



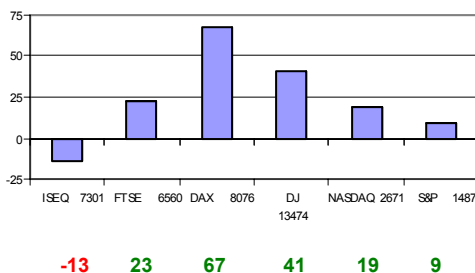
Daily Market Comment

Yesterday's Summary : The Irish market received a boost yesterday, half way through the session with the announcement from the central banks of Europe, US, UK and Canada on a joint initiative on restoring liquidity to the credit markets. The ISEQ was trading down 2.8% at one point, to recover to close 12.5 points or 0.17% weaker. The financials benefited strongly, with AIB and Anglo finishing up 26 cent and 5.5 respectively, but Irish life failed to lift ahead of their trading statement today.

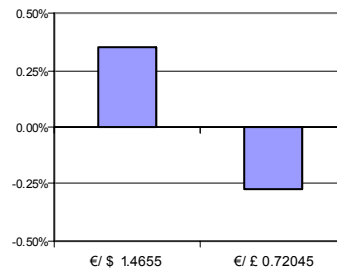
Overnight News : In Asia, share prices closed sharply lower as a US Federal Reserve-sponsored plan to inject more liquidity into financial markets failed to convince investors that the global credit crunch brought on by the US sub-prime crisis will end any time soon. Market perception seems to indicate that the Fed's decision to forge an alliance with European central banks indicates there are further problems ahead. The market will be waiting to see tonight's key US retail sales and producer price index data and watching in case China tightens monetary policy further to rein in inflation and growth.

Breaking News : Elan corp was down 12% this morning to €14.90 at one point this morning on the back of news that Biogen, Elan's trading partner would no longer be pursuing a sale. Elan's share price recovered somewhat, to €15.75 by mid morning. HBOS announced this morning that their consumer lending profit would fall, and writedowns of £180 million. In addition the bank has announced a delay in their forecasted buyback program. The stock was down 7.5% to £7.77 in mid morning trading.

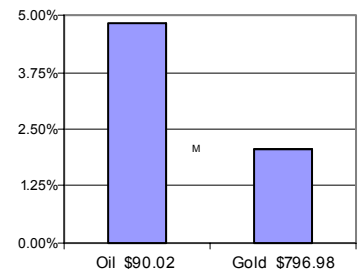
Equity Index's change on day



Currency daily % change



Oil/Gold daily % change



Paper Headlines

- "Microsoft targets counterfeit sellers" - **Microsoft** (Irish Examiner)
- "11% fall in airline earnings predicted for next year" - (Irish Examiner)
- "Move by Central banks boosts sentiment" - (Irish Times)
- "BHP steps up the pressure on Rio Tinto" - **Rio Tinto** - (Financial Times)
- "Rank folds on dividend payment" - **Rank** - (Financial Times)

Market Themes and Movers

Central banks unite: The U.S. Federal Reserve announced a plan to work with other central banks to alleviate a global credit crisis yesterday. The initiative which includes the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the Swiss National Bank as well as the Canadian Central Bank focuses on addressing credit liquidity. The U.S. central bank said that it was creating a temporary auction facility to make funds available to banks and was also setting up lines of credit with the ECB and the Swiss Central Bank that could be used for additional resources. It is expected to give European banks easier access to dollar funds.

Lehman leads the charge: Lehman Bros is the first of the US broker's to report fourth-quarter profit. It will be closely watched for any current comments on the impact of the subprime debt crisis and for its outlook for next quarter. The financial stocks are at the heart of the credit crunch, and the first one to report in a period is something akin to the canary in the coal mine. The market has shown little faith in the unaudited quarterly accounts thus far, so the first US broker to release audited full year accounts could be a significant market driver today.

Dolmen Squawk Box

This day 5 years ago, The Dow Jones industrial average closed above the 10,000 milestone for a second day Friday as investors shrugged off a downbeat report on consumer sentiment to push stocks higher.



Dolmen Securities
75 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland.
45 South Mall, Cork, Ireland
Theatre Court, Mallow St, Limerick, Ireland.

Website : www.dolmenstockbrokers.ie
Tel : +353 1 633 3800/1890 400 300
Tel : +353 21 422 2122
Tel : +353 61 436 500

E-mail: info@dsl.ie
E-mail: cork@dsl.ie
E-mail: Limerick@dsl.ie



Disclosures

This report has been prepared by Dolmen Stockbrokers ('Dolmen') for information purposes only to assist investors to make their own investment decisions and is not intended to and does not constitute personal recommendations nor provide the sole basis for any evaluation of the securities discussed. Specifically the information contained in this report should not be taken as an offer or solicitation of investment advice or, encourage the purchase or sale of any particular security, option, future or other derivative investment. Not all recommendations are necessarily suitable for all investors and Dolmen recommend that specific advice should always be sought prior to investment, based on the particular circumstances of the investor.

Although the information in this report has been obtained from sources, which Dolmen believes to be reliable and all reasonable efforts are made to present accurate information Dolmen give no warranty or guarantee as to, and do not accept responsibility for, the correctness, completeness, timeliness or accuracy of the information provided or its transmission. Nor shall Dolmen, or any of its employees, directors or agents, be liable to for any losses, damages, costs, claims, demands or expenses of any kind whatsoever, whether direct or indirect, suffered or incurred in consequence of any use of, or reliance upon, the information. Any person acting on the information contained in this report does so entirely at his or her own risk.

All estimates, views and opinions included in this report constitute Dolmen's judgment as of the date of the report but may be subject to change without notice. Changes to assumptions may have a material impact on any recommendations made herein.

Unless specifically indicated to the contrary this report has not been disclosed to the covered issuers(s) in advance of publication.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future returns. The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise. Investments denominated in foreign currencies are subject to fluctuations in exchange rates, which may have an adverse affect on the value of the investments, sale proceeds, and on dividend or interest income. Investors may not necessarily recoup the full value of their original investment. Investors should be aware that forwarding looking statements and forecasts may not be realised.

This report may not be reproduced (in whole or in part) altered, transmitted or made available to any other person without the prior written permission of Dolmen.

Dolmen Securities is a Member Firm of the London Stock Exchange, and is authorised by the Financial Regulator under the Investment Intermediaries Act 1995. Dolmen Stockbrokers is a Member Firm of The Irish Stock Exchange, The London Stock Exchange, and is authorised by the Financial Regulator under the Stock Exchange Act 1995.

Conflicts of Interest & Share Ownership Policy

Dolmen, its employees, directors or related companies, may have a shareholding in the securities (or related investments/ derivatives) of certain companies covered in this report, or may provide/ solicit investment banking or other services to/ from them.

It is noted that research analysts' compensation is impacted upon by overall firm profitability and accordingly may be affected to some extent by revenues arising other Dolmen business units including Corporate Finance, Fund Management and Stockbroking. Revenues in these business units may derive in part from the recommendations or views in this report. Notwithstanding, Dolmen is satisfied that the objectivity of views and recommendations contained in this report has not been compromised.

Dolmen permits research analysts to own shares and/ or derivative positions in issuers they publish research, views and recommendations on and accordingly analysts involved in the production of this report may own stocks in a company covered in it. Any own account staff trading is undertaken in strict compliance with Dolmen's own account internal rules and therefore Dolmen is satisfied that the impartiality of research, views and recommendations remains assured.

Analyst Certification

Each research analyst responsible for the content of this report, in whole or in part, certifies that: (1) all of the views expressed accurately reflect his or her personal views about those securities or issuers; and (2) no part of his or her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed by that research analyst in the research report. Stuart Draper, Carl Bourke and Stephen Taylor are responsible for the production of this report. Stuart Draper is Head of Research and Carl Bourke & Stephen Taylor are equity analysts.

For US Persons Only

This report is only provided in the US to major institutional investors as defined by s. 15 a-6 of the Securities Exchange Act, 1934 as amended. A US recipient of this report shall not distribute or provide this report or any part thereof to any other person.



DOLMEN SECURITIES LTD