

FOCUS

IDEM (Italian Derivatives Market): annual highs in trading in equity derivatives, with a daily average of 88,200 standard contracts, the most relevant figure since March 2003 and the third figure since ever (+43.1% vs February). Total monthly turnover reached more than two million of standard contracts for the first time. All the instruments traded were affected by overall growth: the stock futures rose to 18,000 daily standard contracts (up 57.1% vs February); the mini-futures to 8,500 (up 45,9%); the index options to 11,400 (up 26.5%); the stock futures to 3,700 (up 233.9%); the stock options to 46,700 (+36.2%). With regard to the stock options, it is the highest monthly figure since May 2001 and the third figure since ever. From Monday, 22 futures and options on the S&P/MIB index were traded. As predictable, given the maturities by September, volumes are slim at the moment, being options more traded.

The Mib index has reached its new annual peak at 20,554 (+5.5% vs 2003) on Monday, 8 March. A decline phase has followed, sharpened by the Madrid blasts on 11 March, but a new growth phase saw the index at 19,868 at the end of the month, down -1.9%, but still up 2.0% if compared to 2003.

Capitalisation reached €499 billion in March. A breakdown shows Borsa with a figure of €486.8 billion, Nuovo Mercato at €7.6 billion and Mercato Expandi at €4.6 billion. Capitalisation represents a percentage on GDP (37.5% in 2003) of 37.8% (38.5 in February).

Growing volumes in terms of contracts (156,300 daily, up 8.1% vs February) as well as of turnover (daily avg of €3.39 billion, up 18.0% vs February). Sharp rise in shares listed on Borsa which reached its highest record since November 2000 with a daily avg of €3.32 billion. The avg size of contracts regarding shares listed on Borsa rose from €21,700 in February to €23,400. The avg size of contracts regarding shares listed on Nuovo Mercato rose from €5,900 to €6,400 (third level since ever).

ETFs rise in terms of number of contracts (daily avg 456, up 21,4% vs February) but decline in terms of turnover (daily avg of €9.3 million, down 10.9%). The avg size of contracts fell to €20,400 euro showing a growing participation of retail investors.

Same scenario as for volumes of covered warrant and certificates, with a daily avg of contracts rising to 17,900 (up 8,8% vs February, down 14,4% vs March 2003) and of turnover falling to €74.1 million (-5,9% vs February, up 112,1% vs March 2003).

Rising volumes in the After Hours session, with a daily average of €39.1 million (up 16,1% vs February) and of 5,900 contracts (+18,2% Vs February).

Volumes of the bond traded on MOT rose (daily avg of €33.2 million, up 6,4% vs February). Volumes of bonds trading on EuroMOT were very high and posted an average of €17.6 million per day (down 8,5% vs February and fourth figure since ever, up 19.5% vs March 2003). Volumes of Government bonds reached an average of €596.5 million per day (-15,0% vs February but up 16,0% vs March 2003).

In March, three companies were delisted: as far as Borsa is concerned, Cirio (5 March, non-sufficient requirements) and Locat (9 March, following a residual tender offer); as for Nuovo Mercato, Gandalf (29 marzo, non-sufficient requirements). The number of companies listed at the end of March is 276. On March 8 the Intek shares listed on Borsa have been delisted following conversion into ordinary shares.

STOCK MARKET INDICES

	30 DEC 2003	27 FEB 2004	31 MAR 2004	Var. % MoM	Var. % on 2003 end	Var. % on Mar 2003	Volatility latest month	Volatility latest 3 months
Mib (base 2.1.1975 = 1.000)	19 483	20 255	19 868	-1.9%	2.0%	27.0%	11.8%	8.9%
last Mibtel (base 3.1.1994 = 10.000)	19 922	20 778	20 352	-2.1%	2.2%	26.5%	14.6%	11.5%
last S&P/MIB (base 31.12.1997 = 24.402)	26 887	27 957	27 148	-2.9%	1.0%	25.7%	15.9%	12.8%
last Mib30 (base 31.12.1992 = 10.000)	26 715	27 972	27 328	-2.3%	2.3%	24.4%	15.3%	12.3%
last Midex (base 30.12.1994 = 10.000)	26 347	26 491	25 561	-3.5%	-3.0%	34.1%	17.1%	13.2%
MibStar (base 29.12.2000 = 1.000)	940	961	950	-1.1%	1.1%	19.6%	9.6%	7.7%
Numex (base 17.06.1999 = 1.000)	1 664	1 682	1 576	-6.3%	-5.3%	35.3%	17.1%	16.0%
last Numtel (base 17.06.1999 = 1.000)	1 582	1 597	1 499	-6.1%	-5.2%	34.9%	23.3%	19.1%
MEX (base 3.1.1979 = 1.000)	7 317	7 238	7 192	-0.6%	-1.7%	10.5%	5.0%	4.4%

LISTED COMPANIES NUMBER AND CAPITALISATION

	NUMBER (end of month)			CAPITALIZZAZIONE a fine mese (società italiane)					
	30 DEC 2003	27 FEB 2004	31 MAR 2004	30 DEC 2003 ML euro	27 FEB 2004 ML euro	31 MAR 2004 ML euro	Var. % MoM	Var. % on 2003 end	Var. % on Mar 2003
Borsa	225	225	223	474 554	495 058	486 785	-1.7%	2.6%	20.5%
Nuovo Mercato	43	43	42	8 265	8 310	7 626	-8.2%	-7.7%	40.6%
Mercato Expandi	11	11	11	4 628	4 574	4 561	-0.3%	-1.4%	-4.8%
Total	279	279	276	487 446	507 942	498 972	-1.8%	2.4%	20.4%
<i>as % of GDP</i>				37.5%	38.5%	37.8%			

TRADING ACTIVITY

DAILY AVERAGES

	FEBRUARY 2004		MARCH 2004		Var. % MoM		Var. % on Mar 2003		JAN-MAR 2004	
	Trades	ML euro	Trades	ML euro	Trades	Turnover	Trades	Turnover	Trades	ML euro
Borsa shares ⁽¹⁾	130 555	2 793.7	143 989	3 315.3	10.3%	18.7%	-10.5%	15.6%	143 512	2 999.5
Nuovo Mercato shares ⁽¹⁾	13 723	79.3	12 035	75.7	-12.3%	-4.6%	37.7%	193.6%	14 322	86.8
Mercato Expandi shares	283	1.6	240	1.5	-15.2%	-3.1%	-11.1%	34.1%	276	1.6
Shares Total ⁽¹⁾	144 560	2 874.6	156 264	3 392.5	8.1%	18.0%	-8.0%	17.2%	158 111	3 088.0
ETFs and Open-End Funds	376	10.4	456	9.3	21.4%	-10.9%	268.6%	59.2%	447	10.4
Covered warrants and certificates ⁽¹⁾	16 437	78.7	17 889	74.1	8.8%	-5.8%	-14.4%	112.2%	17 378	77.4
<i>After Hours ⁽²⁾</i>	5 002	33.7	5 910	39.1	18.2%	16.1%	-5.0%	22.3%	5 813	38.0
EQUITIES TOTAL ⁽³⁾	163 384	2 972.1	179 290	3 483.6	9.7%	17.2%	-8.9%	18.2%	178 949	3 183.9
MOT - Government Bonds	11 031	683.6	9 378	596.5	-15.0%	-12.7%	19.8%	16.0%	10 657	663.8
MOT - Bonds	2 242	31.2	2 197	33.2	-2.0%	6.4%	-19.5%	-23.7%	2 233	32.1
EuroMOT - Bonds	866	19.2	645	17.6	-25.5%	-8.5%	15.4%	19.5%	933	22.3
FIXED INCOME TOTAL	14 138	734.0	12 220	647.2	-13.6%	-11.8%	9.9%	13.1%	13 823	718.2
Stock Index Futures ⁽⁴⁾	11 470	1 595.5	18 025	2 447.5	57.1%	53.4%	-24.6%	-7.6%	14 304	1 966.9
mini Stock Index Futures ⁽⁴⁾	5 797	161.2	8 454	229.9	45.9%	42.6%	-38.8%	-24.9%	7 071	194.6
Index Options ⁽⁴⁾	9 036	617.4	11 432	774.1	26.5%	25.4%	-11.1%	6.2%	9 473	642.0
Stock Futures ⁽⁴⁾	1 100	4.4	3 674	14.7	233.9%	238.0%	184.9%	215.6%	2 034	8.1
Stock Options ⁽⁴⁾	34 259	129.4	46 607	177.6	36.0%	37.3%	21.0%	42.3%	39 681	153.6
EQUITY DERIVATIVES TOTAL ⁽⁴⁾	61 661	2 507.9	88 192	3 643.8	43.0%	45.3%	-2.4%	-4.5%	72 564	2 965.3

(1) Daily and After Hours sessions

(2) Figures already included in those of Borsa and NM shares and covered warrants/certificates

(3) It includes also trading of warrant, convertible bonds, right issues and closed-end funds. It doesn't include figures of participation to takeover sent through the electronic trading system.

(4) For equity derivatives number of standard contracts and notional turnover are reported.