

06 March 07

Praise for Jersey's Finance centre activity from leading global publication

A special report in the Economist magazine examining the world's top offshore finance centres singles out Jersey as one of the best in the world today.

The 16 page report examines the development of offshore finance centres, their role today and their future in an increasingly globalised marketplace.

The Economist says: 'the best of (offshore finance centres) – for example Jersey and Bermuda – have become sophisticated well-run financial centres in their own right, with expertise in certain niches...'.

Economic Development Minister Senator Philip Ozouf said he felt very satisfied that the report acknowledged Jersey's pre-eminent position in the industry. 'The Economist is read and respected by leading businessmen in all parts of the world. To have this independent verification of Jersey's reputation and position is great news for our industry. The report acknowledges that, to establish such a reputation, jurisdictions have to be prepared to invest substantially in regulation and in a sound legal framework. It also acknowledges that to compete internationally, jurisdictions have to be nimble and forward-looking. Jersey does all these things well, which is why we are successful. The people of Jersey should feel proud that they have built up this success story and that it allows the funding of first-rate government services which benefit everyone in the Island.'

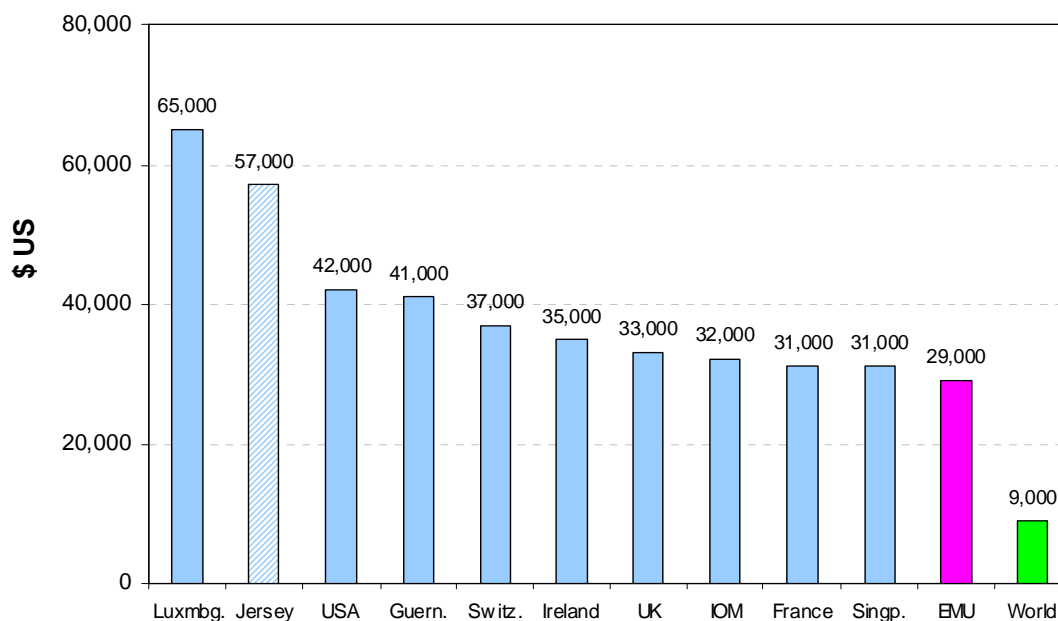
Senator Ozouf added that it was particularly reassuring that the Economist believes that well run, nimble, offshore finance centres such as Jersey will continue to thrive, because they have an important role to play in a globalised world and are good for

the international financial system. This is good news for the future well being of the Island and its residents and confirms the soundness of our economic growth and fiscal strategies.

ENDS

- For more information or comment, contact Senator Ozouf T 07797713838
- The Economist special report on Offshore Finance Centres entitled Places in the Sun was first published on 24 February.
- The report lists the world's top economies, measured by GDP. Unfortunately the figure for Jersey is incorrect. As a measure, GDP's value is questionable for small states with large banking sectors due to the treatment of banking profits derived from interest rates differentials.
- The most internationally comparable indicator of economic activity for offshore financial centres is GNI. Jersey's Economic Digest 2006 provides information about the Island's GNI, which is 57,000 US dollars per person (compares with the UK, at 33,000 US dollars per person and Guernsey, at 41,000 US dollars per person) Chart overleaf.

Chart: Jersey GNI per capita in 2005 (PPP \$US)¹



¹ Source: World Bank, calculated using OECD purchasing power parity for £ sterling.