

BUSINESS

NASDAQ CLOSES AT 1,444.43, DOWN 37.47

DOW CLOSES AT 8,676.42, DOWN 172.98

S&P 500 CLOSES AT 913.31, DOWN 19.57

Table with 14 columns showing stock price changes for companies like AT&T, Cisco, Disney, ExxonMbl, GenElec, HewlettP, Intel, IBM, JohnJn, Lucent, Merck, Microsoft, Pfizer, SBC Com, and VerizonCm.

WorldCom Partial Settlement Approved

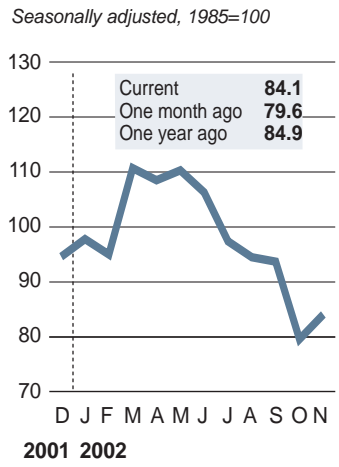
COMPANY TO PAY UNSPECIFIED FINE. By Devin Barrett. A federal judge approved a partial settlement between WorldCom and federal regulators Tuesday that calls for an unspecified fine and continued government oversight of the telecommunications company.

ECONOMY WATCH

Consumer Confidence Rebounds

Consumer Confidence

Here is a look at the Consumer Confidence Index from a survey of 5,000 U.S. households.



SOURCE: The Conference Board

REPORT RAISES HOPES FOR HEALTHY HOLIDAY SPENDING

By Jeannine Aversa. NEWS INDICATED THAT CONSUMERS — THE MAIN FORCE KEEPING THE ECONOMY GOING THIS YEAR — WILL KEEP THEIR POCKETBOOKS AND WALLETS OPEN WIDE ENOUGH TO PREVENT THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM FIZZLING OUT, ECONOMISTS SAID. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE, AFTER SAGGING FOR FIVE MONTHS, ROSE IN NOVEMBER, LIFTED BY IMPROVED EXPECTATIONS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME, THE CONFERENCE BOARD SAID.

Ranking Shows What's Lurking In Turkeys

CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST CHECKS CLEANLINESS OF AREA PROCESSING PLANTS

By Steve Caraway. THE MORNING NEWS - SCARAWAY@NVAONLINE.NET

RELATED STORIES: PAGE 5B. SPRINGDALE — A consumer group has ranked turkey plants all over the country, but officials from a high-ranking local plant say the numbers can be misleading.

THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST RANKED TURKEY PLANTS BY THE PERCENTAGE OF TURKEYS FROM THE PLANTS THAT SHOWED THE PRESENCE OF SALMONELLA BACTERIA. "WE ARE HAPPY OUR HUNTSVILLE PLANT IS HIGH ON THE LIST," SAID BUTTERBALL SPOKESPERSON JULIE DEYOUNG. "BUT THERE ARE SO MANY VARIABLES IN THE TESTING PROCESS THAT THE FIGURES DON'T MEAN THAT MUCH. THE (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE) DOESN'T EVEN TRACK THOSE NUMBERS."



A customer walks past turkeys for sale at Harps Food Store No. 186 in Springdale.

J.S. WEDGEWORTH • THE MORNING NEWS

MORNING BRIEFING

Tyson's Canada Plant Resumes Shipments

WASHINGTON — Tyson Foods Inc. was allowed to resume beef shipments to the United States from Canada after resolving a fecal-contamination problem at its plant in Alberta, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said. LAKESIDE PACKERS, PART OF TYSON'S IBP INC. BEEF-PROCESSING UNIT, WAS ORDERED TO HALT SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES ON NOV. 15 AFTER A U.S. INSPECTOR FOUND SANITATION PROBLEMS AT THE FACILITY, THE ONLY IBP BEEF PLANT IN CANADA.

Salmonella Contamination Rates for Selected Turkey Plants

Table with 5 columns: Rating, Brand, Plant No., Company, % Positive. Lists contamination rates for plants like Perdue, Butterball, and Cargill Inc.

plants, stressed all Salmonella bacteria would be killed by proper cooking. The danger comes from undercooking, or cross-contamination by the cook handling the uncooked turkey, then touching other foods before washing their hands. Foods that will not be cooked, such as salad, would be especially vulnerable to cross contamination. Steps to be taken to safely cook turkey include: scrubbing hands and kitchen tools that come into contact with raw or partially cooked turkey; defrosting turkeys in the refrigerator and not on a countertop; cooking until the temperature inside the bird reaches 180 degrees; and refrigerating leftover turkey after two hours and freezing after four days.

Arkansas Third In Bird Production

By Edward R. Perez. LITTLE ROCK — ARKANSAS RANKS THIRD AMONG THE NATION'S TURKEY PRODUCING STATES, AND ABOUT ONE IN 10 BIRDS PEOPLE CARVE THURSDAY WILL HAVE COME FROM THE STATE. ARKANSAS PRODUCED ABOUT 28 MILLION TURKEYS IN 2001, WORTH NEARLY \$220 MILLION TO GROWERS, SAID SUSAN WATKINS, POULTRY SPECIALIST WITH THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE. THE NATIONAL TURKEY FEDERATION PROJECTS 270 MILLION BIRDS WILL BE PRODUCED IN 2002.

NW ARKANSAS' LEADING GAINER SIMMONS FIRST \$36.54 +0.89. NW ARKANSAS' LEADING LOSER MURPHY OIL \$86.80 -2.30

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