

## US manufacturing outlook darkens, job cuts soar

AFP, Washington

The US manufacturing outlook darkened and job-cutting announcements shot up in August, data showed Tuesday, stoking fears for the economy and sending shares into a dive.

Analysts' hopes for a recovery in US industry were dashed by a survey showing manufacturing activity crawled ahead in August but that new orders declined.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) purchasing managers' index -- based on a survey of supply executives -- was at 50.5 points in August, unchanged

from July.

Any figure above 50 points indicates growth.

"Manufacturing activity improved slightly during August," said the survey committee chairman, Norbert Ore.

"Putting the year in perspective, we now have seven consecutive months of modest growth," Ore said.

But a breakdown of the figures also showed the ISM's new orders index declined from 50.4 points in July to 49.7 points in August.

"New orders softened and are a cause for concern as we look at the balance of the year," Ore said.

"At the current level of growth in the overall economy, many manufacturers find themselves anxious about second-half sales."

The labor market also was fragile.

Job cut announcements surged to 118,067 in August from 80,966 in July, said a survey by Challenger, Gray and Christmas, an international outplacement firm.

It was the third highest figure this year.

"Some economists believe the economy is fundamentally strong and on a recovery track but the August job-cut surge suggests that employers do not necessarily agree

with such an outlook," said the firm's chief executive, John Challenger.

The manufacturing figures dashed hopes for a recovery from the July slump, said Naroff Economic Advisors president and chief economist Joel Naroff.

"While the economy is still growing, there is no question about it, the growth pace is nothing sterling," Naroff said.

The drop in new orders was a concern, he said.

"While production is still strong, orders are not," Naroff added. "It tells me that the strong production levels we're seeing are at risk. That is clearly a worry."

## OPEC chief favours prices at \$22-\$28

AFP, Rio De Janeiro

The president of the Organization of Oil Producing Countries, Riwalu Lukman, said Tuesday he favors keeping crude prices at between 22 dollars and 28 dollars per barrel.

The oil cartel seeks to keep prices at "fair and reasonable levels" for the sakes of both producers and consumers, he said during an address to delegates to the 17th World Petroleum Summit.

The OPEC president did not

mention possible military intervention top US officials say is necessary to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Lukman said OPEC is "not interested in high prices," but prices set too low could stunt the development of the oil industry.

On Monday, the opening day of the conference, British energy secretary Brian Wilson said it would be "hazardous business and even foolish business to try and anticipate oil prices."

The conference ends Thursday.



PHOTO: MUTUAL TRUST BANK  
Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, speaks at a get-together of the bank's clients held at the Chittagong Institute of Engineers recently.

## US SEC may freeze former Enron chief's assets

Alleged involvement in illegal stocks transactions

REUTERS, Houston

Lawyers for former Enron Corp. Chairman Kenneth Lay fear that the US Securities and Exchange Commission may soon try to freeze his assets because of allegations he was involved in illegal stock transactions during 2001.

The SEC has questioned the legitimacy of stock deals Lay made when Enron was plummeting

toward bankruptcy last fall and could file a lawsuit shortly seeking an asset freeze, Lay defense attorney Michael Ramsey said Tuesday.

"It is my fear that a civil action by the SEC is coming," Ramsey told Reuters. "They can prove Ken actively traded during '01 and it would force us into court."

Ramsey has met with SEC attorneys, but they have not disclosed their plans regarding Lay, he

said. An SEC spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

A civil action by the SEC would freeze any of Lay's assets allegedly obtained through illegal activity without the necessity of a criminal indictment.

The burden would then be on Lay to prove that the assets were legally obtained.

## EU hopes to avoid trade war with US

AFP, Brussels

The EU hopes to avoid a high-risk trade war with the US, notably by using WTO-authorized huge sanctions to make Washington back down on tax rules, officials said Tuesday.

The 15-member bloc appears set to use the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling, handed down at the end of last week, to press US authorities to change their laws.

The United States is scrambling to escape the threat of a record 4.04 billion dollars (4.06 billion euros) in European Union trade sanctions against its illegal export tax breaks.

"We will only claim this amount if the United States do not change their tax legislation," EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy told the French daily Le Monde.

The United States allows an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 US companies carrying out business through subsidiaries in offshore tax havens to benefit from reduced export taxes.

About half of annual US exports of 250 billion dollars (252 billion euros) benefit from the regime, according to diplomats in Geneva, the headquarters of the WTO.

WTO arbitrators ruled in line with the EU's assessment of the amount of retaliation it could take against US imports every year until the subsidy for foreign service corporations (FSC) is eliminated.



PHOTO: AL BARAKA BANK  
A day-long conference of Chittagong zone managers and officers of Al Baraka Bank Bangladesh Limited was held recently at the auditorium of Chittagong Stock Exchange Building. Masum A. Chowdhury, chairman of the Board of Directors, inaugurated the conference which was presided over by CM Koyes Sami, executive president of the bank.

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

FF/100	BC	Currency	TT Clear	Buy	OD/Sight/Doc	OD/Transfer
68.6500	68.6800	USD	67.4050	67.4364	67.4662	67.4962
92.2292	92.2595	EUR	90.1125	90.1439	90.1742	90.2045
92.4856	92.5330	GBP	89.5457	89.5827	89.6197	89.6567
32.4074	32.4240	AUD	31.0413	30.9501	30.9131	30.8761
0.5025	0.5027	JPY	0.4896	0.4891	0.4886	0.4881
40.2572	40.2778	CHF	38.9627	38.8482	38.8017	38.7552
6.2862	6.2885	SEK	6.1066	6.0987	6.0914	6.0841
37.9357	37.9552	CAD	37.0331	36.9243	36.8802	36.8361
7.5141	7.5180	HKD	7.4038	7.3820	7.3732	7.3644
93.7328	93.7501	SGD	93.0162	92.9212	92.8819	92.8426
16.0697	16.0779	AED	15.6124	15.5666	15.5473	15.5280
15.7354	15.7435	SAR	15.2923	15.2474	15.2282	15.1833

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Tidari rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroger	NZ dollar	AUD
45.475	60.15	96.225	42.170	7.477	0.4652	0.54525

Local Interbank FX Trading:

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active Wednesday. Demand for dollar was moderate. BDT was steady against the dollar and was quoted unchanged at 56.30/52.

Local Money Market:

There was steady demand in the market for overnight borrowing. Call money rate remained almost same and ranged between 5.75 and 6.40 per cent.

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## SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 4.9.2002.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disc
J/1	AA Venture	GI (Log)	Yang	Cla	27/8	4/9	538
J/2	Ulla(EDD)	GI (Copa)	Sing	Aeka	1/9	9/9	302
J/3	Cameroon	C.Clink	Sing	SSA	30/8	11/9	-
J/5	Pacific Emerald	GI (Copa)	Sing	Alseas	24/7	8/9	X
J/7	Xuan Cheng	Rice(P)	Visa	BSL	18/8	7/9	868
J/8	Banglar Gourab	GI (log)	Yang	Royal	23/8	6/9	993
J/9	Shun An	GI (SLC)	Bela	RML	30/8	5/9	741
J/11	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (B)	31/8	5/9	24X
J/12	Orient Freedom	Cont	Pkel	PSSL	1/9	5/9	2X
J/13	QC Dignity	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	3/8	6/9	782/15
CCT/1	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	2/9	6/9	245/147
CCT/2	Banga Barta	Cont	Mad	Baridhi	2/9	5/9	55/68
CCT/3	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	2/9	6/9	222/375
GSJ	Zeno	Wheat(G)	Aust	ASCL	1/9	8/9	-
TSP	Banga Birol	Cont	Sing	Baridhi	28/8	5/9	-
DD	AL muztaba	Repair	Kaki	Cla	8/8	8/9	-
DDJ/2	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	29/8	6/9	-
RM/9	Banglar Mookh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	6/9	-
RM/10	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	7/9	-
SM/10	Dredger Gemini	-	Chand	Kama	-	-	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Kota Cahaya (Cont)25/8	4/9	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Kota Naga (Cont) 20/8	4/9	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Sammi Frontier	4/9	Mala	Uniship	C.Clink	-
Amtra Jaya-1	4/9	Kaki	ASA	Rice(P)	-
Glory	4/9	Niko	Litmond	Mop	-
Pac Princess	10/9	Mumb	Litmond	GI (Y/Peas)	-
Xpress Manaslu (cont) 24/8	5/9	P.Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Lanka (cont) 1/9	6/9	Hal	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Banga Biraj (cont) 24/8	6/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
QC Pintail (Cont) 18/8	5/9	P.kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
C.S.Vallian	5/9	Tarj	BSL	C.Clink	-
Sagaing (Liner)	6/9	Chen	Everrett	GI (SLC)	-
QC Lark (Cont) 26/8	6/9	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	P.Kel
WU Chang Hai	7/9	Sing	ASCL	Wheat	-
Xpress Resolve	6/9	CBO	Everbest	Cont	Col
Kota Singha	7/9	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Banga Bijoy (Cont)29/8	8/9	-	BD Ship	Cont	Sing
Shun Cheng (liner)	7/9	Yang	Everrett	GI (SLC)	-
Glover Star (Liner)	7/9	Sing	Prog	GI	-
Mardios (cont) 19	8/9	P.Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
QC Teal (Cont) 28/8	9/9	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	-
Feng Kang Shan (Liner)	10/9	-	BD Ship	GI	-
An Shun Jiang (liner)	10/9	-	BD Ship	GI	-
Kuo Hsiung (Cont) 1/9	10/9	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Haneburg (cont) 1/9	10/9	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonk (cont) 1/9	12/9	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banglar Moni (cont) 2/9	16/9	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Consistence (cont) 3/9	17/9	-	PSSL	Cont	Sing

Tanker due:

Vessels at Kutubdia

Dea Captain	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (18/8)
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Vessels at outer anchorageReady on

Jurong Bauhinia	cont	Sing	Nol	3/9
Phumy (cont)	Cont	P.kel	PSSL	4/9

Vessels awaiting instruction

Banglar Shourab	-	-	BSC	R/A(30/8)
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Movement of vessels for 5.9.2002

	Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/9	Shun An	J/12	Jurong Bauhinia
J/11	K. Berjaya	J/11	Phumy
J/12	O. Freedom	NB	Xp. Manaslu
CCT/2	Banga Barta	CCJ	C.S. Valliant
			J/1 A.A Venture to DDJ
			B. Birol to N.B
			DD Al-Muztab to RM/15

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

## STOCK