NESDAY, I	NOV. 27, 2	2002			Th	<u>e Morn</u>	ING NEWS		MARK	ETPLAC	E SECI	ION, PAGE	S 4-6D	
									NASDAQ CLOSES AT 1,444.43, DOWN 37.47					
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**By Jeannine Aversa** 

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

confidence in the economy re-

bounded in November after sink-

earlier, raising hopes that con-

holiday shopping season and con-

Other reports on Tuesday also

suggested the nation can get

through its rough patch without

sliding into a new recession: The

economy grew more briskly in

the summer than previously

thought and new-home sales

slowed in October but still post-

ed the third best month on record.

The latest batch of economic

tinue to support the economy.

### WorldCom Partial Settlement Approved

COMPANY TO PAY **UNSPECIFIED FINE** 

> **By Devlin Barrett** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**NEW YORK** — 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.

The settlement, stemming from civil fraud charges related to the company's \$9 billion accounting scandal, includes a permanent injunction barring further violations of security laws, U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff said.

The settlement also calls for the continuation of a court-appointed monitor for World-Com, with the possibility of expanding the monitor's role, Rakoff said.

The judge said WorldCom's monetary penalty would be determined later.

WorldCom also agreed to hire an outside consultant to review its internal accounting controls, and provide mandatory accounting and ethics training for accounting employees for at least three vears.

Rakoff said the company "has made laudable progress" since the charges were brought.

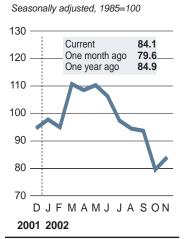
Officials with WorldCom and the Securities and Exchange Commission declined to comment before the hear-

# **Consumer Confidence Rebounds**

#### **Consumer Confidence**

ECONOMY WATCH

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



SOURCE: The Conference Board AP

#### **REPORT RAISES HOPES FOR HEALTHY HOLIDAY SPENDING**

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.

sagging for five months, rose in November, lifted by improved expectations about employment and income, the Conference Board said. The private research group's Consumer Confidence Index jumped to 84.1 from 79.6 in October, a nine-year low.

While that heartened economists, Wall Street was disappointed because November's showing was weaker than the reading of 85 that analysts were

expecting. That helped send stocks sharply lower. The Dow Jones industrials declined 173 points to finish at 8,776, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 37 points to 1,444.

With consumers in better spirits and a refinancing boom providing many people with extra cash, "the holiday shopping season might come in on the strong side of expectations," said Merrill Lynch economist Gerald Cohen. Separately, gross domestic

product, considered the best barometer of the nation's economic health, grew at a 4 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter, faster than the 3.1 percent growth rate estimated a month ago, the Commerce Department said.

Stronger inventory building by businesses, more robust spending by the government and an improved trade picture were the major reasons behind the upward boost to third quarter GDP.

GDP measures the total value of goods and services produced within the United States. The revised reading, based on more complete data, exceeded the 3.8 percent pace analysts were forecasting.

While the economy roared like a lion in the summer and in the first three months of this year, when it grew at a 5 percent rate, it slept like a lamb in the spring, growing at a mediocre 1.3 percent rate.

## 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@NWAONLINE.NET

**SPRINGDALE** — A consumer group has ranked turkey plants all over the country, but of-RELATED ficials from a **STORIES:** high-ranking lo-PAGE 5B cal 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."



WASHINGTON — Consumers'

ing to a nine-year low a month Consumer confidence, after sumer spending will be strong this

The SEC has charged WorldCom with fraud for misleading investors by misstating and hiding expenses. WorldCom has admitted to at least \$9 billion in erroneous accounting.

Four WorldCom executives SEE WORLDCOM PAGE 2D



#### 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. Shipments were allowed to resume Tuesday for products produced on or after Saturday, said Steve Cohen, a spokesman for the department's Food Safety Inspection Service.

"The plant made corrective actions," Cohen said in an interview. The decision was made after a U.S. meat inspector reviewed plant operations last Friday, Cohen said in an e-mailed statement.

Shares of Springdale-based Tyson Foods fell 13 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$11.96 on the New York Stock Exchange. The stock is up 1.8 percent from a year ago. — BLOOMBERG NEWS

The rankings had the Huntsville Butterball plant slotted eighth in the country, which was in the category called "good birds" by the group.

The top-ranked plant was the Perdue plant in Washington, Ind., which had no samples with Salmonella. The Huntsville plant had 1.8 percent, the Springdale Cargill plant, which produces Honeysuckle White, scored 3.6 percent and the Cargill plant in Ozark scored 8.9 percent.

The two Cargill plants fell in the "caution" category. Officials from Cargill did not respond to inquiries.

Other standings were the "more caution" and "bad birds" categories.

The lowest-ranking plant, a ConAgra plant in Longmont, Col., scored 49.1 percent. But the spokesperson for Butterball, which doesn't have a plant in the final category, said comparisons to others in the rankings are not valid.

"Almost all the plants in that final category cook their turkeys before they sell them," DeYoung said. "So the birds got through another process to kill any bacteria."

The only plant to sell raw birds was the Diestal plant in California, which also sells turkeys labeled organic.

All birds are marked with the number of the plant that produced the turkey. The number should be inside or near the USDA seal on the packaging. Plant numbers, and the entire list of plants, are available on the Web group's site at www.cspinet.org.

The consumer group, and the

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

#### Salmonella Contamination Rates for Selected **Turkey Plants**

Rating	Brand	Plant No.	Company	% Positive
Best	Perdue	P-00286	Perdue Foods, Washington, Ind.	0.0%
Good	Butterball	P-07174	Butterball Turkey, Huntsville, Ark.	1.8%
Caution	Honeysuckle White	P-00963	Cargill Inc., Springdale, Ark.	3.6%
Caution	Honeysuckle White	P-00511	Cargill Inc., Ozark, Ark.	8.9%
More Caution	Willow Brook Farms	P-07249	Willow Brook Farms, Springfield, Mo.	19.6%

Diestal; Heidi's Hens P-09332 Diestal Turkey Ranch, Chinese Camp, Calif. 30.4% Bad Source: Field Guide to Safer Turkeys from the Center for Science in the Public Interest **GABRIEL CALZADA •** THE MORNING NEWS

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.

The Center said, in a news release, Salmonella can cause diarrhea, fever, abdominal cramping, nausea, headaches or even death.

The release said each year, an estimated 1.3 million Americans get sick, 15,000 are hospitalized and 500 die from Salmonella bacteria.

#### **Arkansas Third In Bird Production**

#### By Edward R. Perez THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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. Arkansas' three plants — Butterball's plant in Huntsville and Cargill's plants in Springdale and Ozark — are forecast to again produce about 10 percent of the total.

A turkey's life begins in the breeder barn where large hens are fertilized once a week, laying about three or four eggs a week.

"Breeder turkeys are genetically selected," Watkins said. "The toms are so big that they cannot naturally mate, so

the hens have to be artificially inseminated." She said breeder toms weigh about 60 to 80 pounds, breeder hens weigh about 40 to 50 pounds; both sexes begin breeding at about 26 weeks of age and stay on the job for about ten months.

J.S. WEDGEWORTH • THE MORNING NEWS

Watkins said eggs take about 28 days to hatch and when the poult (baby turkey) is a day old, it is taken to a brooding barn where it is fed, watered and kept warm. About five to seven weeks later, it's moved to a finishing barn where it is given space to grow.

"When weight is reached, the birds are walked to the load-out truck, taken to the processing plant and then stunned with electrical current," Watkins said. 'They don't feel anything."

The throats are then cut to drain the blood — this keeps the meat white in color - then they're scalded in hot water to loosen the skin for defeathering. Once plucked, the birds are either frozen whole or in parts.

SEE **TURKEY** PAGE 2D

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