

Global News for a World Economy!

APRIL - 2009

[Congress Passes Bill to End Mexico Truck Program](#)

A \$410-billion spending bill that passed the Senate last week would end funding for the cross-border trucking program, one of the most contentious issues to arise out of the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement.

[Health Care Costs Put U.S. Firms at Disadvantage](#)

Health care costs in the U.S. are putting companies and workers at a significant competitive disadvantage in the global marketplace, finds a new study released by the Business Roundtable.

[U.S. Trade Gap Narrows for Record Sixth Month](#)

The U.S. trade deficit narrowed 9.7 percent in January to its smallest since October 2002, as both imports and exports tumbled for the sixth consecutive month in the face of shrinking global demand.

[Recession's Impact on Heavy Industry](#)

The United States remains by far the world's leading manufacturer by value of goods produced. It hit a record \$1.6 trillion in 2007 — nearly double the \$811 billion of 1987,"
Yet the recession that began in December 2007 intensified in the fourth quarter of 2008, driving these and other U.S. manufacturers to slash production and payrolls, while the ensuing credit squeeze has driven consumer and business confidence to generational lows."

[Mexico Enacts Retaliatory Tariffs Against U.S.](#)

Mexico says it will slap tariffs on 90 U.S. products in retaliation for the U.S. canceling the cross-border trucking program.

[Singapore is No. 1 in Innovation](#)

Singapore's emphasis on science education and a highly talented workforce puts it well ahead of the U.S. in a new global ranking of innovation leaders.

[USA manufacturing sector continues slide](#)

Economic activity in the **manufacturing sector** failed to grow in February for the 13th consecutive month, and the **overall economy** contracted for the fifth consecutive month, say the nation's supply executives in the latest **Manufacturing ISM Report On Business®**.



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Commodities reported up/down in price

Commodities Up in Price: Caustic Soda is the only commodity reported up in price.

Commodities Down in Price: Aluminum (5); Aluminum Extrusions (2); Copper (7); Copper Products; Corrugated Containers (2); Natural Gas (7); Plastics; Plastic Products; Stainless Steel (5); Stainless Steel Products (3); Steel (6); and Steel Products.

Note: The number of consecutive months the commodity is listed is indicated after each item.

Air Carriers Could Struggle with 2010 Screening Rules

Passenger airlines such as American Airlines and Delta Air Lines Inc., along with freight shippers, will be hard-pressed to meet a deadline requiring all air cargo to be screened for security by mid-2010, industry officials say.



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