



Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. Santayana

February 2, 2009

THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Monday, February 2nd.

- U.S. real consumer spending falls 1% in December
- U.S. construction spending falls 1.4% in December
- U.S. purchasing managers ISM report shows manufacturing sector deep in recession
- Macy's announces 7,000 job layoffs and cuts its dividend
- Hitachi to post record \$7.9 billion (US) loss for fiscal 2008

Tuesday, February 3rd.

- Liz Claiborne cuts 8% of its U.S. work force, representing 725 jobs
- General Motors offers hourly workers buyout package of \$20,000 (U.S.) cash and \$25,000 (U.S.) vehicle voucher
- Chrysler offers hourly workers buyout package of \$50,000 (U.S.) cash and \$25,000 (U.S.) vehicle voucher
- General Motors is reportedly in talks to sell its Flint, Michigan commercial plant to Isuzu
- Scandinavian Airline Services (SAS) posts 4th. quarter net loss of \$332 million (U.S.) and announces nearly 9,000 job layoffs
- Motorola reports a 4th. quarter net loss of \$3.6 billion (U.S.) and suspends payment of its quarterly dividend
- Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) Chairman Sir Tom McKillop resigns from the Bank amid an emerging boardroom shake-up
- Spanish police arrest 6 people suspected in 400 million pound London Stock Exchange fraud involving Langbar International
- Dow Chemical posts 4th. quarter loss of \$1.55 billion (U.S.)
- UPS announces 4th. quarter profit decline of 22%, freezes management salaries and cuts company pension plan contributions
- Tembec closes several plants across Canada for up to 8 weeks, affecting 1,400 jobs
- Spain's unemployment rate soars to 13.9%
- U.S. pending home sales increase 6.1% in December
- Ford Motor vehicle sales decline by 40.1% in January
- Toyota vehicle sales fall by 32% in January
- General Motors vehicle sales drop by 48.8% in January
- Chrysler vehicle sales plunge by 55% in January
- Honda Canada vehicle sales decline by 37% in January
- General Motors Canada vehicle sales fall by 46.6% in January
- Ford Canada vehicle sales drop by 14% in January
- Chrysler Canada vehicle sales fall by 33.7% in January

Wednesday, February 4th.

- Panasonic announces 15,000 job layoffs and closes 27 plants
- Kraft Foods 4th. quarter profit falls by 72%
- Railpower Technologies seeks creditor protection
- Challenger reports total announced U.S. job layoffs of 241,749 in January



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- ADP reports U.S. firms cut 522,000 jobs in January
- U.S. President Obama announces \$500,000 annual salary cap for executives of financial services firms which have received funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP).
- BHP Billiton reports that profits fell 57% to \$2.6 billion (U.S.) in the six months ended December 31 /09.
- Hudson's Bay Co. announces 1,000 job layoffs, representing a saving of \$150 million (CAD) in fiscal 2009
- Magna International closes New York plant, resulting in 1,400 job losses
- Cisco Systems announces that it expects revenue in the current quarter to fall by 15-20%

Thursday, February 5th.

- Bombardier announces 1,360 job layoffs at aerospace unit
- Bank of England cuts key lending rate to 1% from 1.5%
- Chinese computer manufacturer Lenovo Group posts first loss in 3 years and company CEO resigns
- U.S. initial jobless claims rose by 35,000 to 626,000 in the week ended Jan. 31st.
- Saks, American Eagle, Talbot, Macy's and Gap report lower same-store sales for January
- Glaxo cuts jobs and guidance for 2009
- U.S. factory orders decline by 3.9% in December
- Canadian building permits fall by 3.9% in January
- Britain's Royal Mail announces 16,000 job layoffs
- UBS predicts price of gold bullion will average \$1,000 (U.S.) per ounce during 2009

Friday, January 6th.

- U.S. non-farm payrolls declined by 598,000 and the unemployment rate jumped to 7.6% in January from 7.2% in December
- Canadian economy lost 129,000 jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 7.2% in January from 6.6% in December
- Sharp announces 1,500 job layoffs and warns of losses for all of 2009
- The pension funds under management by the Caisse de Depot et Placement du Quebec declined in value by \$38 billion (CAD) or 26% in 2008, according to the Montreal newspaper La Presse, representing the worst loss in 45 years.
- Britain's factory output fell by 2.2% in December
- Canadian Energy Research Institute forecasts lower production from Canadian oil sands projects unless the price of crude oil increases to at least \$70 (U.S.).
- Under the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), the U.S. Treasury overpaid for corporate assets by \$78 billion (U.S.).
- U.S. President Obama announces the members of his Economic Recovery Advisory Board

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