



MORNING UPDATE: Man Securities issues alerts for VRTS, ADTN, CHKP, LLY, and LEH

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CHICAGO, Dec. 15 /PRNewswire/ -- Man Securities issues the following Morning Update at 8:30 AM EST with new PriceWatch Alerts for key stocks.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20020214/MANSECLOGO>)

Before the open... PriceWatch Alerts for VRTS, ADTN, CHKP, LLY, and LEH, Market Overview, Today's Economic Calendar, and the Quote Of The Day.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Clearly, depreciation of the U.S. dollar is now an implicit policy of the Federal Reserve."

-- Ned Schmidt, editor, The Value View Gold Report.

New PriceWatch Alerts for VRTS, ADTN, CHKP, LLY, and LEH...

PRICEWATCH ALERTS - HIGH RETURN COVERED CALL OPTIONS -----
-- VERITAS Software Corp.
Last Price 27.38 - FEB 25.00 CALL OPTION@ \$3.40 -> 4.3 % Return assigned*
-- Adtran Inc.
Last Price 18.23 - JAN 17.50 CALL OPTION@ \$1.45 -> 4.3 % Return assigned*
-- Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.
Last Price 25.99 - APR 25.00 CALL OPTION@ \$2.75 -> 7.6 % Return assigned*
-- Eli Lilly and Co.
Last Price 57.00 - APR 55.00 CALL OPTION@ \$4.90 -> 5.6 % Return assigned*
-- Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.
Last Price 85.65 - APR 85.00 CALL OPTION@ \$4.80 -> 5.1 % Return assigned*

* To learn more about how to use these alerts and for our FREE report,
"The 18 Warning Signs That Tell You When To Dump A Stock ", go to:

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** For the FREE report, "Is Your Investment Portfolio Disaster Proof? - Insights, Stocks, And Strategies." go to:
<http://www.investorsobserver.com/FREEDP>

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NEWS LEADERS AND LAGGARDS

So far today Crane, Inc. and Triquint Semiconductor lead the list of companies with the most news stories while Mitcham, and Commerce Energy Group Inc. are showing a spike in news. Lennar Corp, Biomet Inc., and Capital One Financial Corp. have the highest srtIndex scores to top the list of companies with positive news while Mitcham Industries Inc. and Integrated Electrical Services Inc. lead the list of companies with negative news reports. Anteon International Corp. has popped up with a high positive news srtIndex score.

To learn more about how our patent pending SmartReadMX technology continuously reads business news and identifies the best potential investment opportunities to keep you ahead of the pack go to:

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MARKET OVERVIEW

Overseas markets are all on the same page this morning, as all the markets that we track in the green. The FTSE is currently up 0.46% with investors relieved by yesterday's Fed report on the economy. In Asian markets, the Nikkei is up 0.37% and the Hang Seng up 0.25% with Air China jumping 8.22%. The BSE Sensex recorded new highs propelled higher by gains in the telecom and banking sectors. This rally is being sustained by continued foreign investment and expectations of a healthy 6% GDP.

The January contract on sweet crude oil rose 81 cents yesterday on the New York Mercantile Exchange thanks to much higher heating-fuel costs. The market is still digesting OPEC's decision on Friday to cut production by a million barrels a day beginning in January but yesterday's gains were jump started thanks to January natural gas adding 4.7-percent to close at \$7.166 per million British thermal units. Colder weather across the Midwest and the onset of winter sparked the buying in heating-fuel. Given the beating energy prices have taken recently, an up-day or two is more than expected and shouldn't be viewed as anything more than a minor correction at this point.

Be prepared for the investing week ahead with Bernie Schaeffer's FREE Monday Morning Outlook. For more details and to sign up, go to: <http://www.investorsobserver.com/freemo>

DYNAMIC MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Monday's market rally continued Tuesday, despite another round of poor trade figures. October's deficit ballooned 9% to a record US\$55.5 billion, following the US\$50.9 billion deficit from September. But although the news is bad, its worth remembering that October was a month in which oil prices raced to the highest level on record - a shade under US\$56 per barrel. In addition, the rise wasn't totally unexpected, given that the hurricanes in September shut down a large part of the US, causing import shipments to be suspended. With that backlog, plus October's regular deliveries, a fatter trade gap was projected. Imports grew 3.4% - the largest monthly rise since November 2002 - and hit a record US\$153.5 as the US imported more oil (US\$9.5 billion worth) to compensate for the shutdown in Gulf of Mexico production. Nevertheless, the trade deficit through the first ten months of the year is now US\$500.5 billion - a full US\$4 billion higher than all of 2003. Over that period, imports have swelled 15.6%. And it's largely thanks to the dollar's steady demise this year that exports have grown almost 13% over the same period, compared with 2003. That itself is self-fulfilling because the deficits have contributed to the dollar's fall. And American frustrations with the Chinese grew with the news that the trade deficit with China hit a record US\$16.8 billion in October, thanks to a record jump in imports to US\$19.7 billion. The Chinese government continues to tease that it will float its yuan currency on the open market - but isn't actually doing much to achieve that. But at least the Federal Reserve thinks America is growing. Alan Greenspan and his fellow bankers raised interest rates for the fifth time, to 2.25%.

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TODAY'S ECONOMIC CALENDAR

7:00 a.m.: MBA Refinancing Index for the week ended December 11 (last minus 1.1 percent)
8:30 a.m.: December Empire State Mfg Index (last 19.8)
9:00 a.m.: October Treasury Intl Flows (last plus \$63.4 billion)
1:00 p.m.: December NAHB Housing Index (last 71)

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Web site: <http://www.mansecurities.com/mu.html>

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