

**Tokyo shares open 0.42% higher**  
**Malaysian Insider**  
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Tokyo stocks rose 0.42% at the opening today, tracking rallies on Wall Street after the Federal Reserve said the US economy was picking up.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index added 59.42 points to 14,363.53 in early trade.

Asian markets are likely to open in positive territory as US data and the Federal Open Market Committee statement released overnight didn't raise any concerns about growth in this part of the world, Dave Schaper, a broker at Forsyth Barr in New Zealand, told Dow Jones Newswires.

The Fed, concluding a two-day policy meeting, said economic activity "has picked up recently after having slowed sharply during the winter in part because of adverse weather conditions".

The US central bank, as expected, continued a plan to gradually taper its bond-buying stimulus programme, while maintaining ultra-low interest rates.

The Fed's positive outlook outshone a disappointing report from the Commerce Department, which said gross domestic product grew by a scant 0.1% annual rate in the first quarter.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average Wednesday closed up 0.27% at a new record at 16,580.84, notching its first all-time high of 2014.

In the forex market, the dollar eased to 102.29 yen from 102.64 yen in New York Wednesday.

The euro fetched \$1.3869 and 141.83 yen, up from \$1.3811 and 141.75 yen. – AFP, May 1, 2014.

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