

**BANANA** firm **FYFFES** has upped its targets after higher prices led to a 16 per cent increase in first-half profits to £15.8million.

**FTSE-100 ROSE**  
**54.95 TO 4851.7**

Tel: 020 7782 4050/email: steve.hawkes@the-sun.co.uk

by STEVE HAWKES, BUSINESS EDITOR

**CHECK OUT**  
**Sunemployment**  
at thesun.co.uk/jobs

THE PAGE YOU CAN TRUST

**MASDA** has kept its lead in the school uniform market with a 25 per cent share since July, according to figures released yesterday.



**PLATINUM** producer **LONMIN** surged yesterday on renewed speculation that mining giant **XSTRATA** may launch a takeover bid.

**Lonmin** ended 136p higher at £15.78. Traders claim **Xstrata** may turn its attentions back to the business after being thwarted in its bid for **ANGLO AMERICAN**.

**VODAFONE** rose 2.95p to 133.25 on renewed reports it may bid for **T-MOBILE UK**.

**BRITISH AIRWAYS** climbed 5.4p to 189.4 while **EASYJET** rose 4.9p to 320.7 as investors digested Thursday's restructuring plans.

Primark-owner **ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS** rose 16.5p to 812 ahead of Monday's trading update.

Video game group **GAME** went 1.8p higher to 176.4 despite a downgrade from **SINGER CAPITAL**. Drug minnow **SYNAIRGEN** rose 1p to 18 after winning a key US patent for an asthma treatment.

## Job cuts up in US

NEARLY one in ten Americans is out of work - after bleak figures yesterday revealed that US companies axed 216,000 jobs in August. The cuts take the country's unemployment rate to a 26-year high of 9.7 per cent.

Economists had feared a higher figure and stocks on Wall Street were up before the close. Nigel Gault, chief US economist at IHS Global Insight, said: "It's good to see the rate of job losses slow down."

# RYANAIR: GIVE US BAGS MORE DOSH

## Luggage charges rocket 50%

**RYANAIR** is hiking up charges for checked-in bags by 50 PER CENT.

The no-frills airline risked yet another backlash yesterday by saying it needed to increase fees to pay for its lower fares.

Chief executive Michael O'Leary is letting passengers check in two bags totalling up to 30kg from October 1. But charges are going sky-high.

The cost of checking in one bag online will rise from £10 to £15 - or from £20 to £30 if you check it in at the airport. Passengers with bulky sports gear will have to pay as much as £50. Spokesman Stephen McNamara said Ryanair had to

"defray" the cost of price cuts as average fares had fallen 20 per cent to £28 a ticket.

He told Sun City: "70 per cent of our passengers don't check in bags and they won't have a problem with this."

"One or two others may grumble but they will still fly with us as our fares are cheaper."

The move comes just weeks after Mr O'Leary called PM Gordon Brown a "clueless clown" for refusing to scrap the Government's Air Passenger Duty. APD is £10 a passenger on short-haul flights.

Mr O'Leary has previously

sparked outrage by proposing a £1 charge to use the toilet, a "fat tax" on tubby travellers and even making passengers STAND so he can pack more in.

Airlines are suffering one of the toughest years in the industry's history. Ryanair made its first ever annual loss earlier this year and last month pulled out of Manchester Airport in a row over take-off fees.

Douglas McNeill, analyst at **ASTAIRE**, said: "Ryanair and rival **EASYJET** are coping better than others, but still need to maximise profits ahead of what could be a tough year in 2010."



Ryanair... fees are taking off

## Whitbread ends final pay deals

**WHITBREAD** - the leisure giant behind the **PREMIER INN** hotel chain - has become the latest company to axe its final salary pension scheme.

More than 800 staff at the group, which also owns **COSTA COFFEE** and the **DAVID LLOYD LEISURE** chain, are set to have their benefits cut.

Whitbread said the affected staff would switch to a cheaper defined contribution scheme. The final salary plan was closed to new recruits in 2002.

A spokeswoman for the firm said: "This ensures that we offer fair pension benefits to all."

**BARCLAYS** and **MORRISONS** are among other companies which have closed gold-plated final salary schemes so far this year.



## Clock work

A LUXURY British watchmaker is cracking the US after a tie-up with **TOURNEAU** store chain. **BREMONT** - backed by free-diving champ **Sara Campbell**, above - will sell watches in eight cities including Philadelphia after a successful trial in New York. It was founded by two brothers in 2007.

## Shell axe 'warning'

OIL giant **SHELL** is preparing to axe more than 2,000 of its staff, it was claimed last night.

Sources said that middle-managers had been told in an internal email that "the coming days will bring more information about Shell's reorganisation".

A Shell protest website - royaldutchshellplc.com - claimed 15 PER CENT of the company's exploration and production team could go.

Shell, which axed 150 top managers in July, has previously warned that 24,500 would be "affected" in some way by chief exec Peter Vosser's restructuring plans.

The company refused to comment last night.

**TRADE SECRET**  
**WE GUARANTEE**  
**YOU CAN'T**  
**BUY BETTER**

To get your **FREE** copy  
text\* sun to 84433  
or visit **cpc.co.uk**

Get your **FREE** 2,800 page catalogue

"It's the massive choice of over 100,000 products..."

...and the **LOW** prices that keep us coming back!"

**CPC**

FAST, FREE Delivery Real Trade Prices Massive Choice

\*Free delivery on all UK orders over £45 (EX VAT)

\*All text messages are charged at network standard rate

## A-Z CLOSING PRICES

HOW to use The Sun new voice recognition share price service:

For up-to-the-minute share price from The London Stock Exchange on 2,000 of the most frequently requested stocks call 0905 17 1693. Listen to the current FTSE 100 index then request the stock name you require buy and sell prices for.

All calls charged at 75p/minute from BT landline. Costs from other networks may be higher. Average call duration will be one minute for one stock quote. Not all stocks are available, and all calls will be charged.

For more details call the helpline on 020 7763 2059.

Please consult your financial adviser and verify financial information obtained via The Sun share price service before making any investment decisions.

(Service provided by Telecom Express, 7 Swallow place, London, W1B 2AG)

AMEC	737½	+ 2½
ARM Hldgs*	127	+ 2½
Arriva	2001	+ 57
AsstraZeneca*	475½	+ 4½
Assoc Br Foods	812	+ 16½
B Sky B	533½	- 2
BAE	320½	+ 3
BAT*	1899	+ 23
BG*	1008	+ 6
BP*	537	+ 0½
BT Group*	128½	+ 0½
Barclays	351½	+ 0½
Barratt	248½	+ 15
Bco Santander	936	+ 32
Br Airways	189½	+ 5½
British Land	480½	+ 17½
Bunzl	581½	+ 1½
Burberry Group	488½	+ 14½

## YOUR £ TODAY

EUROLAND	1.09 euros	H KONG	12.01 dollar	S AFRICA	11.64 rand
AUSTRALIA	1.84 dollars	INDIA	70.34 rupees	SWEDEN	11.28 krona
BARBADOS	2.86 dollars	JAPAN	144.03 yen	SWITZLAND	1.65 francs
CANADA	1.71 dollars	MEXICO	19.70 pesos	THAILAND	49.58 baht
EGYPT	8.01 pounds	N ZEALAND	2.23 dollars	TURKEY	2.32 lira
		NORWAY	9.40 kroner	USA	1.56 dollars

Rates supplied by **www.travelex.co.uk**

Cable&W	139½	Ladbrokes*	186½	+ 2
Cadbury	568	Land Sec	620	+ 18
Capita Gp*	678	Legal&Gen*	71	+ 2½
Carnival	1870	Lloyds Banking Gp	101½	+ 2
Carphone Warehouse	181	London St Exch	793½	+ 15
Centrica	256	Lonmin	1578	+136
Chloride	145½	MITIE	256½	+ 3½
Compass	336½	Man Group	260	+ 4½
Cookson	400	Marks&S	347½	+ 6
DSG Intl	29	Marston's	104½	+ 1
Debenhams	83½	Menzies	344½	- 8½
Diageo	958	Mitch & Butlers	269	+ 4½
Drax Group	458	Morrison (Wm)	285½	- 2
Enterprise Inns	159½	Mothercare	585	+ 19½
Experian	499	National Express	466	+ 0½
FirstGroup	372½	Natl Grid	589	+ 8
Friends Prov*	82½	News Corp A	670½	+ 22½
G4S	222	News Corp B	784½	+ 22½
GKN	108	Next	1652	+ 15
GlaxoSmithKline	1188	Northumb Water*	236	+ 1
Go-Ahead	1404	Pennon*	462	+ 2
Greene King*	477	Persimmon	490	+ 14½
HMM*	113½	Premier Foods	42½	+ 0½
HSBC*	658½	Prov Fincl	869	+ 8½
Halfords Group	326	Prudential*	544½	+ 20½
Home Retail Gp	316½	REXAM	264½	+ 5½
ICAP	418	RSA Ins*	123½	+ 1½
IMI	447½	Reckitt*	2872	+ 0½
ITV	46½	Reed Elsevier	440½	+ 5
Imperial Tob	1710	Rentokil Int	113	+ 0½
Int Pwr	273½	Rio Tinto	2415½	+ 70½
InterCont Htlis*	743	Rolls-Royce Gp	454	+ 10
Invenys	286	Ryl Bk Scot	55½	+ 0½
Johnson M.	1394	Ryl Dutch Sh A*	1685	+ 0½
Kingfisher	211½	Ryl Dutch Sh B*	1640	- 12

SABMiller	1428	+ 27
SEGRO	344½	+ 7½
Sage Gp	217	+ 1½
Sainsbury	323	+ 1
Scot&Stn*	1120	+ 6
Severn Trent	970½	+ 10½
Signet Jwls	1420	+ 1
Smith WH	443	+ 2½
Smith&N	522½	+ 5½
Smiths	818	+ 14½
Smiths News	121½	- 1½
Sports Direct Intl	102	+ 12½
Stan Chart*	1372	+ 14
Standard Life*	195	+ 2½
Stobart Group	114	+ 1½
TUI Travel*	236½	+ 7
Tate&L	402	+ 0½
Taylor Wimpey	48½	- 0½
Tesco	372	+ 2½
Thomas Cook Group*	229½	- 0
Thomson Reuters*	1902	+ 20
Tomkins	175	+ 2½
UTV Media	78	+ 1
Unilever	1622	- 7
Uniq*	30	- 1
Ulti Utilis	456	+ 4½
VT	539	+ 21
Vodafone	133½	+ 3
Whitbread	1026	+ 2
William Hill	179	+ 3½
Wincanton	222	+ 0½
Wolseley	1415	+ 36
Yell Group	48	+ 2½
Young A	469½	-

THIS newspaper adheres to the system of self-regulation overseen by the Press Complaints Commission. The PCC takes complaints about the editorial content of publications under the Editors' Code of Practice, a copy of which can be found at **www.pcc.org.uk**