

HD News Highlights: Top Global Markets News of the Day**WC** 720 words**PD** 16 December 2014**ET** 04:55**SN** Dow Jones Institutional News**SC** DJDN**LA** English**CY** Copyright © 2014, Dow Jones & Company, Inc.**LP**

TOP STORIES

POLICE SAY SYDNEY CAFE STANDOFF OVER

Heavily armed Australian police stormed a central Sydney cafe where a self-proclaimed cleric was holding hostages at gunpoint, ending a siege lasting more than 16 hours that had shut down large parts of the city's business district.

TD**OIL** PRICES FALL TO FRESH LOWS

Oil prices fell near fresh multiyear intraday lows as concerns about a global glut of **oil** continued to weigh on the market. Prices rose earlier in the session after armed clashes in Libya over the weekend disrupted **oil** exports.

U. S. STOCKS EXTEND LOSSES AS
OIL SLIDES

Stocks extended losses in midday trading, as investors were rattled by another decline in **oil** prices. The DJIA fell about 130 points in recent trading, wiping out a gain of as much as 123 points shortly after the open.

BT GROUP IN TALKS TO BUY U. K. MOBILE OPERATOR EE

BT Group said it has entered exclusive talks to buy U.K. mobile operator EE for \$19.6 **billion** in cash and stock from Germany's Deutsche Telekom and France's Orange.

EU APPROVES
HOLCIM, LAFARGE CEMENT MERGER

Cement companies Holcim and Lafarge cleared a major hurdle toward their planned \$50 **billion** merger after antitrust authorities in Europe said the deal could go ahead, subject to conditions.

U. S. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SURPASSES PRERECESSION PEAK

U.S. manufacturing output climbed past its prerecession peak this fall, suggesting the American economy is on solid footing despite growing signs of weakness abroad.

OPEC WON'T MEET BEFORE JUNE UNLESS SOMETHING DRASTIC HAPPENS

OPEC won't have an emergency meeting unless something drastic happens in the market and the group won't cut its production now as the move would only provide a temporary fix to the price drop, the United Arab Emirates' **oil** minister said.

RIVERBED TO BE ACQUIRED BY
THOMA BRAVO FOR \$3.6B

Telecommunications-equipment **company** Riverbed Technology agreed to be acquired by private-**equity firm** Thoma Bravo for about \$3.6 **billion**. Riverbed shares rise 9%.

AMERICAN REALTY CAPITAL'S CHAIRMAN, CEO RESIGN

American Realty Capital Properties, the real-estate investment trust under investigation for accounting irregularities, said that Chairman Nicholas Schorsch and Chief Executive David Kay have stepped down.

ECB MAY HAVE TO BUY SOVEREIGN
BONDS, NOWOTNY SAYS

With its key interest rates as low as they can go, the European Central Bank may have to buy sovereign **bonds** if the inflation rate remains low and economic growth weak over the long term, a member of the governing council said.

===== DOW JONES NEWSWIRES ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY =====

Capital Journal
CONGRESS SET TO GET LONELIER IN THE MIDDLE

Both President Obama and Republican leaders in Congress seem to want to pull their parties together in the middle. But, asks Gerald F. Seib, what if the leaders get to the middle and find there's nobody there to join them?

Heard on the Street
CHEAP
OIL WON'T DRIVE **CHINA'S** SLUGGISH CARS

The cheapest **oil** price in five years may be encouraging Americans to buy cars. Yet in the world's largest car market, sales are down to their slowest in almost two years.

Analysis
U.S. MANUFACTURING REBOUND LAGS BEHIND WORK SENT ABROAD

The U.S. has continued to grow more reliant on imports from **China** and other Asian countries despite a much-discussed trend toward "reshoring" of manufacturing, a study by the management consulting **firm** A.T. Kearney shows.

Top Stories

NOMURA WARNS ON OUTLOOK FOR BIG BANKS

Investors in the big U.S. banks may be too optimistic heading in 2015, Nomura analyst Steve Chubak warns, saying investors remain overly complacent about the potential for "sustained regulatory pressure."

===== MARKETS ACTION =====

U. S. STOCKS EXTEND LOSSES AS
OIL RESUMES ITS DOWNWARD SLIDE

U.S. stocks extend losses as **oil** resumes its downward slide.

TREASURYS REBOUND AS STOCKS,
OIL FALL

Treasurys rebound as stocks and **oil** fall.

DOLLAR SLIPS ON WEAK NY MANUFACTURING DATA

Dollar slips against the yen and euro on weak N.Y. manufacturing data.

FRESH LOWS FOR
OIL AS STOCKS FOLLOW ALONG

Oil prices decline on continued global-glut concerns.

GOLD FALLS AS STRONGER DOLLAR KEEPS POTENTIAL BUYERS AT BAY

Gold falls on stronger dollar.

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

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