

## *Global News for a World Economy!*

**MARCH - 2009**

### **U.S.A**

#### U.S. Won't Meet Cargo Screening Deadline

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano told House lawmakers last week that agency would not be able meet a deadline of 2012 that requires DHS to scan all ocean cargo bound for U.S. ports.

#### American exports have slumped at a 44% annual pace in the most recent six months of data

The US steel industry is planning to bring anti-dumping charges against foreign steel. India just raised steel tariffs. It seems like every day I read that someone somewhere is calling for their particular industry to be protected, bailed out, or subsidized. And it is not just the US. It is happening all over the world.

#### Wanted: U.S. Manufacturers for Wind Turbines

Some of the world's biggest wind-turbine companies told Michigan manufacturers some good news last week-they still need more U.S. parts makers.

#### U.S. Beats Out India as Top Pick for Outsourcing

A new survey of technology companies shows more businesses are considering the U.S. as an outsourcing destination for services and manufacturing in 2009-a big surprise over long-dominant India.

#### Steel production remains soft - NWI.com

The country's production of raw steel remained more than 55 percent below capacity last week, yet operations at Northwest Indiana's mills have increased slightly as business stagnates elsewhere.

### **Europe**

#### EU to Lose 3.5 Million Jobs in 2009

A new study by the European Union Commission says 3.5 million EU workers will lose their jobs in 2009, with logistics being one of the hardest hit sectors

#### G-7 Vows to Keep Up Free Trade

The Group of 7 finance ministers pledged Saturday to avoid resorting to protectionism as they try to stimulate their economies in the face of the world's worst financial crisis since the 1930s.



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### [New Outsourcing Hot Spots: Belfast and Brisbane](#)

A report in BusinessWeek says cities like Belfast and Brisbane are emerging as the new outsourcing hot spots.

### [The Swiss franc posted its biggest weekly decline against the euro since 1999](#)

The Swiss economy will slump by as much as 3% this year, the most since at least 1975, the central bank said yesterday. Price pressures evaporated in recent months as oil prices sank, the franc strengthened, and domestic demand dropped. Prices will probably decline this year and inflation will be "very close to zero" in 2010 and 2011, the SNB said. The franc's appreciation made Swiss products less competitive in Europe and the US, where deepening recessions were already curbing demand. (Bloomberg)

## **Asia**

### [China Says 8 Percent Growth is Target for 2009](#)

China said its 8 percent growth target for this year is within reach despite the current global economic crisis.

### [Better News for China's Manufacturing Sector](#)

China's manufacturing activity contracted for a fifth straight month in February but the decline slowed, falling just short of the neutral level, the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing reports.

### [Unemployment is China's Top Problem](#)

China's government says rising unemployment is a major problem facing China-bigger than figuring out how to improve the country's gross domestic product numbers.

### [India, China Moving Towards Trade Showdown](#)

India and China are gearing up for a showdown, one that might go all the way to the WTO, over India's increasing reluctance to allow Chinese imports to flood the Indian market, reports BusinessWeek.



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[The Japanese economy, mired in its worst recession since World War II](#)  
Japanese exports have fallen 54% in the last 6 months, an average of \$40 billion a month, or down over a quarter of a trillion dollars. Greg notes that past 6-month changes in exports in Japan were hardly ever up or down more than a trillion yen. This is four times that level, about 4 trillion yen. To get a visual view, look at the graph below. That is called falling off a cliff.

### **South America**

#### [Brazil to Rely More on Wind, Nuclear for Energy Needs](#)

According to Brazilian Energy Minister Edson Lobão, Brazil needs to increase its electricity generation capacity by 50% over the next 10 years, and that means increased reliance on wind and nuclear sources.

### **Logistics**

#### [Global 3PL Market Expanded by Over \\$12 Billion in 2008](#)

A new report from research firm Armstrong & Associates shows that the global third-party logistics (3PL) market grew by \$12.3 billion last year to \$199.7 billion from \$187.4 billion in 2007.

#### [Box Traffic to Post Uptick in March](#)

Cargo volume at the nation's major retail container ports will be up in March over February as traffic begins its annual climb toward peak season.

#### [Emirates Tops Latest Air Cargo Excellence Survey](#)

Emirates Sky Cargo narrowly displaced Lufthansa to top the latest air cargo excellence survey conducted by *Air Cargo World*.

#### [UP Rail Plans Rate Hike this Year](#)

Union Pacific Corporation's chief financial officer says the company will likely raise its shipping rates 5% to 6% this year over 2008 even as the railroad adjusts to reduced freight volume.

#### **Keeping Logistics Costs in Check**

Logistics costs have skyrocketed over the last few years as fuel prices increased and the United States economy spiraled downward. A study by the Council of Supply Chain Professionals (CSCMP) found that logistics costs in the U.S. alone rose by \$91 billion in 2007, an increase of 7 percent over the previous year.



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