DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

HD **NZ Seasonally Adjusted Credit Card Spending Rises 0.2% in Sept -- Market Talk**

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0458 GMT [Dow Jones] New Zealand seasonally adjusted credit card spending was up 0.2% in September on month and was up 4.4% on the prior year, according to data released from RBNZ this afternoon. However, the data showed that overseas billings on NZ issued credit cards rose 0.7%, while it was up just 0.1% on local **purchase**. Western Union Business Solutions Corporate Dealing Manager Chris Hunter says that the data was ignored by the currency markets as the NZD/USD was boosted by better-than-expected **China** GDP data. (lucy.craymer@wsj.com;Twitter: @lucy_craymer)

Editor: KLH

TD

0456 GMT [Dow Jones] Thai Finance Minister Sommai Phasee's remark that Thailand's economy is experiencing "stagflation" because of low domestic spending due to waning confidence is disputed by economists. Stagflation describes a prolonged period of sluggish growth accompanied with high unemployment. "However, Thailand had been facing gross domestic product growth of less than 1% in the last three quarters (since the third quarter of 2013) with the current low unemployment rate of 0.7% (as of August 2014)," Bangkok-based Tisco Economic Strategic Unit in research note, adding: "Thus, the remark by the finance minister is overblown." (nopparat.chaichalearmmongkol@dowjones.com)

Editor JSM

0442 GMT [Dow Jones] The Australian dollar was one of the biggest beneficiaries of the **Chinese** gross domestic product data, rallying back above the US$0.8800 handle, says RBC Capital in a strategy note. Meanwhile, the policy meeting minutes from the Reserve Bank of Australia's October board meeting earlier contained little new news, with a steady-as-she-goes message permeating throughout, it says. The cash rate looks set to stay at an historical low for an extended period, RBC says. (james.glynn@wsj.com; Twitter: @JamesGlynnWSJ)

Editor JSM

0435 GMT [Dow Jones] The ongoing plenum of the **Chinese** Communist Party could signal the next phase of the anti-graft effort, says Capital Economics. "It is tempting to dismiss the Communist Party's talk of boosting the rule of law in **China** as simply hot air," it says. It says the campaign should ultimately have a positive economic impact, but in the short-run, the economy may be hurt by weaker demand for "luxury goods, banquets and ill-gotten property". "Although some will undoubtedly question the motives of the central leadership in consolidating power via its anti-graft campaign, such an approach may be necessary to push through difficult reforms in the face of vested interests," says Capital Economics. (jacky.wong@wsj.com; Twitter: @jackycwong)

Editor JSM

0430 GMT [Dow Jones] An uptick in China's economic growth and industrial production numbers is providing some support for crude-oil prices. Chinese economic data came in slightly better than estimated, and oil demand will likely rise for the world's No. 2 economy. "This likely gives some upward push to crude prices, but global crude demand should still remain weak and is likely to persist in the coming quarter," Phillip Futures analyst Daniel Ang says. Nymex crude had strong resistance at $82.58/bbl, which has been breached; the next level is $84.73 . Brent crude is still testing the first resistance level of $85.97/bbl. Nymex crude is up 29 cents at $83.00/bbl, while Brent is up 11 cents at $85.51/bbl. (eric.yep@wsj.com)

Editor: JVW

0423 GMT [Dow Jones] Australia's central bank clearly feels the Australian dollar needs to fall further to support the economy in the face of commodity price declines this year. But Michael Workman, senior economist at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, says there are good reasons to think the currency will remain strong. The yields on Australian interest-bearing securities--high by international standards--is still generating considerable offshore investor interest, despite the prospect of higher U.S. and UK interest rates through 2015 and 2016, Workman says. While China's growth may slow, it will still take most of Australia's rising volumes of iron ore and coal through the next few years, he adds.(james.glynn@wsj.com; Twitter: @JamesGlynnWSJ)

Editor JSM

0423 GMT [Dow Jones] Japan's government is likely to go ahead with a sales tax hike planned for October, 2015, says Iwao Matsumoto, general manager in the investment planning department of Sumitomo Life Insurance Co. "The government has a goal of budget surplus in fiscal 2020, so it will raise the sales tax" while using economic stimulus to support growth, he says. Some lawmakers and economists have said the government should postpone the tax after an increase in the tax in this April chilled economic activity. Matsumoto says though April's sales tax increase has damped growth as households cut back on spending, a firm jobs market and rising wages should help sustain a recovery in consumer spending and growth overall ahead. Sumitomo is Japan's fourth-largest life insurer by assets.(eleanor.warnock@wsj.com)

Editor: KLH

0418 GMT [Dow Jones] Hong Kong equities retreat as China's GDP for the third quarter beats estimates, contrary to what previously released data had suggested, and investors withdraw stimulus bets. Asia's largest economy grew at 7.3% in Q3, decelerating from 7.5% in Q2, while housing data shows sales falling 10.8% during the first nine months of the year compared with a year earlier. "An expansion of the trade surplus and infrastructure investment are compensating for the housing market's correction and keeping real GDP growth above seven percent," says PNC Financial Services Group. The data reflect "slowdown, but not collapse, leaving questions about balance sheet weaknesses lingering but unlikely to be answered in 2014," PNC adds. The Hang Seng Index falls 0.3% to 23,012.31, while H-shares fall in step; the Hang SengChina Enterprises Index is down 0.3% to 10,265.80. (gregor.hunter@wsj.com; Twitter: @gregorhunter)

Editor: KLH

0416 GMT [Dow Jones] China's GDP growth slowed to the lowest quarterly print since the first quarter of 2009, but the pick-up in industrial production is encouraging, say Nomura analysts. Industrial production growth picked up to 8.0% year over year after a very sharp slowdown to 6.9% in August. "This is encouraging, as of all the monthly data, industrial production has the strongest correlation with GDP growth, so this bodes well for an economic recovery this year," they say. Beijing has stepped up its policy easing after weak August data and these efforts have helped stabilize growth, the analysts say. "More policy stimulus is needed to lift GDP growth in the fourth quarter," they add. (grace.zhu@wsj.com)

Editor: KLH

0409 GMT [Dow Jones] MOF sells Y1.2 trillion of 1.4% coupon 20-year bonds with a lowest price of 101.20, yielding 1.323% and matching market expectations. The bid-to-cover ratio deteriorates to 3.59 from 3.89 at the previous auction. The tail, another gauge of demand, was at 0.08 vs 0.05 at the last tender. The wider tail, the difference between the average and the lowest price, suggests slightly weaker demand for the issue than last time. Lead December JGB futures shed some of their gains after the auction. They were up 0.06 points at 146.31. (tatsuo.ito@wsj.com)

Editor: PJK

0407 GMT [Dow Jones] Australia's central bank Tuesday acknowledged the recent slowdown in China's economy, but remains reassured China's authorities have the firepower to support growth if needed. In the minutes of its last policy meeting, the RBA said that there was scope to ease policy if required in China. Paul Brennan, chief economist at Citi says the RBA also notes that China's target for employment growth in 2014 was close to being achieved, a positive sign that things generally remain on target. (james.glynn@wsj.com; Twitter @JamesGlynnWSJ)

Editor: KLH

0402 GMT [Dow Jones] Chinese refineries processed a record volume of crude oil processing in September, but analysts say this doesn't reflect a consumption bump. "If crude runs are high, that's because import prices of oil are very low and companies are replenishing their inventories," says Miao Tian, an analyst at investment bank North Square Blue Oak. A flood of new crude on global markets and weak global demand have taken the price of crude to levels not seen since 2010, with full-year oil-demand growth forecast to slip further for the remainder of the year. China's crude runs last month reached 10.3 million barrels a day, according to data provided by the National Statistics Bureau. (chuin-wei.yap@wsj.com; Twitter @YapCW)

Editor: JVW

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