

**Hurricane Katrina: The Aftermath**

**Port Comes Back Early, Surprisingly Shipping Resumes On a Small Scale**

By Kevin L. Rankin and Naveen Jumshe Exchange Desk Staff

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 23 — The Port of New Orleans began unloading its first cargo yesterday since Hurricane Katrina, a small effort that left several thousand people working with little hope of rapid recovery, officials said.

"The volume of the cargo is small, and the capacity may be less than originally forecast," said Jim Moore, secretary of the Port of New Orleans board.

After the storm, port officials figured it would take six months to resume service in the Gulf Coast. Officials secured a demolition of the Breton Port, one of the four ports in the area, which was damaged in the storm. A few companies, however, said they would keep the port open.

USA Today

**Minorities Often Pay More for Mortgages**

Lenders Required To Give Fed Data On Subprime Loans

By Susan Friskaerman

Washington Post Staff Writer

Mortgage and housing trainers are getting a disproportionate share of high-interest mortgages compared with whites, according to a new federal report.

The analysis of 2004 home-buying data shows that even after adjusting for factors such as income level, loan size and property location that could make the interest rate offered on a mortgage, minorities were charged a higher annual percentage rate than whites.

"Minorities, particularly non-whites, have historically had less access to homeownership opportunities. This disparity is likely to be even more pronounced under these conditions," the report says.

The analysis of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, which analyzed data from lenders that make subprime loans, found that the disparities were robust even after controlling for factors such as income level, loan size and property location.

"Some of the differences could be explained by the way lenders price their products," the report says.

The analysis also found that minorities were charged higher interest rates for home equity loans than whites.

The report is the first to examine the role that lenders have played in charging minorities higher interest rates for home equity loans.

"It is the first year that lenders have reported data on high-interest loans to regulators," the report says.

**Gas Prices Help Drive Down SUV Resale Value**

By Amie Schlabach and Stephen C. Karnoli

Washington Post Staff Writers

Toyota and Chevrolet bought a mutual television ad campaign this summer to show consumers how fuel-efficient their vehicles were. But with gas prices at record levels, the campaign has been a disappointment. For now, courtesy of UCG and the property's Internet service, because of fuel costs.

A 40-gallon gasoline tank can supply a car owner with fuel for 500 miles. A 7,000-mile trip can take 140 gallons of gasoline, or about the amount of gasoline used in a month by an average family in the United States, and some forecasts include prices that could push up the price of the car.

**Frustrated by Gasoline**

A woman in Montgomery County, Maryland, said she was frustrated by gas prices.

"I'm not sure how much longer I can keep up with this," said Lee Slavin, a 35-year-old who works for the county government.

"I've been working for the county government for 10 years, and I've seen how prices have increased over the years," she said.

Also Today

**Steve Pearlstein**

Boats Rise in New Orleans, But Not for the Poor

By Steve Pearlstein

DAILY 09-14-05 MD D1 CMYK

Boats on the Mississippi River rose yesterday, but not for the poor.

"The author of the Fed report suggests that minorities are getting a disproportionate share of high-interest mortgages compared with whites," the report says.

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"Although the authors of the Fed report did not cite specific numbers, the report does suggest that minorities are getting a disproportionate share of high-interest mortgages compared with whites," the report says.

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"In the absence of more data, it is impossible to determine whether minorities are paying more for mortgages," the report says.

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Suit Targets Wal-Mart’s Overseas Operations

By Michael E. Bohn

An American labor rights group filed a class-action lawsuit yesterday against Wal-Mart Stores Inc., alleging that supply chains in this country violated workers’ rights, including supplying child labor and failing to pay minimum wages. The lawsuit, which was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, accuses Wal-Mart of “knowingly and deliberately” engaging in human rights abuses.

Chinese Petroleum Companies Buy Interests in Ecuador

By Ben Dunkerley

Chinese companies are buying interests in Ecuador, raising the prospects of rapprochement with the United States. But the companies’ share of national income is only 20 percent. Normally, the percent of households in the form of wages and benefits to better compete with Wal-Mart. All four are members of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, which is trying to organize Wal-Mart’s 1.2 million U.S. employees.

Suicide Prevention

People who are substance abusers should be encouraged to seek treatment. For reasons that are not exactly clear, the death rate from suicide is higher among those who are substance abusers. The rate of suicide is highest among those who are substance abusers who are also chronically employed or have a chronic medical condition or who are also living in poverty.

Suicide prevention efforts are directed at those who are substance abusers and their families. The suicide rate is lowest among those who are substance abusers who are also chronically employed or have a chronic medical condition or who are also living in poverty.

STEVEN PEARLSFELD

Uniquely Furthermore, Bush sheds light on the depth of poverty in urban America and the difficulty of escaping it.

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INTERNATIONAL BRIEFING

TRADE

E.U. Puts Tariffs on Chinese Polyester

The European Union will impose tariffs of up to 56.2 percent on polyester fabric from China, seeking to protect against a surge in imports of Chinese fabrics and clothes after the end of a decade-old quota. The E.U.’s decision follows provisions on anti-dumping duties introduced in March.

EUROPE

Nations Can Sue Polluters, Court Rules

European governments can bring criminal prosecutions against any company that violates European environmental laws, the E.U. High Court ruled.

The E.U.’s executive commission used all U.E. governments in or near the European Union to match their current laws and regulations on the environmental laws of the European Union. The commission agreed to extend its controls and regulations to the E.U. and the United States.

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