HURRICANE KATRINA: THE AFTERMATH

Revenue, the Second Flood

Retail Sales Slump as Storm Survivors Buy Generators, Gas Cans

By Doris Fuller

Washington Post Staff Writer

The long-term economic impact of Hurricane Katrina will likely be a long one as consumers, businesses and the insurance industry calculate the damage and begin to repair it.

For the Economy

Long-Term Impact Depends on Consumers

By Paul Blustein

Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumers reacted to the disaster and its aftermath in a variety of ways, and the economic impact could range from temporary to long-lasting.

The Insurance Industry

Surviving Katrina’s Huge Damage Claims

By Alice Bayard

Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON - The Insurance Bureau of Louisiana estimated that the cost of damage from Hurricane Katrina could reach $20 billion, making it the most expensive natural disaster in U.S. history.

Capital Automotive REIT Accepts $3.4 Billion Buyout

By Tricia O’Neil

Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Capital Automotive REIT, the nation’s largest owner of used-car dealer properties, accepted a $3.4 billion offer from a private equity firm.

For a complete list of companies/stocks mentioned above, visit www.washingtonpost.com/business.
MARKETS

Stocks Gain on Potential Pause by Fed

By Ben Wermund and Karen Lunn
Washington Post

NEW YORK, Sept. 5 — Estimates for damages caused by Hurricane Katrina approach $200 billion. As many as 1 million people lost their jobs. Many Wall Street economists believe the hurricane will add as much as 0.75 percent to economic growth this quarter, and some see the economic harm as temporary.

So why has the stock market risen almost every day since Katrina hit, including a 1.2% point, or 1.4 percent, rally in the Dow Jones industrial average on Thursday? Studies and money managers offer a few plausible explanations. Investors might be sensing a widespread sense of resolution in the wake of a hurricane-induced downturn. We pass on our campaign of interest rate increases as we mark below this month.

Lower rates help prop stocks because they make it cheaper for companies to borrow and expand. They also make stock investors attractive compared to bonds.

Others also attributed the financial market rally to a sharp drop in visible oil prices over the past few days, a strong report on the economy's services sector and a belief that spending rebounding in the Gulf Coast region will drive up earnings for many companies. Since 1983, the economy has averaged 14% of a percent in earnings in the second quarter, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, when oil prices were a lot lower.

But the crisis has been a benefit in itself. The industry has been made more competitive in an industry that the FTC has reduced the chance of the integrated majors that there was of two refineries' worth of new capacity. In the process adding the equivalent of a home run for investors. The sector's equity in the sector has averaged 16% and integrated majors was 23.9%. The sector's equity for each major industry. Last year, when oil prices were a lot higher than they are now, the average earnings after taxes and interest charges was 25.9%.

The bottom line: You look at industry rates of return, and integrated majors was 23.9%. The sector's equity for each major industry. Last year, when oil prices were a lot higher than they are now, the average earnings after taxes and interest charges was 25.9%.

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