

Global Market Overview  
Markets

## Japan's Topix index touches 26-year high

Momentum set to slow in Europe after Asia jumps after fresh records on Wall Street



© AFP



42 MINUTES AGO Edward White in Taipei and Michael Hunter in London

1 comments

### Thursday 07.00 GMT

#### What you need to know

- Tokyo's Topix touches highest since 1991 before falling back in volatile trade
- Asian equities higher after fresh records on Wall Street
- European stocks expected to slip as momentum from record fades
- Brent crude stuck below \$64 a barrel

#### Leading quote

"Investors are nervous," says Konstantinos Anthis of ADS Securities research team.

"There is nothing important on the [economic] calendar and with President Trump on his Asian tour and the rest of the global policymakers and stakeholders are muted. This can be seen today in the way the Asian markets have traded."

#### Hot topic

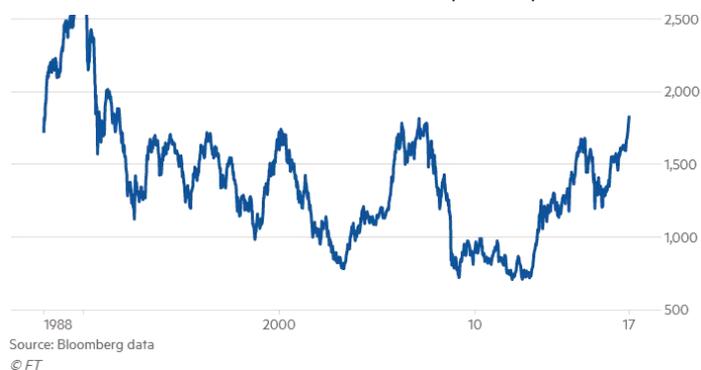
Tokyo's Topix index has touched its highest level since November 1991, only to end down 0.3 per cent on the day after a volatile session.

At its peak, the index reached the fresh high of 1,844.05 with gains across almost all major segments, taking it more than 20 per cent higher for the year to date. But it faded back in late trade to close at 1,817.75.

The latest peak of the rally follows Prime Minister [Shinzo Abe](#)'s October election victory — Mr Abe's party sealed a two-thirds supermajority in parliament and ensured continuity at the [central bank](#).

Topix index





## Equities

Asia's main bourses edged up on Thursday, following fresh record closes set overnight on Wall Street, but European equities are set to slip. Opening calls from London Capital are pointing to a 16-point opening loss for the FTSE 100 and a 4-point dip for the Xetra Dax 30.

Outside of Tokyo, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was up 0.9 per cent with the [China Enterprises](#) index 1.4 per cent higher on gains from insurance companies.

Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 was up 0.5 per cent. The market's mining and metals index rose 0.7 per cent, while energy companies had a mixed session as the oil price recovered slightly from overnight losses.

In China, markets were relatively quiet as US President Donald Trump met his Chinese counterpart [Xi Jinping in Beijing](#). The Shanghai Composite was flat and the Shenzhen Composite added 0.2 per cent.

South Korea's Kospi was down 0.1 per cent.

## Forex and fixed income

Currencies remained subdued as investors awaited further developments on US tax reform.

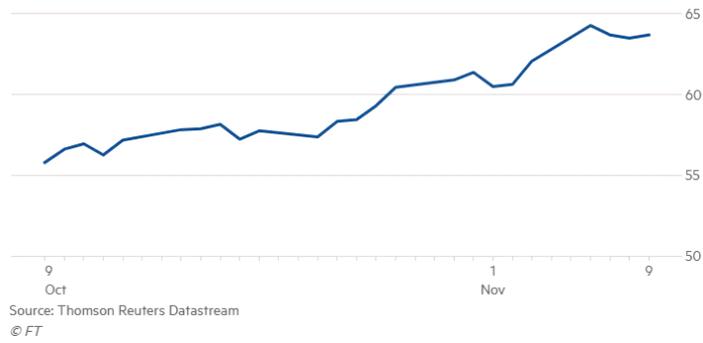
The yen was flat against the dollar at ¥113.86 with a worse than expected decline in Japan's September machinery orders failing to move the market — the metric is a proxy for the corporate sector's willingness to invest.

The Australia dollar dropped 0.1 per cent on an unexpected fall in the value and volume of home loans, although it quickly recovered to be up 0.1 per cent on the day at \$0.7677.

The New Zealand dollar was down 0.1 per cent after the country's central bank held interest rates at 1.75 per cent, in line with expectations.

The dollar index, tracking the US currency against a basket of peers, was flat.

In the debt markets, yield on the US 10-year government bond was flat at 2.324 per cent, while that on the Australian equivalent was up 3 basis points at 2.598 per cent. The Japanese note was flat.



## Commodities

Brent crude was up 0.2 per cent at \$63.61 a barrel but was still off Tuesday's two-year intraday high of \$64.65. The international benchmark settled 0.3 per cent lower at \$63.49 a barrel overnight.

West Texas Intermediate, the US marker, was up 0.1 per cent at \$56.88 a barrel.

Gold was up 0.2 per cent at \$1,283 an ounce.

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