Markets decline as rally halted

Hopes remain high for euro to get boost

By Matthew Craft
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NEW YORK — A two-day rally that sent stocks soaring last week fizzled out Monday.

European leaders vowed Thursday and Friday to keep the continent's monetary union intact, and investors sent stock markets shooting higher. But stocks were little changed Monday as investors waited to see if they would back up their words with action.

The Dow Jones industrial average sank 2.65 points to close at 13,073.01.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner met separately with Germany's finance minister and the head of the European Central Bank, Mario Draghi, on Monday. Draghi's pledge to do whatever was needed to protect the euro pushed the Dow over 13,000 last week.

Hopes are high that Draghi will announce plans to support the euro when the central bank meets Thursday, said David Brown, the CEO and chief market strategist at the research firm Sabrient.

"I think that's the big story this week," Brown said. "The market has really responded to his bold statement. I hope the ECB takes action. If they don't do anything, it's not going to be pretty."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.67 of a point to 1,385.30, while the Nasdaq dropped 12.25 points to 2,945.84.