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## News digest

### Industry well placed to recover

Britain's large and mid-sized manufacturing companies are better placed to take advantage of a recovery than their US counterparts, according to a report published today by McKinney Rogers, a business performance consultancy, and Ipsos Mori, the polling group.

It found that 60 per cent of manufacturers viewed themselves as likely to take market share from competitors, compared with 34 per cent of US companies.

Brian Groom

Full story: [www.ft.com/uk](http://www.ft.com/uk)

### Havens buck property slump

Most offshore tax jurisdictions within easy reach of Britain are bucking the European property market slump as wealthy Britons prepare to avoid UK tax rises, according to a survey released today.

A report from Sovereign Group, the advisory firm, said property prices in Monaco and Gibraltar were

holding firm or increasing, while prices around them on the Côte d'Azur and the Costa del Sol had plunged up to 50 per cent.

Peter Garnham

### Women MPs criticise Brown

Senior female Labour MPs yesterday attacked Gordon Brown's management style and personality, warning he faced another leadership challenge within months if he failed to change.

Jane Kennedy, a former

minister, agreed with a comparison of Mr Brown to a "mafia boss", while Patricia Hewitt, former health secretary, complained of a "laddish" culture in Downing Street.

Speaking to BBC Radio 4's *Gordon's Women* programme, Beverly Hughes, a former minister, warned that Mr Brown would have to show a "demonstrable and marked improvement" before the autumn to avoid "questions about the leadership" arising again.

Alex Barker

### Tributes paid to veteran journalist

Tributes have been paid to Donald MacCormick, the veteran journalist, who has died of a heart attack aged 70. The former BBC presenter anchored the *Newsnight* current affairs show with John Tusa and Peter Snow throughout the 1980s. He worked on other BBC flagship programmes including *Question Time*, *Tonight*, *Newsweek*, *BBC World* and *The Money Programme*.

Press Association



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