



Market Summary

DOW	16441.26	+81.08	PEYTO ENERGY	35.35	+43	POLARIS	2.59	+04
TSE	14278.11	-26.06	WESTERN FOREST	2.50	+03	CANADIAN \$	0.9110	+0044
S&P	1881.67	+7.86	CATALYST	2.80	-22	EURO	1.3861	+0128
NASDAQ	4368.04	+10.07	CANFOR	29.85	--	COPPER	3.21	+01
TSX VENTURE	1040.89	+11.61	REDSTAR GOLD	0.06	--	CRUDE OIL	100.73	-.74
SILVER	21.62	+34	LUMBER	356.00	+50	NATURAL GAS	4.56	+08
GOLD	1351.10	+10.90	TIM HORTON'S	60.10	+50	PRIME RATE	3.00%	

Market Commentary

• Crimea votes to join Russia as EU leaders push Ukraine diplomacy

Crimea's parliament voted to join Russia and its Moscow-backed government set a referendum within 10 days on the decision in a dramatic escalation of the crisis over the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula.

• ECB holds rates, and nerve, in face of deflation risk

The European Central Bank left its main interest rate unchanged at a record low of 0.25 percent, holding course despite fears inflation could get stuck in a "danger zone" below 1 percent.

• Bank of England holds fire after forward guidance overhaul

The Bank of England kept interest rates unchanged, seeking to give the economy more time to build before removing its stimulus.

• Chesapeake, Encana face criminal antitrust charges in Michigan

Oil and gas giants Chesapeake Energy and Encana Corp were charged on Wednesday with colluding to keep oil and gas lease prices artificially low in Michigan, state Attorney General Bill Schuette said.

• Canadian Natural Resources profit rises on higher output

Canadian Natural Resources Ltd, Canada's No.2 oil and gas company, reported a 17 percent rise in quarterly profit, helped by higher output at its Pelican Lake project in Alberta.

Canada's stock index opened flat. US markets rose, supported by diplomatic efforts to cool the crisis in Ukraine. Building permits and Ivey PMI are on the economic radar. **European stocks** rose, buoyed by corporate results and **Asian shares** ended higher. The **Australian dollar** spiked to a nine-day high on upbeat retail sales and trade data, while the **euro** traded flat. **Brent** dipped and **gold** fell in early trading but rose after Draghi comments and the US dollar fell.

• **Canadian Natural Resources Ltd (CNQ)**. The oil and gas company reported a 17 percent rise in quarterly profit, helped by higher output at its Pelican Lake project in Alberta. Its net income rose to C\$413 million, or 38 Canadian cents per share, in the fourth quarter from C\$352 million, or 32 Canadian cents per share, a year earlier. It earned 52 Canadian cents per share, excluding items. Analysts on average had expected 56 Canadian cents per share.

• **Chartwell Seniors Housing Reit (CSH_u)**. The company announced fourth-quarter adjusted funds from operations of 15 Canadian cents per unit, down from 17 Canadian cents per unit, in the year-ago quarter.

• **Descartes Systems Group Inc (DSG)**. The company posted fourth-quarter earnings of 4 cents per share compared with 12 cents per share, a year earlier. Revenues rose to \$40.3 million from 33.8 million.

• **Great Canadian Gaming Corp (GC)**. The company reported fourth-quarter earnings of 10 Canadian cents per share compared with 3 Canadian cents per share in the comparable quarter, a year earlier. Revenue increased to C\$101.6 million from C\$102.8 million.

• **Granite Real Estate Investment Trust (GRT_u)**. The company announced its fourth-quarter results with funds from operation of 78 Canadian cents per unit compared with 47 Canadian cents per unit in the year-ago quarter. Revenue increased to C\$54.7 million from C\$45.3 million.

- **Linamar Corp** (LNR). The auto parts maker reported higher net earnings for the fourth quarter on Wednesday, bolstered by stronger sales in North America, Asia and Europe. Adjusted net earnings were C\$55 million, or 85 Canadian cents a share. Revenue rose to C\$926.1 million from C\$756.5 million in 2012. Analysts had expected earnings of 71 Canadian cents a share and revenue of C\$861.7 million.
- **Long Run Exploration Ltd** (LRE). The company posted funds from operations of 44 Canadian cents per share compared with 33 Canadian cents per share in the year-ago quarter. Revenue reported increased to C\$124.8 million from C\$99.0 million.
- **Peyto Exploration & Development Corp** (PEY). The company announced fourth-quarter earnings of 26 Canadian cents per share compared with 18 Canadian cents per share in the comparable quarter a year earlier. Revenue came in at C\$164.5 million compared with C\$120.3 million.
- **Savanna Energy Services Corp** (SVY). The company reported fourth-quarter results with earnings coming in at 5 Canadian cents per share compared with 4 Canadian cents per share in the year-ago quarter. Revenue increased to C\$177.0 million from \$172.6 million.
- **TORC Oil and Gas Ltd** (TOG). The company posted fourth-quarter funds from operations, excluding items, of 44 Canadian cents a share, compared with 26 Canadian cents a share, a year earlier. Net loss came in at 20 Canadian cents a share, compared with 47 Canadian cents a share.
- **Trinidad Drilling Ltd** (TDG). The company posted its fourth-quarter adjusted earnings of 25 Canadian cents per share compared with 48 Canadian cents per share in the comparable quarter a year earlier. Revenue came in at C\$224.6 million compared with C\$209.6 million.
- **Veresen Inc** (VSN). The company posted earnings of 6 Canadian cents per share in the fourth quarter compared with 7 Canadian cents per share in the comparable quarter in the previous year. Revenue reported increased to C\$78.8 million from C\$67.7 million.
- **Encana Corp** (ECA). Oil and gas giants Chesapeake Energy and Encana were charged on Wednesday with colluding to keep oil and gas lease prices artificially low in Michigan, state Attorney General Bill Schuette said. The companies are being charged with one count each of antitrust violations "relating to a contract or conspiracy in restraint of commerce," and one count each of attempted antitrust violations.
- **Kinross Gold Corp** (K). The miner said unionized employees went on strike at its Maricunga mine in Chile, forcing it to suspended operations at the site. It said on Wednesday the employees went on strike following the failure to agree on a new collective agreement at the mine and added that it could not predict when the employees would return to work, or the impact on production due to the suspension of operations.

ANALYSTS' RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Cott Corp** (BCB). CIBC cuts to sector performer from sector outperformer and cuts target price to \$9 from \$10, says the U.S. carbonated soft drink industry's annual structural decline of -3% to -4% will lead to falling volumes for the company
- **Laurentian Bank of Canada** (LB). Barclays raises target price to C\$47 from C\$46 on the company's stable net interest margins, increased portfolio diversification and decline in integration costs in its first-quarter results
- **Linamar Corp** (LNR). CIBC raises to sector outperformer from sector performer and raises target price to C\$60 from C\$42 based on the company's strong fourth-quarter results
- **Painted Pony Petroleum Ltd** (PPY). CIBC raises target price to C\$10.25 from C\$9 on the company's strong increase in reserves

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