

AllCovered-NEWS

The News You Need, Monday, 18 August 2003 – Edition #345

A weekly service for clients and friends of Allcovered.net and the Allen Insurance Group

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-- CONTENTS THIS WEEK --

SMALL BUSINESS:

Work Stress Financial Toll
Are You About to Lose Employees?

TRUCKING:

Driver Fatigue Leaves Companies Liable
Unsafe Trucks Common
New Regs for LCVs

SECURITY:

Screen Small Cargo
TWIC Test OK

OCEAN & AIR FORWARDING:

Transport Firms Handle Blackout
Air – Blackout Makes Mess
Air Cargo Outlook Cautious
EU & Vancouver Port Labor Strains

JUST FOR FUN:

Senior Exercise
Rat Trap

NEXT WEEK: You CAN Take A Vacation

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<http://www.allcovered.net/AC-News-PDF.htm>

SMALL BIZ – WORK STRESS TAKING TOLL

---Companies can be liable – see “Maggie’s Law” in Trucking Section

WORK STRESS TAKING LARGER FINANCIAL TOLL

Job stress costs US businesses \$300-Billion a year. It is a leading cause of illness, depression and work place violence and is increasing, experts say.

As the business world becomes more competitive, companies try to do more work with fewer people. The employees left behind are stressed – by fear of losing their jobs, by added duties, by more work hours, by pressure to do more with every minute of their work day.

Even employee “personal time” isn’t free time anymore as pagers, cellphones and the Internet keep employees linked to their work 24 hours a day.

Surveys show Americans are working 45 hours more each year than they did in 1994. They work 170 hours more than the Japanese, and the equivalent of three months more than their German counterparts.

“Stress is increasing dramatically,” says Dr. Paul Rosch, president of the American Institute of Stress (AIS). He estimates 1-million workers are absent daily due to stress.

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work reports that more than half of working days lost annually from absenteeism are stress-related.

SYMPTOMS	COMPLAINTS
Chronic Headaches	Uncertainty over their future
Back Pain	Lack of recognition by employers
Weight Gain	Lack of control
Insomnia	Vague Job Responsibilities
Depression	

MORE: <http://www.stress.org>

SMALL BIZ – ARE YOU ABOUT TO LOSE EMPLOYEES?

Employees are doing more... a lot more. Higher productivity is great for your company’s ability to compete... but then there is the dark side of “more.”

More hours.

More stress.

More frustration.

Are you, the owner, so rushed yourself, that you are missing the warning signs?

--- SIGNS OF LOW MORALE ---

- Absenteeism
- Tardiness / late to work
- High employee turnover
- Poor work quality (if poor training is not an issue)
- Increasing need to re-do work
- More squabbles among workers
- Complaints from customers



ABSENTEEISM: When employees are absent, it hurts your business. This is especially true if your business has only a few employees.

--- COSTS ---

- Lost productivity of absent worker
- Overtime for employees who do the work

Decreased overall productivity
Cost of temporary help
Dissatisfied customers

TURNOVER: Turnover is the rate at which employees leave your business. Employees who are satisfied with their jobs generally don't give them up. High turnover is usually indicative of a problem.

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--- CARGO – FMC BONDS – CUSTOMS BONDS – BOL LIABILITY – E&O ---

--- NEWS – TOOLS – HELP – RESEARCH – TRAINING ---

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SMALL BIZ – VACATIONS STRESS STAFFS: US businesses are running as lean as they can with minimal staff. Summer vacations mean more hours for employees on the job, missed deadlines, and increased frustration.

MORE: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=677&ncid=677&e=4&u=/usatoday/20030811/bs_usatoday/11561812

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TRUCKING – DRIVER FATIGUE LEAVES COMPANIES LIABLE

"Maggie's Law, the recently signed New Jersey statute turns drowsy driving into a criminal offense.

That raises the legal risks employers face from extended hours operations.

Under the new law, a sleep-deprived driver who causes an accident, after being awake for more than 24 hours, can be convicted of vehicular homicide.

The company employing that driver can be sued if the employee has been allowed or required to work long hours, high amounts of overtime, double-shifts, or even 24-hour on-call periods.

Studies show a driver who has been awake for 24-hours is just as impaired as a driver that is legally drunk.

--- SO WHAT? ---

Educate your employees to drowsy driving dangers

Develop a strict policy requiring adequate rest

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

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TRUCKING – UNSAFE TRUCKS COMMON

The government is cracking down on unsafe trucks, but there are still a lot of them on the road.

--- EXAMPLE ---

This story from Decatur, Alabama is sadly typical.

One truck dropped a pallet containing 1,700-pound (750kg) steel coils onto the highway. The driver didn't know it. A woman driving behind the truck hit the steel.

Driver Eugene Fuqua, with Miles Trucking Inc. in Tanner, Alabama said he last checked his freight in Tennessee, but didn't realize he'd lost the load until he arrived at his destination in Montgomery. At the request of Decatur police, Fuqua produced the truck for inspection.

Officer George Silvestri said 11 of the 17 alleged violations he wrote on the company's truck were severe enough to put the rig out of service, so he told Fuqua to call for a tow truck.

"Because he was so cooperative, I only wrote him one citation for an improperly secured load," Silvestri said. "Two brakes weren't working at all, two tires were flat and two tires were bald.

"Those were the worst threats to public safety, and this truck was only 5 years old. If the company has any older trucks, it makes you wonder what condition they're in."

--- WHAT HAPPENS ---

"Once we write an out-of-service violation on a truck, it has to be repaired before it's put back into service," said Silvestri. "Most trucks have one to three violations, and it's not uncommon to see none.

"We send out-of-service criteria to the Department of Public Safety in Montgomery, and they enter it into a federal database. Depending on the number of violations a company has, the feds can go to the company and check every truck they have and can impose thousands in fines."

MORE: <http://www.decaturdaily.com/decaturdaily/news/030810/rigs.shtml>

TRUCKING – NEW REGS FOR COMBO VEHICLES

The US Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is proposing new training requirements for operators of longer combination vehicles (LCV) who wish to obtain an LCV Driver-Training Certificate.

The safety agency also proposed new requirements for instructors who train LCV drivers.

An LCV is any combination of a truck-tractor and two or more trailers or semi-trailers that have a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 80,000 pounds and operate in interstate commerce.

Twin trailers, also known as western doubles, would not be subject to this proposed rule.

Because LCV double trailers and LCV triple trailers have different operating characteristics, the FMCSA has proposed separate training courses for each vehicle group.

MORE: http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/030811/dcm042_1.html

Comments may be submitted at <http://dms.dot.gov/submit>.

MORE: http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news_detail.asp?news_id=50190

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=15175>

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SECURITY – LAWMAKER: “SCREEN SMALL AIR CARGO”

Passengers face long lines and intense security.

Some air cargo is checked.

No air cargo weighing less than a pound (500g) is checked.

Packages weighing less than a pound - enough to hold the explosives carried by unsuccessful shoe-bomber Richard Reid - should be screened before they are shipped on passenger planes, says Rep. Edward Markey, D-MA.

Markey, a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, sent a letter to Homeland Security Department Secretary Tom Ridge saying failure to screen small cargo packages is "an unacceptable security risk that must be immediately remedied."

Transportation Security Administration spokesman Brian Turmail says small US mail packages are not screened because federal studies have concluded that less than a pound of explosives in the cargo area "is not going to bring an aircraft down or threaten passengers."

Markey challenges the TSA finding, saying the bomb that blew up Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 killing 170 people, contained less than a pound of Semtex.

MORE: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/111-08102003-139381.html>

SECURITY – TWIC CARD TEST OK

Port of Long Beach commissioners have given approval to an agreement with the Transportation Security Administration to begin installing equipment to test a proposed transportation worker identification card and security plan at the port.

The TSA program will use a number of different technologies such as magnetic card readers, optical memory, and digital photograph/holographic image devices.

MORE: <http://www.pressetelegram.com/Stories/0,1413,204~21478~1564926.00.html>

SECURITY – ROTTERDAM GETS RADIATION GEAR: The US and Netherlands are installing fixed and portable radiation detection equipment at the Port of Rotterdam to intercept illicit shipments of nuclear material. More ports are expected to get the gear as security efforts ramp up.

MORE: http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-port-security,0_3959150.story

MORE: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3148919.stm>

SECURITY – BUSAN IN CSI: The Port of Busan in South Korea is the 16th operational port in the Container Security Initiative, a program to pre-screen cargo coming to the US. US Customs will send a team of officers to the port of Busan to assist inspectors from the Korean government to target high-risk, US.-bound containers.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=15136>

SECURITY – PHILIPPINES TIGHTENS: The Philippines is make security at airports tighter amid intelligence reports that Manila's international airport might be the next target of terrorist groups.

MORE: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/southeastasia/view/46427/1.html>

SECURITY – MALAYSIAN PORT SECURITY: Malaysia's Marine Police will intensify security measures at all major ports in the country to avert any possible threat. The Marine Police will now examine closely the cargo on board the ships and probe into the crew members, including identifying their political and religious ideologies. "Previously, the Marine Police only concentrated on the waters, now we will also focus on the ports," says Marine Police Commander SAC 1 Muhamad Muda.

MORE: http://www.globalsources.com/TNTLIST/2003/08/07/eng-transdata_bernama/eng-transdata_bernama_152822_8945845281659010716.htm

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TRANSPORT FIRMS WORK AROUND BLACKOUT

A massive power failure in the US Northeast Thursday afternoon closed airports and snarled traffic across the northern quarter of the US through Saturday.

Freight companies scrambled to communicate with shippers, especially in areas that lost regular telephone service.

Passengers and cargo face delays through early this week, as airlines reposition aircraft from Michigan to New York.

Delays at US-Canadian border crossings at one point reached 3 hours, but are back near normal now.

MORE: <http://www.timesdispatch.com/business/MGBYTP4ZEJD.html>

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20030815/sections/ecom/w65425.asp>

AIR – BLACKOUT AIR MESS

Travelers and cargo faced a second day of aviation chaos Friday triggered by the North American power blackout that forced airlines to cancel hundreds of flights,

Airlines canceled nearly 1200 flights Friday destined for stricken US and Canadian airports in New York, Cleveland, Toronto and Ottawa.

MORE: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=568&ncid=749&e=4&u=/nm/20030815/bs_nm/power_airlines_dc

FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS FRIDAY:

MORE: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030815/power_airlines_cancellations_4.html

AIR – AIR CARGO OUTLOOK CAUTIOUS

Leaders of some of the world's largest cargo airlines give mixed comments on the outlook for 2003 but believe long-term prospects remain good for the air-freight business.

Lufthansa Cargo, the world's largest international air freight carrier, says it sees no scope for an upturn in European freight traffic in the second half of this year, but board member Andreas Otto emphasizes longer term prospects are good. "Definitely we are optimistic about the mid- and long-term perspectives."

"In general we are very much optimistic for this year," as we expect business to pick up in mid August or September, says Juntaro Shimizu, Senior Vice President Cargo & Mail at Japan Airlines (JAL).

MORE: <http://sg.biz.yahoo.com/030808/3/3d9id.html>

AIR – BA SUSPENDS SAUDI FLIGHTS: British Airways suspended flights to Saudi Arabia over a security threat. No details on what led to the suspension were announced.

MORE: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030813/security_ba_saudi_3.html

AIR – HK AIR CARGO UP: Air cargo throughput at Hong Kong International Airport edged up by 211,000 tonnes in July, an 11% year-on-year increase.

MORE: http://www.cargonewsasia.com/news_main_f.asp?id=2742&src=2

AIR – KLM-CARGO ASIA BUSINESS UP: KLM Cargo's move to Combi aircraft for its Japanese flights and deployment of two new B747-400ER freighters helped produce an 8% rise in revenue freight tonne kilometers (RFTKs) in July.

MORE: http://www.cargonewsasia.com/news_main_f.asp?id=2732&src=2

AIR – XIAMEN OPENS AIR CARGO TERMINAL: The Xiamen International Airport Air Cargo Terminal is scheduled to open in September. The Xiamen International Airport Air Cargo Terminal represents an

important link in the transportation of cargo across the Taiwan Strait. The terminal is expected to handle 150,000 tons of cargo annually.

MORE: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/business/detail.asp?ID=40253&GRP=E>

AIR – FEDEX IN IRAQ: Federal Express says it has added Iraq to its global network, offering door-to-door pick up and delivery for shipments in and out of the cities of Baghdad, Basra and Mosul.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20030811/sections/air/w68825.asp>

AIR – ORION & KITTY HAWK CO-OP: Orion Air Cargo is an airfreight forwarder specializing in domestic overnight service. Orion is now working with Kitty Hawk, an all-cargo carrier, to provide lift for guaranteed next-day delivery to 50 destinations throughout the US. Under the agreement, Orion agreed to ship a minimum of 5,000 pounds (2300kg) of cargo five nights a week for delivery on Kitty Hawk's fleet of Boeing 727 freighters.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20030811/sections/air/w46685.asp>

AIR – SKYCARGO FREIGHT TO FRANKFURT: Emirates SkyCargo continues to expand, now stepping up its cargo capacity to Frankfurt, the cargo hub for Europe, with twice-weekly freighter services to meet the escalating demand from German trade and industry. First flight of the 747-400F service is set for 10 September.

MORE: <http://www.ameinfo.com/news/Detailed/27110.html>

AIR – 4 MORE FOR US-ECUADOR AIR CARGO: The US tentatively selected four airlines to begin all-cargo service between the United States and Ecuador -- Atlas Air, Florida West International, Custom Air Transport and Evergreen. If formally approved, the four will join UPS, Arrow and Gemini in the US-Ecuador all-cargo market.

MORE: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030812/airlines_ecuador_1.html

AIR – DHL-ASTAR HEARING PRIVATE: The government case with DHL Airways / Astar Air Cargo will be secret. The hearing, tentatively set for tomorrow, 19 August, will be closed.

MORE: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030811/airlines_astar_1.html

AIR – DHL WANTS NEW JUDGE: The cargo company under scrutiny in a government legal review of foreign limits on US airline ownership claimed on Tuesday it would probably lose the case unless the judge stepped aside.

MORE: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/030812/airlines_astar_1.html

AIR – DHL GETTING NEW JUDGE: The federal judge who made controversial remarks in the ownership dispute over the former DHL Airways stepped down less than a week before a showdown to decide the case was to start. Ronnie Yoder, the Department of Transportation's chief administrative law judge, said at a preliminary meeting Wednesday in Washington that he was turning the proceeding over to another judge.

MORE: http://biz.yahoo.com/djus/030813/1459001097_1.html

MORE: http://biz.yahoo.com/ft/030813/1059479004075_1.html

AIR – ALPA CHALLENGES DHL: The Air Line Pilots Association says the proposed acquisition of Airborne by DHL Airways (now Astar Air Cargo) may have to be revised because the union claims that a key part of the acquisition violates the Astar pilots' collective bargaining agreement.

MORE: <http://www.atwonline.com/indexfull.cfm?newsid=3333>

AIR – AIRBORNE-DHL MERGER OK: Airborne says its shareholders voted to approve the company's proposed merger with DHL.

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MORE: <http://www.allcovered.net>

TRADE – FORWARDERS CHAT GROUP: Gary Dale Cearley of Andhika has begun a discussion and chat area for forwarders and logistics pros on MSN. To join the group:

MORE: <http://groups.msn.com/InternationalFreightForwarders>

TRADE – NCBFAA SEEKS NO NVO FILING: It has been a long time coming. The National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America has filed a petition with the Federal Maritime Commission requesting that non-vessel operating common carriers no longer be required to establish, maintain, publish or adhere to rate tariffs for ocean transportation. Carriers may contract confidentially, but Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers cannot. UPS filed a similar motion a few weeks ago.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20030811/sections/ocean/w94023.asp>

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=15150>

TRADE – CHINESE CARRIERS SEEK FMC EXEMPTION: Sinotrans Container Lines and China Shipping Container Lines have petitioned the Federal Maritime Commission for a partial exemption from the controlled-carrier provisions of the Shipping Act of 1984. The exemption would enable the carriers to lower tariff rates on publication rather than the 30-day requirement for state-owned shipping lines.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/20030815/sections/ocean/w2811.asp>

TRADE – “CUSTOMS BUSINESS” RULE: The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection has published a rule that clarifies what corporate compliance offices may do to help subsidiary companies practice "reasonable care" in following customs laws. The rule prohibits central offices from making entries on behalf of a subsidiary, something that requires a customs broker's license.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20030811/sections/trade/w96020.asp>

TRADE – CHINA RECORD: China's foreign trade reached a new monthly record-high in July with total trade up 32.8% year-on-year to \$74.6-Billion dollars.

MORE: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1518&ncid=1518&e=3&u=/afp/20030811/bs_afp/china_trade_030811073816

TRADE - GEO-LOGISTICS EXPANDS INDIAN OPERATIONS: GeoLogistics Corporation's Indian subsidiary has launched domestic logistics services in India. The company will compete with the likes of Blue Dart and Gati in the local market. "India is an important market for us, and we have increased our investments significantly here," says William Flynn, president and chief executive officer of the California-based GeoLogistics Corp.

MORE: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/html/uncomp/articleshow?msid=124795>

MORE: http://www.cargonewsasia.com/news_main_f.asp?id=2729&src=2

OCEAN – EU PORTS PREP FOR STRIKES

Trade with Europe may be disrupted next month as dock workers step up their opposition to a proposed new European Union ports directive.

The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) claims the directive will open the door to the use of unskilled and untrained labor in ports. The ITF has announced five days of protest action from September 8-12.

--- **SO WHAT** ---

If you are moving goods to or from Europe with dates around mid-September, alert your Shippers or Consignees that their cargo may face delays.

MORE: http://www.cargonewsasia.com/news_main_f.asp?id=2731&src=2

OCEAN – STRIKE TALKS IN VANCOVER: Talks could begin as early as today between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union foremen's local and the Waterfront Foremen Employers Association. By law, the union must provide 72 hour's advance strike notice after today. The Vancouver Port Authority has said that a labor disruption could cost \$80 million a day in trade at the Port of Vancouver alone and affect 27,000 jobs. Work hours, recruitment, leaves of absence, retraining for laid-off foremen and control over vacation timing are the main reasons for the dispute. Employers and the union, without a contract since Jan. 1, remain divided over monetary, jurisdictional and operational issues.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20030811/sections/ocean/w66868.asp>

MORE: <http://www.cp.org/english/online/full/National/030808/n080847A.html>

OCEAN – TACA OCTOBER RATE HIKES: "We understand that another tariff hike is to be implemented by the Trans-Atlantic Conference Agreement (TACA) from 1 October 1," says the Canadian International Freight Forwarders Association (CIFFA). "The new increases will be US\$400 per TEU, US\$500 per FEU & 45' container and \$25 Weight/Measure."

MORE: <http://www.ctl.ca/article.asp?id=21313>

OCEAN – IPBCC RATE HIKE: After an increase of about \$250 per TEU (twenty feet equivalent) from July 1, the London-based India Pakistan Bangladesh Ceylon Conference has again decided to increase container freight rates from September 1 by an additional \$250 per TEU.

MORE: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/html/uncomp/articleshow?msid=127751>

OCEAN – BELUGA BUYS GENCHART: Beluga Shipping of Germany has taken over ship owner, manager and charterer GenChart of Rotterdam. The company will be renamed Beluga GenChart Chartering.

OCEAN – PORT ARKHANGELSK WORK: Metals giant Norilsk Nickel and state-owned oil major Rosneft signed a cooperation memorandum Monday to expand and upgrade the northern Arkhangelsk port on the White Sea by deepening the shipping channel allowing the port to handle larger vessels.

MORE: <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/stories/2003/08/12/045.html>

OCEAN – FMC HEARINGS: The US Federal Maritime Commission will hold seminars in Orlando, 10 September and Houston 30 September to go over shipping rules.

MORE: <http://www.americanshipper.com/frm2001.asp?Target=NewsFrame.asp?news=15162>

OCEAN – ICS MOBILE FREEZER: ICS Logistics opened a new freezer operation at the Port of Mobile Friday. Mobile Refrigerated Services is Alabama's first freezer operation focusing on shipping poultry and other commodities throughout the world from the Port of Mobile.

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20030812/sections/ecom/w74138.asp>

OCEAN – SHANGHAI WANTS WORLD'S LARGEST SHIPYARD: China State Shipbuilding is launching a \$3-Billion plan to become the world's largest shipyard by 2015. The facility will be built along eight kilometers near the mouth of the Yangtze River. Two existing shipyards, the Jiangnan and the Hudong, will be relocated to the new super-yard.

MORE: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1518&ncid=1518&e=16&u=afp/20030813/bs_afp/china_ship_company_030813080046

MORE: <http://www.joc.com/lede/20030813/sections/ocean/w31663.asp>

OCEAN – BOX BACKLOG STRAINS NHAVA SHEVA: Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) is asking lines and agents to go slow in booking of containers bound for inland container depots (ICDs). The terminal currently has a backlog in excess of 5,000 TEUs, officials said, adding that the storage period for these containers has increased from two to 12 days.

MORE: http://www.cargonewsasia.com/news_main_f.asp?id=2741&src=2

EURO ECONOMY – SLOW GROWTH: Growth in the euro area stagnated in the second quarter, with no increase compared with the previous quarter and growth of just 0.4% over the past year. Germany's economy contracted by 0.2% at an annual rate, the third successive quarter of decline. But Japan's economy grew at the surprisingly brisk pace of 2.3%

GERMAN ECONOMY – FEWER HOLIDAYS? German workers receive more than 40 days away from the job each year as vacation time and holidays. The average German worker put in 1,444 hours on the job last year compared to 1,693 in the UK and 1,904 in the US. As the German economy struggles, is this about to change?

MORE: <http://www.canada.com/businesscentre/story.html?id=0F0015D4-0639-424C-9569-3081F1B467F3>

UK ECONOMY – WHOLESALE PRICES UP: Prices at the wholesale level rose 0.2% in the UK in July.
MORE: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=1518&ncid=1518&e=10&u=afp/20030811/bs_afp/britain_economy_prices_030811103538

US ECONOMY – MACHINE TOOL DEMAND UP: It is seen as another sign that the US economy is picking up and that companies will soon begin hiring. For the first time since November 2000 machine tool demand rose in June, up 3.3% from June 2002.

US ECONOMY – FED HOLDS: The US Federal Reserve Board left interest rates unchanged at 1.0% during its regular meeting.

US ECONOMY – RETAIL SALES UP 1.4%: A strong showing for retail sales during July is boosting hopes of a good economic recovery.

US ECONOMY – PPI INCHES HIGHER: US prices at the wholesale level measured by the Producer Price Index rose 0.1% in July. Excluding volatile food and energy sectors prices rose 0.2%.

US ECONOMY – CPI UP: The US Consumer Price Index rose 0.2% in July.

US ECONOMY – FACTORY OUTPUT UP: The Federal Reserve reports industrial production rose 0.5% in July.

American Shipper = www.americanshipper.com
Business Times of Asia = <http://business-times.asia1.com.sa/>
The Economist = <http://www.economist.com>
Financial Times of London = <http://www.ft.com>
Journal of Commerce = <http://www.ioc.com>
Logistics News = <http://www.logisticsnews.com/Latest%20News.htm>
Trucking Info = <http://www.truckinginfo.com>
The Trucker = <http://www.thetrucker.com>
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