

Business Today

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Interview:
Paul Pisani

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World Business Highlights

Bernanke Says Federal Reserve May Let Investment Banks Borrow Into 2009 Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke, seeking to allay renewed concerns over the health of the nation's financial system, said the central bank may extend its emergency-loan program for investment banks into next year.

Commodities Drop for a Third Day as G-8 Says Oil, Food Posing 'Challenge' Commodities tumbled for a third day, led by crude oil and corn, as Group of Eight leaders said rising energy and food costs pose a "serious challenge" to the global economy.

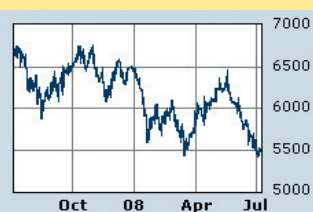
Fed's Wall Street Lending May Keep It From Raising Interest Rate This Year The Federal Reserve may hold off on its first interest-rate increase since 2006 until policy makers judge that financial markets are stable enough to allow the central bank to withdraw its lending backstop for Wall Street.

Pending U.S. Home Resales Fell 4.7% in May, More Than Economists Estimated Contracts to buy previously owned U.S. homes declined more than forecast in May, a sign prices have yet to touch bottom.

VMware Says Founder, Chief Greene Is Ousted; Shares Drop on Sales Outlook VMware Inc. said founder and Chief Executive Officer Diane Greene will leave and 2008 sales will trail its earlier projections, sending the company's stock to the biggest drop in six months.

Lacker Says Fed Should Consider Raising Rates as Threats to Economy Fade Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond President Jeffrey Lacker said the central bank should consider raising interest rates to limit inflation as the threat of a steep economic slump begins to fade.

FTSE 100



Inside

Carry on liberalising

After the hearse service has been liberalised, this week's editorial encourages government to liberalise all forms of transport – including public buses, taxis and the Malta-Gozo ferry service

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Dry pockets

In his weekly column, George M.Mangion argues that whoever buys the Malta Shipyards must embark on a re-training and a re-tooling on a holistic scale

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Msida Marina up for grabs

Amid rumours of a forthcoming privatisation process for the Msida Marina, this week local entrepreneur Etienne Bonello Dupuis confirmed that a co-operative made up of boat owners is being set up to bid for the takeover of the 700-berth marina, the largest on the island.

"We've had a lot of interest from the boat-owners. I have been receiving many calls every day as the word spreads," Bonello Dupuis told sister paper MaltaToday Midweek today.

A core group representing boat owners is currently drawing up a system by which co-operative members would buy shares at a standard fee, but then also be charged according to the size of the boat.

Bonello Dupuis argues that this system would enable a different kind of management, which would in itself incentivise boat owners to take better care of the marina.

"We still have to submit our application to the co-operatives board for approval, and once we receive this approval, we will go to

all pontoon users," he said.

The group is also working on a new fee-structure, in which water and electricity will be no longer included at a flat rate, but rather be charged on consumption.

"It is the case that boat owners leave their freezers and air-conditioners running, or have the water running while washing their boats," he said. "Those charges will come in, in case of any operator taking over the marina."

Bonello Dupuis added that the Maltese market is skewed due to a greater demand than supply for berthing places. "There are at least 400 requests for pontoon spaces, conservatively. So the price itself is not reflecting a proper market situation," he said.

The system proposed by the core co-operative group is to re-invest profits into the marina itself, as "there will be a need for increased maintenance, the revamping of the decking, and the upgrading of electrical supply and even fire-fighting equipment, which is non-existent on some."



Malta worries EU social partners

Female employment, childcare services lacking

David Darmanin

A joint letter sent by EU social partners to Employment Commissioner Vladimir Spidla yesterday urged under-performing EU countries, Malta being the worst performing, to invest more in childcare. At an EU average of 57.2 per cent female participation in employment, social partners argued that "without greater efforts" the 60 per cent target set in Barcelona "will not be achieved

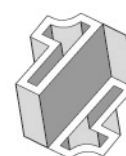
by 2010".

The social partners signing the letter, namely Business Europe, SMEs trade union UEAPME, industry union ETUC/CES and public sector companies union CEEP, based their stance on figures published by Eurostat on female participation in employment, which ranked Malta lowest at 34.9 per cent, 22.3 percentage points below average and 25.1 percentage points below target.

"In line with the Barcelona targets, a majority of Member States have invested more resources in the provision of childcare. However, despite ▶ page 3

Markets

Security	Closing Prices in Euro Tue 8-July-08	Closing Prices in MTL Tue 8-July-08	% Change from previous wk
Bank of Valletta p.l.c.	4.864	2.088	-1.737%
HSBC Bank Malta p.l.c.	3.840	1.649	-0.260%
Lombard Bank Malta p.l.c.	2.950	1.266	-0.673%
Middlesea Insurance p.l.c.	3.410	1.464	0.000%
Simonds Farsons Cisk p.l.c.	2.780	1.193	0.725%
GO p.l.c.	2.600	1.116	1.961%
International Hotel Investments p.l.c.	1.050	0.451	-2.144%
Plaza Centres p.l.c.	1.730	0.743	0.000%
Malta International Airport p.l.c.	3.120	1.339	0.322%
GlobalCapital p.l.c.	2.600	1.116	0.000%
Datatrak Holdings p.l.c.	0.291	0.125	0.000%
San Tumas Shareholdings p.l.c.	2.562	1.100	0.000%
Medserv p.l.c.	3.990	1.713	0.000%
Grand Harbour Marina p.l.c.	2.050	0.880	0.000%
Crimsonwing p.l.c.	0.540	0.232	1.887%
MaltaPost p.l.c.	0.800	0.343	-3.614%
RS2 Software p.l.c.	0.815	0.350	0.000%



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