

Index	Close	Day (%)	Week (%)	MTD (%)	YTD (%)
S&P/ASX 200	4267.85	1.00	-0.08	0.12	5.21
ASX 200 Property	823.00	1.03	0.23	0.44	5.85
S&P 500 Comp	1325.54	0.11	0.54	1.00	5.40
NASDAQ	2859.68	0.40	1.94	1.63	9.77
Nikkei 225	8876.82	0.76	0.31	0.84	4.98
Euro Stoxx 50	2478.15	0.30	0.72	2.54	6.98
MSCI Wid \$US	3125.18	1.40	1.16	1.40	6.35
EPRA/NAREIT GI	1373.90	0.92	1.00	0.92	8.06
Oil (WTI) \$US bl	96.36	-1.28	-3.35	-2.15	-2.50
Commodities US\$	4971.87	-0.46	-1.08	-0.45	1.77
AUD/USD	1.0712	0.07	0.47	0.39	5.33
UBS Bank Bill	7473.62	0.01	0.06	0.03	0.42
UBS Comp Bond	6929.94	-0.10	0.49	0.03	0.16
Citi WGBI Hgd \$A	1674.32	0.04	0.87	0.04	1.07

Australian Shares increased, snapping a four day losing streak after promising economic data gave investors optimism. Both the ASX200 and the All Ordinaries added 1%.

Lynas Corp. was easily the best performing share in the ASX200; surging ahead 19.1% after Malaysian authorities approved a temporary operating license for the company's US\$200 million rare earths processing plant. Qantas rallied 2.6% despite the airline announcing that higher jet fuel and carbon costs will impact future domestic and international ticket prices. Wesfarmers increased by 0.6% after Coles reported its best Christmas sales on record.

Despite Westpac confirming that they are cutting 560 jobs, their price rose 0.3% while rivals Commonwealth and ANZ both climbed 0.4%. NAB was the best of the big four banks though; posting a 1% gain for the day. PMP Ltd. fell 8.3% after the company forecast full year earnings to be 20% lower than the estimates issued in November due to poor sales volume in its printing unit.

Asian stocks were led higher by commodity and financial stocks as improved manufacturing data eased worries about global growth. The Nikkei Stock Average gained 0.8%, China's Shanghai Composite Index added 2%, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was also up 2%.

US stocks had modest gains as a decrease in jobless claims boosted investors' optimism before tomorrow's important government employment report. The S&P 500 gained 0.1%, the Dow Jones was down 0.1%, and the Nasdaq Composite Index increased by 0.4%.

As Facebook filed for a US\$5 billion IPO, social network and internet sites rallied; Zynga, a Facebook game developer, surged 16.8% and Groupon advanced 7.4%. Amylin Pharmaceuticals rose by 14.4% after the company was granted approval in the US for a weekly diabetes shot.

Earnings announcements dominated the market movements though, with Mastercard gaining 6.7% after the company announced that profit had climbed by 24%. Abercrombie & Fitch reported earnings well below estimates, causing their price to fall by 13.7%. Likewise, Ameriprise Financial retreated 6.9% after the firm reported fourth-quarter earnings that fell short of analysts' predictions.

European stocks climbed for a third consecutive day, led by a boost in mining stocks, as well as the news that US jobless claims had dropped. The Stoxx 600 increased by 0.2%, the UK's FTSE 100 added 0.1%, France's CAC 40 rose by 0.3%, and Germany's DAX gained 0.6%.

Mining firm Xstrata rallied 9.9% after confirming that they were in talks with Glencore International about a possible takeover bid. Glencore also rose by 6.9% however they released a statement claiming that there is no certainty that an offer will be made.

Benetton Group surged 17.1% after the Benetton family announced that it will offer 276.6 million Euros for the shares that it doesn't already own in the company. Unilever Ltd., maker of mayonnaise and deodorants, dropped 4.4% as the company predicted difficult economic conditions and elevated costs to persist during 2012.

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