



News, Views & Comments from the World of Building Service Contracting

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## ARGENTINA-BUENOS AIRES

### Inflation Rate Slows

The National Institute of Statistics in its report of the Greater Buenos Aires Price Index (INDEC) noted that while prices rose 0.5 percent in January, the annual rate of inflation slowed to 6.8 percent. The increase in January was lower than the rate in the previous year as global demand has fallen and growth has slowed considerably. According to the report, while food prices fell, transportation – as a result of bus and train fare hikes - and communication prices rose 3.6 percent over December 2008.

## AUSTRALIA-VICTORIA

### New National Expo

The National Cleaning Suppliers' Association is partnering with Australian Exhibitions & Conferences (AEC), which organizes regional Safety Shows. The three national shows that are part of the deal and which will be called, CleanScene: The National Cleaning & Hygiene Expo, will be held in conjunction with the regional shows. The first show will be held October 27-29, 2009 in Sydney. The remaining two shows will be April 2-7, 2011 in Melbourne and October 23-25, 2012 in Sydney. The NCSA will be developing a series of seminars that will be held during the Expos.

## BELGIUM-BRUSSELS

### Savings And Investment Rates Up

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, and the European Central Bank (ECB) reported that the seasonally adjusted gross household savings rate increased 0.4 percent in the third quarter of 2008 over the second quarter to 14.4 percent. The report also showed that the business investment rate grew to 23.5 percent in the third quarter of 2008 from 23.3 percent in the second quarter.

## BRAZIL - RIO DE JANEIRO

### Unemployment Increase Highest Since 2001

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) reported that unemployment rose to 8.2 percent in January 2009, an increase of 1.4 percent over December 2008, the highest percentage increase since 2001. The total number of unemployed remains unchanged since January of 2008. Unemployment rose in four regions, El Salvador (1.2 percentage point), Belo Horizonte (0.9 percentage point), São Paulo (2.3 points percent) and Porto Alegre (0.9 percentage point). Only Recife reported a fall in unemployment by 1.5 percent. In a positive note, the average income rose 2.2 percent in January 2009 over December 2008 and rose 5.9 percent over January 2008. Per capita income was reported to be approximately \$840.62.

## CANADA-BRITISH COLUMBIA

### Farm Cleaned/Disinfected After Avian Flu Found

**W**orkers from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) were busy cleaning and disinfecting a farm in Abbotsford, after turkeys at the farm tested positive for the avian flu. Nearly 60,000 turkeys were killed and the agency confirmed the presence of H5 avian flu virus. Workers cleaned and disinfected all buildings, vehicles, equipment and tools in order to curb the infection. Twenty-two farms near the infected farm have been placed under quarantine and the CFIA is asking all poultry owners to monitor and report any sick or dead birds. The town is near the U.S. border.

## FRANCE-PARIS

### France May Be Punished For Overspending

**T**he EU is threatening to go after countries for overspending such as France, where the public deficit is predicted to reach over 4.4 percent of gross domestic product in 2009. The EU requires member states to keep their public deficits at less than 3.0 percent of output. The budget minister of France just revised its initial forecast of \$109 billion dollars upwards. France has asked the EU to relax its restrictions in light of the global economic crisis but the EU is threatening action.

## GERMANY-FRANKFURT

### Cleaner Finds Baby In Sink

**P**olice reported that a cleaning woman found an infant, wrapped in just a t-shirt and wool scarf, in a Frankfurt hospital bathroom sink. The bathroom, which is accessible to the public, was in a conference center attached to the hospital. While Germany has 80 baby hatches, a location where unwanted infants can be legally deposited, at various hospitals across the country, it was not known if the Frankfurt hospital had one. The baby was reported to be a one-week old girl and was in good health.

## JAPAN-TOKYO

### Power Sales Plunge

**T**he Federation of Power Companies of Japan, which started compiling data on power companies in 1972, reported that industrial power sales fell for the fourth month in a row. Sales in January fell 19 percent, the biggest drop on record. While all of the power companies reported declines, Chugoku Electric reported the largest at 27 percent. Power sales have been affected by reduced output and plant closings at automobile and steel companies. The largest drop in sales, which was 37 percent, was to steelmakers.

## NEW ZEALAND-AUCKLAND

### Things Looking Up?

**D**espite a recent report by the New Zealand Institute that unemployment in New Zealand will reach 11 percent in the next two years, Prime Minister John Key expressed strong doubt that will be the case. And in a recent poll of 500 people aged 15 plus, by Research New Zealand, over half the respondents felt their economic situation had not worsened over the past year compared with 44 percent who were asked the same question last year.

## SOUTH KOREA-SEOUL

### Job Competition To Increase

**T**he number of jobs available with financial firms or state-run organizations will likely be extremely low as companies are putting a freeze on hiring. The central government and local administrative offices plan to hire 8,000 less staff in 2009, down about 25 percent, and 14 of 16 major financial institutions have decided not to hire additional full-time employees. And while The Korea Exchange Bank and the Industrial Bank of Korea plan to launch two recruitment drives this year, the numbers of

recruits are going to be significantly less than in prior years. Firms are instead turning to interns to fill the gap, with the government planning to hire about 30 percent more than in 2008 and the banks planning to hire approximately 5,300.

## TAIWAN-TAIPEI

### Waste Reduction Measure A Success

The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) has reported that its 2007 initiative - government agencies and public school paper cup reduction plan - surpassed the goal of a 50 percent decrease. The EPA reported that government agencies and public schools reduced paper cups usage by 90 percent over 2006. Compliance has been high, despite the voluntary nature of the measure. The plan called for limiting the location of paper cups in buildings, and not handing out paper cups or bottled water during meetings or in reception rooms.

## THE NETHERLANDS-AMSTERDAM

### Female Labor At 60 Percent

According to Statistics Netherlands, approximately 60 percent of women participated in the labor market in 2008, a number which has risen annually by 2 percent since 2005. While male labor has also increased, the percentage increase is less than that of women. In 2001, only 53 percent of women participated in the labor force.

## UK-LONDON

### Migrant Labor Numbers Remain Steady

In its 2008-2009 Winter quarterly labor market survey report the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) notes that despite the fact that over 40 percent of employers use migrant workers; the number of migrant workers did not change in 2008. According to the survey 21 percent of the companies surveyed said they had hired more migrant workers, while over 50 percent said there had been

no change in the number of migrant workers employed in 2008. The report points to a reduction in the migrant labor pool as one factor and the recent announcement from the Home Secretary that workers from outside the European Union will be barred during the economic crisis will be sure to have an impact.

## UK-LONDON

### Cross Cleaning Industry Sustainability Forum

The Cleaning and Support Services Association (CSSA) has launched a cross cleaning industry sustainability forum. This forum, which brings together cleaning contractors, manufacturers, distributors and other sector stakeholders will both drive the CSSA's policy positions on sustainability and also develop member services to assist the cleaning industry to become more sustainable.

Speaking following the launch, the CSSA Chief Executive Andrew Large said: "As the global economy enters recession, businesses are looking for new strategies that will enable future growth and development. A sustainable development strategy that places equal weight on people, profit and planet will enable cleaning businesses to meet client needs and grow, both in the short and long terms."

The CSSA group will develop a strategic agenda for 2009 and beyond. It will focus on enabling the cleaning supply chain to supply sustainable cleaning services to its clients, and on campaigning to improve the receptiveness of the client base to sustainable services.

## UK-LONDON

### MITIE Names Real Apprentices For 2009

MITIE has awarded the prestigious title - the Real Apprentice 2009 - to joint winners Gary Cupid and Abdul Razak. The Real Apprentice is a best practice employer-led training program run with ELBA, (East London Business Alliance). It is currently open to everyone between the ages of 17-25 and takes away the barriers to employment faced by young people from disadvantaged areas in East London. The

apprentices are each given two weeks pre-placement training followed by 10 weeks' work experience on one of MITIE's contracts. This could be learning about reprographics at PricewaterhouseCoopers, or getting to grips with the latest bird control techniques with MITIE's pest control business. The winners were chosen from the 30 candidates who successfully completed the 12 week training course on MITIE's London contracts and it was decided to give the award to joint winners this year after two individuals stood out from the rest. The ceremony was held at Morgan Stanley's offices in Canary Wharf and was well attended by over 100 guests including MITIE's managers and clients, members of ELBA, past apprentices and other Corporate Responsibility professionals. The award was handed out by Chief Executive of ELBA, Liam Kane and MITIE's HR Director, Joanne Bacon.

## US-GEORGIA

### Nanoparticles May Play A Role In Food Safety

A recent study published by the Journal of Food Science notes that the application of zinc oxide nanoparticles in food systems may be effective at inhibiting certain pathogens. Researchers working in concert with the U.S. Agriculture Department's Food Safety Intervention Technologies Research Unit noted that the antimicrobial activity of zinc oxide quantum dots, which are nanoparticles of purified powdered zinc oxide, when applied to three pathogens, E. coli, salmonella, and Listeria monocytogenes, resulted in significant log reduction of the pathogens. While the use of zinc oxide nanoparticles appears to be promising, researchers claim additional research is required to determine the full potential of the use of zinc oxide nanoparticles in food safety.

## US-ILLINOIS

### Data Center Contamination A Key Concern

At a recent American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) conference, it was noted that data centers are experiencing an increased amount of dust and pollution as a result of IT equipment being delivered in smaller and smaller footprints. Any kind of contamination, including dust, can clog server intake valves and other small

openings, which can then affect airflow and cooling efficiencies. Overheating and short-circuiting can result. Experts called on data centers to step up their monitoring of data center dust and pollution and called it a serious concern.

## ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS

### JohnsonDiversey

The Environmental Business Journal (EBJ) recognized JohnsonDiversey's ProSpeed® floor-finishing system with an award for waste management and pollution control. The EBJ has chosen ProSpeed to receive a technical merit award for its reduced water use and floor finish savings as well as its reduced emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). EBJ Editor-in-Chief Grant Ferrier recognized the company's commitment to environmental innovation. "Few companies in the commercial cleaning supply industry pay enough attention to environmental issues," Ferrier said. "JohnsonDiversey's water-saving and VOC-reduction improvements are remarkable. ProSpeed represents a significant environmental improvement from the status quo and makes customers more productive." The EBJ Awards were determined by a committee of EBJ staff and EBJ editorial advisory board members and the awards will be presented at EBJ's Environmental Industry Summit VII in Coronado, Calif., in February 2009.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

18th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

Auckland, New Zealand  
November 2-8, 2010

Congress updates will be available from March 2009  
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EMAIL: [info@bsc.org.nz](mailto:info@bsc.org.nz)  
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19th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

Curitiba, Brazil  
2012



ALL BUILDING SERVICE CONTRACTING COMPANIES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS THAT IS A WFBC MEMBER, ARE AUTOMATICALLY MEMBERS OF THE WFBC.

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