

Biggest gain in a month



Trader Stephen Mara works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Traders say the market is volatile because the number of shares traded remains low. AP

Strong earnings boost Wall Street

By Daniel Wagner
The Associated Press

Stocks stormed higher Tuesday after promising signals about the profitability of U.S. companies and a strong debt auction by Spain.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose for the fourth day in five, posting its biggest gain in a month.

European stocks had their best day in four months after Spain, the latest flashpoint in the European debt crisis, attracted strong investor interest at an auction of two-year debt.

Spain's borrowing costs fell, as measured by the yields on Spanish

bonds being traded in the market.

Those yields had risen in recent days closer to levels that might force Spain to seek an international bailout.

"There's no doubt that gave the market a second wind," Anthony Chan, chief economist with J.P. Morgan Private Wealth management, said of the debt auction. "The market is reassessing and feeling a little better."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 194.13 points, or 1.5 percent, at 13,115.54. The Dow has had only one 200-point rise this year, a gain of 218 points on March 13.

Traders have been im-

pressed with a handful of quarterly earnings announcements in the past week, said several floor brokers at the New York Stock Exchange.

"They talked earnings down for three weeks ahead of the announcements," agreed Kenneth Polcari, a floor broker and managing director with the giant brokerage ICAP Equities. "They've lowered the bar so much that when the announcements come in, it's like, 'Look how good everyone is doing,'" he said.

Traders said the market is more volatile in part because the number of shares traded remains low.