

## **Asian shares surge on U.S. data, euro flat**

Asian shares surged on Friday after encouraging U.S. retail sales and jobs data suggested Asia's biggest export market was stabilizing, while the euro remained on the defensive amid the Greece debt crisis. Investors now have their sights firmly set on the monthly U.S. report on non-farm payrolls, due out later on Friday, the most closely watched figures on the U.S. labor market. Japan's benchmark Nikkei average .N225 closed up 2.2 percent at 10,368.96, while the broader Topix gained 1.47 percent. The MSCI index of Asian shares outside Japan was up 0.83 percent. Also boosting share sentiment in Tokyo, the Nikkei newspaper said that the Bank of Japan was examining a further easing of its already ultra-loose monetary policy and may make a decision on such a move as early as this month.