Strong Petrochemical (00852) – trading debut
	US	:	Alcoa Inc – Q4 2008 results
13 th January 2009 (Tuesday)	HK	:	Yue Yuen Industrial (00551) – final results Neo-China Land (00563) – interim results China Green (00904) – interim results Pou Sheng International (03813) – final results China Singyes Solar Technologies (00750) – trading debut
	US	:	No important announcement/ event
14 th January 2009 (Wednesday)	HK	:	Public Financial (00626) – final results
	US	:	Retail sales – December 2008 Business inventories – November 2008
15 th January 2009 (Thursday)	HK	:	ABC Communications (00030) – interim results Warderly International (00607) – interim results Water Oasis Group (01161) – final results
	US	:	Initial jobless claim – for the week ended 10 th January 2009 Producer price index – December 2008 Intel Corporation – Q4 2008 results
16 th January 2009 (Friday)	HK	:	Vongroup (00318) – interim results Huafeng Group (00364) – final results CIL Holdings (00479) – final results
	US	:	Consumer price index – December 2008 Industrial production – December 2008 Consumer sentiment (preliminary) – January 2009

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