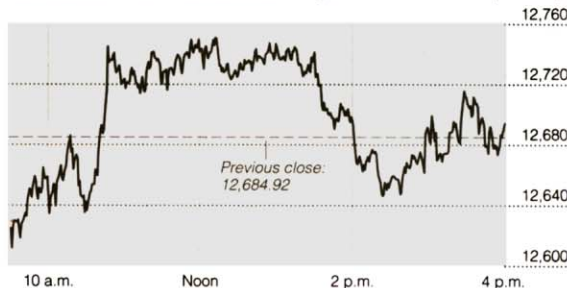


The New York Times

THE MARKETS

The Dow minute-by-minute

Position of the Dow Jones industrial average at 1-minute intervals yesterday.



Sources: Associated Press; Bloomberg

THE NEW YORK TIMES

STOCKS & BONDS

New Mortgage Rules Give Wall Street a Small Lift

By The Associated Press

Wall Street finished mixed in another seesaw session Wednesday after regulators allowed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to buy more mortgages and the Federal Reserve chairman, Ben S. Bernanke, said the central bank would continue to shore up the economy.

As Mr. Bernanke made his comments in testimony on Capitol Hill, the dollar plunged to a record low against the 15-nation euro. That sent oil and gold prices further into record high territory, and raised the prospect of accelerating inflation.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the biggest sources of financing for American home loans, helped give the market some ballast after the government removed restrictions on the size of their portfolios, offering a chance to ease an extremely tight mortgage market.

Fannie Mae shares rose 30 cents, to \$27.27, while Freddie Mac shares fell 12 cents, to \$25.09.

"The government is trying to do their part," said Todd Leone, managing director for equity trading at Cowen & Company. "Together, this helps put a little more faith in the economy."

Both developments initially bolstered confidence, and major indexes moved higher before investors, following a pattern set in recent weeks, cashed in their profits in afternoon trading.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 9.36, or 0.07 percent, to 12,694.28, its fourth consecutive gain.

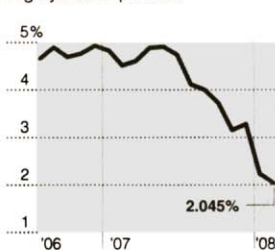
The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index fell 1.27, or 0.09 percent, to 1,380.02, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 8.79, or 0.37 percent, to 2,353.78.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 0.88, or 0.12 percent, to 716.44.

The euro climbed to a record high of \$1.5120 against the dollar as sentiment increased that the Fed would continue cutting rates. That drove more money into commodities, especially into oil and gold.

Two-Year Treasury Notes

High yields in percent.



Source: Treasury Department

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Oil prices broke through a new intraday high of \$102 a barrel in overnight trading, then fell \$1.24 to settle at \$99.64 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Gold futures set a new high of \$961.30 an ounce.

In economic news, a government report showed weaker-than-expected business investment in durable goods, and the Commerce Department said new-home sales fell in January for the third consecutive month. New-home sales are down to the slowest pace in nearly 13 years.

Harry Clark, president of Clark Capital Management in Philadelphia, said an economic slowdown that avoids recession could create a moderate drop in demand and help ease pressure from rising prices.

"Rising prices aren't a big deal if everyone is employed and the economy is growing," he said.

The price of the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose $\frac{3}{32}$, to $97\frac{7}{32}$. Its yield, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.85 percent, from 3.86 percent.

Following are the results of Wednesday's auction of two-year Treasury notes:

(000 omitted in dollar figures)	
High Price	99.912
High Yield	2.045
Low Yield	1.970
Median Yield	2.020
Accepted at low price	15%
Total applied for	\$58,415,435
Accepted	\$28,900,075
Noncompetitive	\$538,376
Interest set at	2%

The 2-year notes mature Feb. 28, 2010.