

# AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 SECONDS

WEEK FROM 25/01/2012 TO 31/01/2012

FOR PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

## BUSINESS NEWS

Fast-food chain **Subway** plans to open 600 new branches across the UK and Ireland over the next three years, creating 6000 jobs.

Qatar Investment Authority is to buy **Credit Suisse's** Canary Wharf headquarters for £330m in a sale-and-leaseback arrangement.

Spain's biggest lender **Santander** has seen Q4 profits tumble to £39.3m, from £1.75bn the previous year; full-year profits declined from £6.83bn to £4.47bn. Profits from the UK reduced by £40m to £324m.

The largest Italian bank by assets **UniCredit** has announced plans to raise £20.8bn via the sale of 'covered' bonds.

Swiss drug company **Roche** has launched a £3.7bn hostile takeover of US gene sequencing business **Illumina**.

**Ford** saw Q4 profits climb to £8.6bn from £120.3m in 2010 thanks to a one-off special gain of £7.8bn marked against tax deferred assets; full-year profits rose by £8.8bn. Meanwhile **Honda** announced that Q3 net income has fallen 41%, compared to last year, to £396m.

**Facebook** is preparing to float on the US stock exchange, with initial indications valuing the business at up to £63bn. Games console manufacturer **Nintendo** announced losses of £400m in the last nine months of 2011. **NEC**, the electronics maker, plans to cut 10,000 jobs after reporting a Q4 loss of £721m. **Nokia Siemens**, the world's second largest maker of mobile network equipment, announced plans to axe 4,100 jobs across Germany and Finland as part of cost cutting measures after a fall in profits.

## ECONOMIC NEWS

**UK GDP** shrank by 0.2% in Q4 2011; the first quarterly fall since Q4 2010. **Non-mortgage borrowing** by consumers fell in December by the largest amount on record.

The average **house price** in England and Wales dropped by 1.3% in 2011 to £160,000.

The **US Federal Reserve** has kept interest rates unchanged at 0% to 0.25%, whilst also stating that it does not expect to raise interest rates until late in 2014. The **US economy** grew at an annualised rate of 2.8% in Q4, an increase from 1.8% in the previous quarter.

**Unemployment in the eurozone** reached record levels in December with 16.5m people looking for jobs, a rate of 10.4%. **Spain** currently has the highest rate of any of the countries with 22.9%, whilst **Austria** has the lowest rate at just 4.1% unemployment.

UK and the Czech Republic were the only two countries out of the 27 within the EU not to sign up to the **EU fiscal treaty**, designed to enforce budget discipline across Europe.

**Japan** saw a rise in **factory output** in December of 4%, a dramatic turnaround from the 2.7% decline in November.

## FTSE ALL SHARE

Year to date **UP 2.63%**  
This week **DOWN 0.99%**



## S&P 500

Year to date **UP 2.77%**  
This week **DOWN 1.39%**



## NIKKEI 225

Year to date **UP 3.45%**  
This week **UP 0.86%**



## FTSE World Europe ex UK

Year to date **UP 3.32%**  
This week **DOWN 0.69%**



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