

# INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS Perspective

World Contracting News, Views & Comments

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## THE WORLD

### Global Growth Outlook Is Positive for 2004

The semi-annual forecast just released from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted the rate of global growth at 4.6 percent for 2004 and 4.4 percent for 2005. Overall, most economies are rebounding strongly, with indications there will be robust expansion in the future. In the US, growth is forecasted at 4.5 percent for 2004 and 4 percent for 2005. While Canada's growth slowed to 1.75 percent in 2003, it is expected to pickup to 2.5 percent in 2004. In the region defined as the Euro Area, growth is projected to increase to 1.74 percent in 2004 and 2.25 percent in 2005 although the IMF claims this recovery is uncertain as leading economic indicators have failed to improve recently. Japan had GDP growth of 2.7 percent in 2003, which is expected to rise to 3.4 percent in 2004 and slow to 1.9 percent in 2005. In Latin America, growth has rebounded and is expected to strengthen in 2004, but the economic outlook is still uncertain. Argentina is expected to expand by 5.5 percent this year and Brazil is predicted to grow at 3.5 percent. In emerging Asia, GDP growth represented about 50% of world growth in 2003 at 7 percent and is expected to remain high for 2004. Sub-Saharan Africa has also been rebounding and growth, at rates not seen since the early 1970s, is projected at 4.25 percent and 5.75 percent in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

## AUSTRALIA-BRISBANE

### AUSCLEAN 2004 Set for August

It's time for cleaning products, services and technology marketers to start planning their involvement in AUSCLEAN 2004. Sponsored by the National Cleaning Suppliers' Association and

supported by the Building Service Contractors Association of Australia and the National Upholstery & Carpet Cleaners Association, AUSCLEAN 2004 will be held 29th and 30th August 2004 at the RNA Show grounds in Brisbane.

## AUSTRALIA-SYDNEY

### Contract Rate Increases On Way

The Building Service Contractors Association of Australia's NSW branch has alerted property owner/managers to impending contract rate increases. According to INCLEAN, an Australian E-zine, under the Cleaning & Building Services Contractors (State) Award, wage rates will increase from the first full pay period on or after 1st July 2004. The year two increases are 1.6% for part-time cleaners and 3.26% for full-time cleaners and all work related allowances. And, under the provisions of the Workers Compensation Amendment Act 2002, employers will be grouped for workers compensation premium purposes from 30th June 2004. Ron Jeffs, Executive Director of BSCAA NSW notes that member companies of the association that have been splitting their workforce into multiple legal entities with separate policies will be affected by this new legislation.

## BRAZIL-RIO DE JANEIRO

### Honest Janitor is an Example for the Country

An airport janitor who returned \$10,000 lost by a Swiss tourist had a private audience with the Brazilian president, who said the man was an example for the country. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva received Francisco Basilio Cavalcante, 55, at his palace. Cavalcante, who earns about \$125 a month, found the money while cleaning a bathroom at the Brasilia airport and

returned it to a Swiss tourist. When asked by da Silva whether the tourist had paid him a reward, Cavalcante replied: "My only wish, President, is that abroad they would do the same for Brazilians." Da Silva reportedly asked the airport authority chief to raise Cavalcante's salary.

## CANADA-CALGARY

### These Explorers Are a Menace To Buildings

According to BOMA, Calgary, everyone should be concerned about a recent trend, where members of a group who call themselves urban explorers, show crooks how to get into buildings and businesses undetected. City police are worried about a group in Calgary called Urban Exploration Alberta, part of a worldwide group whose members break into abandoned buildings, construction sites, storm drains, mines and malls. They take pictures of themselves during the "explorations" and post them on a website. According to police, their exploits are providing tips to others, on how to enter these places. Some buildings explored include the Alberta Children's Hospital and Southcentre Mall. A group spokesman claims the explorers have no intent to harm anyone.

## CANADA-OTTAWA

### Vacancy Rates Are High in Western Suburbs

BOMA of Ottawa reports that while space is tight in central and eastern parts of Ottawa, vacancy rates remain high in west-end suburbs, especially Kanata. BOMA Ottawa's first-quarter survey put suburban office-space vacancy at 16.1%, up 0.8 points over the previous quarter. More than 93% of that vacancy was in the west, of which 57% was in Kanata. BOMA predicts vacancy rates in the western suburbs will likely decline later this year, as a result of marketing campaigns and prices as low as \$10 a square foot annually for Class A space.

## CHINA-BEIJING

### China Clean Expo Scheduled for 2005

According to the organizers of China Clean Expo, the 2004 inaugural event held in Shanghai was a success. Next year's show in 2005 will be held in Beijing, where

some key exhibitors including VDMA have said that they will take larger space.

## GREECE-ATHENS

### Priests Called to Cleaning Duty

Greece's Orthodox Church cancelled August holidays for all priests in Athens and instructed them to tidy up the city's churches and religious monuments for the Olympics. The Orthodox church, representing about 97 percent of Greeks, issued the spring cleaning guidelines requesting churches in the city centre remain open all day during the Aug. 13-29 Olympics. Many churches are normally closed in late August, when the heavily bearded Orthodox clergymen sometimes relax their dress requirements to cope with the grueling summer temperatures that can exceed 40 degrees Celsius. The guidelines also call for priests to be properly dressed - in a black cassock and pipe hat - and to refrain from ringing bells too often and avoid other "ostentatious" displays of religious fervor.

## IRELAND-BELFAST

### Twice the National Average Spent on Cleaning

The city council released statistics showing over twice the national average is spent on keeping the city clean. The latest street cleaning figures show Belfast spent £26 per head of population compared to the average of £12. Overall, the cost to ratepayers is almost £9m per year. The latest research suggests about 60% of people in Belfast admit to dropping paper, cigarette butts, spitting out gum, or dropping fast food packs on the street. Some of those questioned also admitted emptying ashtrays from cars on to the road and allowing dogs to foul on the streets. The Mayor has launched a £2m initiative to create a cleaner city, which includes an anti-litter television and radio advertising campaign to begin next month, recycling programs, and plans to improve the appearance of the main arterial routes into Belfast.

## MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE

### Maids Go To Hi-Rise School

An epidemic of accidents has led authorities in Singapore to introduce compulsory training courses for Indonesian maids. According to the Indonesian embassy in Singapore,

some 90 maids died after falling from high-rise buildings between 1999 and 2003. The Strait Times of Singapore says there are about 140,000 maids working in the country, many of them from Indonesia in rural areas where single-story houses are typical. Maids will be taught about the do's and don'ts of working in high-rise buildings which include locking windows before cleaning them; not standing on chairs near windows; and not leaning out of windows when hanging clothes. They will also be taught how to handle electric equipment and to administer first aid. First-time employers of maids will also have to attend a course on how to treat their employees.

### NORWAY-OSLO

#### Government Trying To Revamp Labor Laws

**A** government commission, led by cabinet minister Victor Norman, is attempting to make Norwegian labor laws more lenient by recommending changes that would make it easier to lay off workers, demand overtime and allow employers to hire more temporary staff. The commission believes employers should be able to make individual overtime deals with employees, as well as strengthen employers' rights regarding overall staffing. Union leaders are gearing up to fight the proposal.

### UK-LONDON

#### National Minimum Wage Rates Will Increase

**T**he Government has announced an increase to the National Minimum Wage rates, which will take place in October 2004. From that date, the Main (adult) rate for workers aged 22 and over will be £4.85/hour (from the present £4.50), while the Development rate for workers aged 18-21 inclusive will be £4.10/hour (from the present £3.80).

### UK-LONDON

#### New Requirements for UK Employers

**T**he Home Office has tightened up the list of documents an employer must check and keep on file as proof of an employee's right to work legally in the UK. After May 1st, an employer must see an original document of either a UK Passport, EEA Passport, National Identity Card or UK Residence Permit. Otherwise, an employer must see

two original documents from the following: an official document with a National Insurance Number plus either a full birth certificate (which includes the names of the holder's parents) or a letter from the Home Office or an Immigration Status Document; OR a Work Permit plus either a Passport or a letter from the Home Office which in either case confirms the worker has permission to enter or remain in the UK and take the work permit employment in question. The following documents are no longer acceptable: Standard Acknowledgement Letters (SAL) issued to asylum seekers by the Home Office; a Construction Industry Scheme card; Passport for a British Dependent Territory Citizen; and Short UK birth certificates.

### UK-LONDON

#### MITIE Group Wins Nissan Contract

**M**ITIE has landed a full facilities contract with Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK Ltd. at its Sunderland plant. The contract covers cleaning, waste management, security and maintenance, with service partner Eurest (part of Compass Group PLC) providing catering and vending services. It is a three year contract worth approximately £20m. The site, some 750 acres in area, with a perimeter over six miles long, is home to a manufacturing facility of 3,500,000 square feet producing Nissan's Micra, Almera and Primera models for the UK and Continental markets. In total, around 300,000 vehicles are produced per annum - 1 in 5 of all cars produced in the UK. The contract was mobilized successfully in January 2004 under a very tight and aggressive timescale.

### US-TEXAS

#### Temperature Is Top Of IFMA'S Complaint List

**T**he International Facility Management Association (IFMA) surveyed its members to determine the top 10 office complaints. The 2003 Corporate Facility Monitor survey, sent to 2,400 IFMA members ranked the complaints as follows: (1) too cold; (2) too hot; (3) poor janitorial service; (4) not enough conference rooms; (5) not enough storage/filing space in workstation; (6) poor indoor air quality; (7) no privacy in workstation/office; (8) inadequate parking; (9) computer problems; and (10) noise level/too noisy. The survey had a 14.2 percent response rate.

## CORPORATE MEMBER NEWS

### Ecolab

**E**colab reported that strong profit growth from its European operations, improving U.S. Cleaning & Sanitizing profitability, favorable currency trends and a lower effective tax rate, spurred a very strong earnings per share gain as diluted net income per share rose 37% to \$0.26 per share in Ecolab's fourth quarter ended December 31, 2003. Ecolab's consolidated sales increased 8% to a record \$956 million in 2003's fourth quarter. Net income increased 32% to a record \$67 million. Currency translation had a favorable impact on net income of approximately \$4.5 million for the fourth quarter of 2003. Management stated it believes Ecolab is positioned to again outperform the industry and achieve strong earnings growth in 2004. More information: [www.ecolab.com](http://www.ecolab.com).

### Truvox

**C**imex-USA announced the addition of Dennis Jurecki as National Sales Director. Jurecki will oversee sales for the entire Cimex product line throughout the US. Jurecki joins Cimex with more than 25 years of sales and management experience. He began his career in floor care sales and marketing with Fuller Mop Company, a Pennsylvania-based wet mop manufacturer, where he managed the Midwest and Northeast dealer and distributor networks. He most recently served as regional independent sales manager for a major computer training company where he trained the Akron-area sales force, achieved six months of top sales performance and opened multiple branches in new territories. Prior to this, Jurecki served as Regional Manager for Bekins Van Lines where he grew sales by \$4 million across a six-state territory. More information: [www.truvox.com](http://www.truvox.com).

### JohnsonDiversey

**T**he global headquarters of JohnsonDiversey Inc., is one of only a few facilities in North America to meet stringent criteria as an environmentally responsible, green building under a new program for existing buildings. The U.S. Green Building Council announced that JohnsonDiversey global headquarters has earned certification under the LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED EB) rating system. LEED, which is short for Leadership in Energy and Environ-

mental Design, has been adapted for existing buildings by the USGBC, a nonprofit, Washington, D.C.-based coalition that promotes green buildings. "Earning LEED for our global headquarters is a great achievement," said Curt Johnson, chairman of JohnsonDiversey. "This recognition reflects our company's heritage of environmental leadership. Providing healthy, high-performance facilities for our customers is showcased in our own headquarters where we provide a green and healthy workplace for our employees." Completed in 1997, JohnsonDiversey is the first to earn LEED EB certification for a building that is both a global-company headquarters and a comprehensive chemical R&D laboratory. Its lab comprises 80,000 square feet or about 30 percent of the building's total 278,000 square feet. What makes the JohnsonDiversey building unique is the mixed-use energy demands between office space and R&D lab. More information: [www.johnsondiversey.com](http://www.johnsondiversey.com)

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### BSCAI and BOMA Announce Agreement

**C**arol A. Dean, Executive Vice President of the Building Service Contractors Association, International (BSCAI), is pleased to announce BSCAI has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International. The two organizations will be exhibiting at their respective annual conventions, sharing editorial between their magazines, holding meetings at BSCAI and BOMA national events and performing joint studies of relevance to the facilities management and maintenance industries. We are excited to have this opportunity to work with BOMA to promote each other's products and our respective associations," remarked Carol Dean, "This agreement with BOMA will serve to enhance our industries by sharing BSCAI and BOMA resources for educational programs, research studies, legislative affairs and annual conferences, among other things." "BOMA International and BSCAI are two organizations committed to providing outstanding services to their members, and this agreement enhances that commitment," said BOMA International Chairman John P. Kelly, RPA, Ryan Companies US, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn. "By sharing expertise in key areas, we will deliver greater value on our respective programs." More information on the BSCAI/BOMA agreement: [www.bscai.org](http://www.bscai.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

15th Congress of the World Federation of Building Service Contractors

**Montreal, Canada  
September 26-29, 2004**

Visit the WFBC website at [www.wfbc.org](http://www.wfbc.org) and the website at [www.opus3.com/wfbc](http://www.opus3.com/wfbc) for more information.

BSCAI Annual Convention and Trade Show

**Orlando, Florida  
April 1-5, 2005**

Visit the BSCAI website at [www.bscai.org](http://www.bscai.org) for more information or call 703-359-7090.

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