

US Indices				
	Closing	Net Change	% Change	YTD
DJIA	17,552.17	+56.33	0.32%	-1.52%
S&P 500	2,060.99	+19.10	0.94%	0.10%
NASDAQ Composite	5,048.49	+45.94	0.92%	6.60%

Europe Indices				
	Closing	Net Change	% Change	YTD
UK - FTSE 100	6,254.64	+152.10	2.49%	-4.74%
Eurozone - STOXX 50	3,108.11	+12.28	0.40%	3.47%
France - CAC 40	4,663.18	-14.36	-0.31%	9.14%
Germany - DAX	10,727.64	+258.38	2.47%	9.40%
Netherlands - AEX	444.12	+5.15	1.17%	4.63%
Switzerland - SMI	8,705.74	+101.66	1.18%	-3.09%

BRICS Indices				
	Closing	Net Change	% Change	YTD
Brazil - Ibovespa	44,014.93	-1,000.91	-2.22%	-11.98%
Russia - MICEX	1,734.21	+15.05	0.88%	24.17%
India - SENSEX	25,838.71	+34.93	0.14%	-6.04%
China - Shanghai	3,627.91	+48.95	1.37%	12.16%
South Africa - JSE Africa	51,324.01	+2,606.73	5.35%	31.2%

Asia-Pacific Indices				
	Closing	Net Change	% Change	YTD
Japan - Nikkei 225	18,769.06	-584.50	-3.02%	7.55%
Hong Kong - Hang Seng	22,138.13	+266.07	1.22%	-6.21%
South Korea - KOSPI	1,990.65	+12.69	0.64%	3.92%
Australia - ASX 200	5,207.60	+105.59	2.07%	-3.76%

Commodities				
	Closing	Net Change	% Change	YTD
Gold Spot	1,076.10	+25.00	2.38%	-9.14%
Silver Spot	14.37	0.27	1.94%	-8.51%
Platinum Spot	882.10	22.80	2.65%	-26.98%
Palladium Spot	558.85	0.47	0.08%	-29.93%
Crude Oil (WTI)	38.10	+3.37	9.70%	-28.48%
Crude Oil (Brent)	37.89	+1.01	2.74%	-33.91%
Baltic Dry Ind	478.00	+7.00	1.49%	-38.87%

Money Markets				
	Closing	Net Change (5-D)	Net Change (6-M)	Net Change (YTD)
3M Libor	0.603	0.034	0.322	0.348
12M Libor	1.148	0.039	0.372	0.519
3M Euribor	(0.131)	0.002	(0.117)	(0.209)
12M Euribor	0.060	0.001	(0.103)	(0.265)
10Y US	2.241	0.037	(0.168)	0.070
10Y UK	1.920	0.089	(0.224)	0.164
10Y Germany	0.641	0.093	(0.221)	0.100
10Y Japan	0.279	0.009	(0.201)	(0.050)
10Y India	7.747	0.021	(0.078)	(0.110)

Currencies			
	Closing		Closing
GBP/USD	1.491	EUR/USD	1.096
USD/JPY	120.330	AUD/USD	0.728
USD/CHF	0.988	EUR/AED	4.032
USD/INR	66.210	EUR/INR	72.395
USD/CNY	6.476	EUR/CHF	1.083
USD/RUB	70.376	AED/INR	17.987

Source: Bloomberg

## International Market News Update

As per data released last week, the GDP of the US grew at 2% on an annualised rate during the July-September 2015 quarter. Strong consumer spending and household purchases were the biggest contributors to the economic growth during the quarter. The S&P 500 and NASDAQ Composite are expected to end 2015 positive. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is still negative year-to-date and would require a strong rise this week to end 2015 positive. The Energy Information Administration in the US announced last week that crude oil inventories had fallen by 5.9 million barrels, which prompted a sharp jump in crude oil prices.

Most major stock markets in Europe rose last week backed by the rise in energy-related and mining-based stocks. The sharp rise in prices of commodities and crude oil last week caused these stocks to rise. UK's GDP grew by 0.4% during the July-September 2015 quarter. The country's economy has grown by 2.1% on an annualized rate during the quarter. UK's economy continues to remain reliant on consumer spending and domestic demand. One of the biggest threats to UK's economy in 2016 will be a potential exit of the country from the European Union. Spain's economy is expected to have grown by 0.8% during the October-December 2015 quarter. On an annualized basis, the country's economy has grown by 3.2% during 2015. This is the biggest annual growth in Spain's economy in 8 years. The biggest contributors to Spain's economic growth have been consumer spending in the country and the quantitative easing program announced by the European Central Bank earlier in 2015.

China's government last week announced that it intends to introduce a more "flexible" monetary policy in 2016 backed by a more "forceful" fiscal policy as the country deals with the slowdown in its economy during the next year. This is expected to help equities globally rise higher in 2016.

## Commodity in Focus

WTI crude oil fell last week to USD 33.98, which is its lowest level since 14<sup>th</sup> February 2009. Brent crude oil fell last week to USD 35.98, which is its lowest level since 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2004. Later in the week, prices of crude oil jumped up sharply as news of the fall in crude oil inventories in the US was announced as well as the fall in the number of active oil rigs in the country. WTI crude oil rose by over 12.65% from its low to touch USD 38.28 later in the week. Brent crude oil rose by over 5.89% from its low to touch USD 38.10 later in the week.

### For more information:

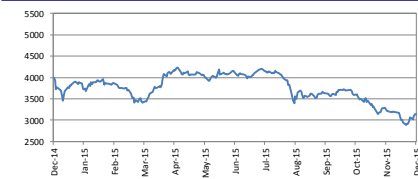
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Key Indices	Closing	Net Change	% Change	YTD
Dubai - DFM	3,137.32	+151.47	5.07%	-16.87%
Abu Dhabi - ADX	4,241.73	+176.59	4.34%	-6.34%
Saudi Arabia - TASI	6,941.75	-103.93	-1.48%	-16.70%
Qatar - QE	10,258.72	+396.69	4.02%	-16.50%
Bahrain - BHSE	1,198.23	-8.47	-0.70%	-16.01%
Oman - MSM 30	5,419.32	+57.34	1.07%	-14.57%
Kuwait	5,619.98	-4.62	-0.08%	-14.01%

Dubai - DFM 52-Week Performance



Abu Dhabi - ADX 52-Week Performance



Saudi - TASI 52-Week Performance



Source: Bloomberg

## Middle East Market News Update

Most major stock markets in the GCC rose last week as the sharp rise in crude oil prices created a positive sentiment amongst investors. Saudi Arabia's budget is expected to be announced this week and most investors anticipate that the budget will include a sharp cut in government spending, which should impact investments into the country and the region.

## En Bref..... Biggest Market News

The impact of oil in 2015 – the way it made GCC's stock markets look like frontier markets.

Falling crude oil prices sent all stock markets in the GCC tumbling in 2015. Baring Abu Dhabi's benchmark stock market index, Abu Dhabi Securities Market, all other stock markets are expected to end 2015 lower by at least 15%. The Abu Dhabi Securities Market is expected to end 2015 lower by over 7%. The 6 countries in the GCC constitute around 30% of the world's oil reserves. The biggest impact of low crude oil prices and falling stock valuations has been on the volume of share trading in the region's stock markets, which has fallen sharply.

With crude oil prices staying below USD 40, government spending plans in the GCC region have gone awry and bank borrowing costs have been driven upwards. Falling bank deposits have caused the 3-month Saudi Riyal Interbank Average Offered Rate to rise last week to its highest level since 17<sup>th</sup> January 2009. This rate is expected to continue to rise this week as well. There is speculation that some countries in the GCC region will have scrap or loosen the peg of their local currency to the USD, if crude oil prices continue to remain low in 2016.

## Events in the week ahead

December 27 – Japan industrial production data is released.

December 29 – US trade balance data is released.

December 31 – India fiscal deficit data is released.

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