

Bankrate Surges; Myers Industries Sinks

By ROB CURRAN

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Small-capitalization stocks rose yesterday as more influential investors took the plunge into financial shares, and hopes built for an interest-rate cut from the Federal Reserve.

Those investors drew attention from further unraveling of the mortgage-backed securities market.

Small-cap financial stocks rallied after UBS said a Singaporean sovereign fund bought a roughly 9% stake in the large Swiss bank, overshadowing UBS's disclosure of another multibillion-dollar "subprime" write-down. [Cowen Group](#) added 68 cents, or 6.4%, to \$11.25; [Piper Jaffray](#) rose 1.68, or 3.6%, to 48.90 on the NYSE.

Bond insurers were particularly strong after one of the most prominent, large-cap MBIA, said private-equity firm Warburg Pincus would inject \$1 billion of capital. [Security Capital](#) surged 1.34, or 20%, to 8.20; and [PMI Group](#) added 2.65, or 18%, to 17.24, both on the NYSE.

The Russell 2000 index of small-caps rose 5.68 points, or 0.72%, to 791.20, its highest close since Nov. 6 and turning positive for the year to date; the S&P SmallCap 600 added 2.92, or 0.72%, to 410.66, up 2.7% for the year.

[Myers Industries](#) dropped 6.58, or 31%, to 14.98 on the NYSE. The private-equity arm of Goldman Sachs postponed the closing date of its leveraged buyout of Myers, citing business "headwinds" for the Akron, Ohio, maker of automotive products and other plastics and rubber components.

[Bankrate](#) surged 8.20, or 22%, to 45.95, after the North Palm Beach, Fla., operator of an eponymous personal-finance Web site said it bought an Internet credit-card company and a college finance Web site.

Several biotech concerns traded actively as data were presented at a blood-specialist conference and large-cap MGI Pharma agreed to a buyout.

Kosan Biosciences plunged 2.47, or 43%, to 3.31. Cowen & Co. said response rates among blood-cancer patients taking one of the Hayward, Calif., candidates in combination with [Millennium Pharmaceuticals'](#) Velcade drug were modestly below those

reported at a conference in June. Velcade garnered encouraging results in a separate study on patients with a rare blood cancer.

A pair of videogame makers bounced yesterday. [Midway Games](#) jumped 61 cents, or 26%, to 3 on the NYSE after it started shipping a version of the personal-computer first-person shooter game, Unreal Tournament 3, for Sony's PlayStation 3.

[Take-Two Interactive Software](#) rose 97 cents, or 5.7%, to 18 after Pacific Crest Securities raised its rating on the stock, anticipating a strong launch of the next Grand Theft Auto title.