

Business & Finance

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■ **SECURITY** group G4S saw revenue rise as businesses needed more protection during the economic downturn. The company, which will help guard next year's Olympic games, said revenues rose by five per cent to

£3.76billion in the first six months of 2011. Chief executive Nick Buckles has earmarked £200million to spend on acquisitions to boost growth, with at least half of that money going on new markets, including Iraq and Yemen.

Expert Investor

Greg Secker, founder of trader coaching company Knowledge to Action

Q: As a woman, I'm considering a career in trading. Will this be possible in such a male-dominated industry?
A: Over the past few years there has been a drastic rise in the number of women interested in learning how to trade. While this may not change the notion trading is largely a male concern, it may be a surprise to learn that women generally make better traders. On the whole, they have the ability to emotionally detach themselves from losing trades and reinvest their remaining funds into assets moving in the right direction. Men, on the other hand, view being right as a sign of masculinity and find it harder to admit defeat – male pride often causes them to back and even add to losing trades. Psychology plays a huge part – the importance of a clear mindset cannot be stressed enough. Anyone can make a bad call; the key is to cut your losses. 'Being right' comes at a price which can often cost too much.

Markets fight back

▶ In the pipeline



Cairn Energy workers build a pipe in India as the oil explorer posted a surge in profits. The company reported pre-tax profits for the first half of 2011 of £733million, compared with £88million in 2010. Shares in Cairn and its rivals rose on the prospect of Libyan oil returning to the market Picture: PA

Stock rallies ahead of fresh US stimulus

STOCK markets rallied yesterday and gold hit a new record high.

European markets rose one per cent, while the price of gold briefly hit \$1,913.50 (£1,159) an ounce for the first time.

Stock performance was helped by rumours the US Federal Reserve is to use further stimulus measures.

Its chairman, Ben Bernanke, is expected to discuss ways to improve the economy at a speech on Friday, with more quantitative easing – the buying of US debt to inject more money into the financial system – possibly on the cards.

The Fed has already carried out

By **Cheryl Latham**

two rounds of quantitative easing, to stabilise after the 2008/09 financial crisis and more recently to assist the flagging recovery.

Calmer market conditions aided a recovery for bank stocks yesterday, with Lloyds Banking Group up 1.2p to 28.8p and Royal Bank of Scotland 0.5p stronger at 20.2p.

Confidence remained fragile but should ease following news from the US, said analysts. 'It seems likely short-term volatility will remain for the rest of this week,' said IG Index trader Yusuf Heusen.

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