



LKN Keeping You Informed

October 2009 Issue

October 30

**Argentina teachers, doctors, subways strike.** *CNN.com*

They are protesting "the lack of money in the public system, the possibility that the health budget will be reduced by 500 million pesos (about \$130 million), the lack of professionals, the lack of labor to solve the problems in Argentina's public health," said Alicia Kobylarz of the Federal Syndicate of Health Workers.

[Full article](#)

**Britain: #1 is Global finance.** *Business Week*

London has officially dethroned New York as the world's top financial center, according to an index released this month by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF). Britain was buoyed by the relative strength of its financial markets, particularly in foreign exchange and derivatives, and by its world-beating insurance coverage.

[Full article](#)

**Zelaya return to Honduras presidency?** *CNN.com*

Negotiators for Zelaya and Roberto Micheletti, the politician who was appointed president hours after Zelaya's June 28 removal, reached an agreement to form a government of national reconciliation. Zelaya said his return to the presidency is "imminent" and should occur within days.

[Full article](#)

**Czechs sign the Lisbon Treaty.** *CNN.com*

President Vaclav Klaus agreed to sign the document after winning an exemption ensuring the Lisbon Treaty does not allow ethnic Germans forced out of the country after World War II to reclaim their former land. The Lisbon Treaty is meant to replace the EU constitution, streamlining the workings of the EU, creating an EU president and foreign minister and introducing rotating representatives for member countries in the EU Commission, the union's executive branch.

[Full article](#)

**China invites South Korea's Kim Jong II to visit.** *CNN.com*

China invited South Korea's leader for a visit. "The (Communist) party and the government of China are ready to strive with the Korean comrades to put the relations of friendship between the two countries on a new stage, defend regional peace and stability, and achieve common development and prosperity by further expanding cooperation and visits in all fields," the Korean Central News Agency said.

[Full article](#)

### **Me 2.0: Branding you.** *CNN.com*

The concept of personal branding has been around for more than a decade, but the Internet and social networking have made it easier than ever to sell brand "you." The basic idea of personal branding is to promote yourself as having certain values, skills or expertise your brand so that if someone needs that expertise, they'll come to you first.

[Full article](#)

### **Internet domain names go non-Latin.** *CNN.com*

The group that controls top-level domain codes for Internet addresses is poised to permit non-Latin language codes for the first time in its history. "This is one of the most exciting developments for the users of the Internet globally in years," said Beckstrom. "IDNs will enable the people the world over to use domain name addresses in their own language."

[Full article](#)

October 29

### **Google's one per month acquisition plan.** *Business Week*

Google's dealmakers are moving fast. Flush with \$22 billion in cash and emboldened by signs of recovery in the core Web-search market, Google plans to snap up companies at a pace of about one a month, CEO Eric Schmidt told analysts. Google's chief dealmaker Lawee says his "top priorities" are search, advertising, and mobile services, although he's casting a wide net. "We are basically looking across the entire spectrum of the Internet."

[Full article](#)

### **Best Buy's expansion in Europe.** *Business Week*

The world's largest electricals retailer, Best Buy, is to create 8,000 jobs in the UK over the next five years and is gearing up to open its first stores this coming spring, taking on Currys and Comet.

[Full article](#)

### **Internet turns 40 years old!** *Mashable.com*

Fast forward to today, and the Internet has over 1.5 billion users, and most of them can't imagine the world without it. Most of you don't need an explanation of what it is and how it works; it's one of the fundamental things you encounter, like rain or electricity. It's in our blood. It brought us the

ability to communicate fast, to connect with our friends, to create stuff together; it brought us social media, Twitter and Facebook.

[Full article](#)

October 28

**Geely to possibly buy Volvo.** *CNNMoney.com*

Ford has been looking for a buyer for Volvo since December 2008, after a plunge in industry sales forced it to retrench to focus on its core U.S. brands of Ford, Mercury and Lincoln. Ford Motor Co. tapped Chinese automaker Geely as its preferred bidder for its Volvo unit, the company announced.

[Full article](#)

**New Verizon phone: Droid.** *Business Week*

Verizon is launching a slew of products designed to keep itself ahead. In the fourth quarter the company is rolling out its largest new-product lineup ever: 14 devices, vs. half that number a year ago. Among those will be two netbooks and five smartphones, including the Droid phone from Motorola.

[Full article](#)

**U.S. Embargo remains with Cuba.** *CNN.com*

For the 18th year in a row, the United Nations General Assembly voted to condemn the 47-year embargo against Cuba by the United States. Despite the changes by the Obama Administration, the U.S. stance remains that the embargo will not be lifted until political and social changes are seen in Cuba.

[Full article](#)

October 27

**The value of Twitter.** *CNNMoney.com*

On Oct. 21, Twitter announced deals with Microsoft and Google to supply the Web giants with data feeds of Twitter updates. Those lists are seemingly valuable, because they show what people are interested in that moment on the Web, something traditional search doesn't show. Twitter CEO Williams spoke with Adam Lashinsky for Fortune's look at 40 rising stars under 40 and touches on why it's okay if young people don't tweet.

[Full article](#)

**Continental Airlines joins Star Alliance.** *Business Week*

Houston-based Continental officially switched from SkyTeam, which is led by Delta and Air France-KLM, to the Star Alliance, which includes United, US Airways and Lufthansa. The move was set in motion last year, when Delta bought Northwest, another SkyTeam member, and became the world's largest airline company.

[Full article](#)

**Vitamin Shoppe goes public.** *Business Week*

Now that the stock market and economy appear to be recovering, VS Holdings and other companies are jumping back in. It's the first IPO of a traditional retailer since the December 2007 offering of Titan Machinery Inc., a seller of agricultural and construction equipment. Retailers' sales tumbled as the economy struggled, but Vitamin Shoppe has "managed to weather the recession pretty well," said Nick Einhorn of Renaissance Capital.

[Full article](#)

**Nissan unveils new cheap, light weight cars.** *Business Week*

More people across the world are buying small cars, and as demand in the U.S. and Western Europe withers, carmakers are vying for consumers on the narrow, hot and crowded streets of India, China and South Africa. Nissan's engineers say the keys to success are keeping the car's weight down and sourcing 80 to 90% of parts locally. Massive global sales and cheap, globally integrated manufacturing are also crucial to profitability.

[Full article](#)

October 26

**November: Uruguay Presidential runoff.** *CNN.com*

Jose Mujica, a former Marxist Tupamaro guerrilla who was the top vote-getter Sunday, will be challenged by Luis Alberto Lacalle, who served as president from 1990-1995. The runoff will be held November 29. No one expects any dramatic change in Uruguay no matter who wins," said Peter Hakim, president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based independent policy center. "Uruguayan politics is pretty stable."

[Full article](#)

**Ease of business barriers creates more organized crime.** *Business Week*

As borders come down within and beyond Europe, it is not only legitimate businesses that are benefiting, but also organized crime. Liberalization, low-cost airlines, and China's low-wage economy are all helping Europe's gangsters to thrive while the rest of the economy remains in crisis, says Europol's 2009 organized crime threat assessment.

[Full article](#)

**Opel one step closer to GM take over.** *Business Week*

Labor unions at the Opel car factory in northeastern Spain accepted a new restructuring agreement reached with Magna, clearing at least one obstacle to the Canadian company's plans to take over the General Motors Co. subsidiary. Under the deal, the consortium would take a 55% stake in Opel, with General Motors keeping 35% and 10% going to employees.

[Full article](#)

**McDonald's says goodbye to Iceland.** *Business Week*

Iceland's three McDonald's restaurants, all in the capital Reykjavik, will close next weekend, as the franchise owner gives in to falling profits caused by the

collapse in the Icelandic krona. Costs had doubled over the past year because of the fall in the krona and high import tariffs on imported goods.

[Full article](#)

**Will women save the economy?** *CNN.com*

The earning power of women globally is expected to reach \$18 trillion by 2014 according to World Bank estimates. That is more than twice the estimated 2014 GDP of China and India combined. For companies, the growing economic power of women would seem an obvious market to capture. But according to a global study by the Boston Consulting Group, women feel at best underserved by companies, and at worst ignored.

[Full article](#)

October 25

**Russia to delay wood export duty hike.** *Business Week*

Prime Minister Putin says Russia will delay the introduction of a higher export duty on raw timber that has worried neighboring Finland, while the Finnish premier promised to soon give the go-ahead to Russia's Nord Stream natural gas pipeline. Russia is the world's largest raw timber producer while Finland imports 80% of logs from Russia.

[Full article](#)

**BP develops oil field in Jordan.** *Business Week*

British Petroleum PLC has signed several agreements potentially valued at up to \$9 billion with Jordan to develop the country's Risheh natural gas field along its border with Iraq. Oil pauper Jordan imports 95% of its energy needs from neighboring Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It relies on Egypt for liquefied natural gas.

[Full article](#)

**An interesting China-Guinea business deal.** *Business Week*

The deal announced by the West African country's military junta offers the company, China International Fund, access to Guinea's bauxite and other minerals and could provide major revenues to a government facing international isolation. It reflects established Chinese business practices in Africa, characterized by huge investments in a still-poor continent but also secrecy and often scant regard for labor and human rights.

[Full article](#)

**Asian nation leaders meet in Thailand.** *Business Week*

Leaders of 16 Asian countries gave high priority to finding a new economic growth model to free half the world's population from merely serving as producers for the West. "The old growth model where, simply put, we have still to rely on consumption in the West for goods and services produced here will no longer serve us in the future," said Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who hosted the meeting.

[Full article](#)

**Mexicans “stuck” in the U.S. with recession.** *NPR*

There has been a decline in illegal immigration since the financial crisis, but the vast majority of undocumented Mexican workers in the U.S. are staying put, according to new research. While migrant workers lost jobs faster than Americans, most chose not to go home because the recession in Mexico is even worse.

[Full article](#)

October 24

**Chinese, ASEAN leaders meet to boost cooperation.** *blog.taragana.com*

The China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (FTA), to be launched next year, will be the world's largest with a combined population of 1.9 billion, and the world's third largest in terms of trade volume. Officials of China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) met to boost economic cooperation between the two sides.

[Full article](#)

October 23

**Auchan challenges Carrefour and Walmart.** *Business Week*

French retailer, Auchan, is giving both Carrefour and Wal-Mart a run for their money and is expanding successfully and quickly. Shaun Rein, managing director of the China Market Research Group says Wal-Mart's "everyday low price" strategy has backfired with Chinese shoppers, while Carrefour turnoffs the Chinese middle-class shoppers. Auchan is positioned better than Carrefour and Wal-Mart to be able to grab the Chinese market.

[Full article](#)

**Hulu to charge subscription fee.** *scitech.blogs.cnn.com*

Popular online video service Hulu will start charging subscription fees sometime next year, says News Corp. Deputy Chairman Chase Carey. He announced his plans for Hulu: "I think a free model is a very difficult way to capture the value of our content. I think what we need to do is deliver that content to consumers in a way where they will appreciate the value."

[Full article](#)

**Czechs still holding out on Lisbon Treaty.** *Time.com*

Until Czech President Klaus signs the Lisbon Treaty the Czech Republic is the last holdout among E.U. members the E.U.'s grand reform plan remains in limbo. While politicians across the continent have spent weeks wringing their hands, trying to figure out how to compel Klaus to sign the document, the majority of Czechs are standing behind their leader.

[Full article](#)

**Universal cell phone charger approved by UN.** *Business Week*

The U.N. telecoms agency has approved technology for a universal cell phone charger that aims to reduce the confusion, clutter and waste caused by today's proliferation of devices. Some manufacturers already are using the new system, said IUT Sarah Parkes. A number of companies have signed on to the new deal either with the ITU or earlier with the European Union.

[Full article](#)

**Amazon switches from Sprint to AT&T.** *Business Week*

Amazon may be dropping Sprint Nextel as the primary wireless service provider for its Kindle e-reader device. Its new international Kindle, which can download e-books in the U.S. and more than 100 other countries, is powered by AT&T.

[Full article](#)

[Full article](#)

**GM puts money into Korea unit.** *Business Week*

General Motors has put 491.2 billion won (\$416 million) into its South Korean unit GM Daewoo Auto & Technology amid a dispute with the second-biggest shareholder, a state run bank, over finances and management. KDB, GM Daewoo's second-largest shareholder and main creditor, has been urging GM to commit more funds to the South Korean unit and also wants a say in its financial management before it forks over more loans.

[Full article](#)

October 22

**Transpacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement completion?**

*Bilaterals.org*

President Obama has been urged to complete the Transpacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP) begun by the administration of former President George W. Bush in 2008. "The Asia Pacific region holds tremendous potential for American manufacturers, farmers and service suppliers," Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus and Senator Charles Grassley said. "Trade needs to be part of the economic recovery effort, and finalizing this agreement would send a message to the world that U.S. trade policy is back in business."

[Full article](#)

**Lala's music server a hit.** *Business Week*

Lala's model is to let consumers on the Web listen to any of the eight million songs in its database for free, but just once. After that, they could opt to buy a streamed version of the song, dubbed a Websong, for \$.10. Or, if they wanted to listen when they weren't online, they could pay \$.99 for a regular MP3 download. However, since the masses weren't beating a door to Lala's servers, the company needed to land a Google or Facebook to achieve critical mass. Now, it has both.

[Full article](#)

**Poland hopes for Privatization to plug its deficit.** *Business Week*  
Poland seems to be the only country in the European Union to record economic growth for the full year. However, the Polish government will be walking a tightrope next year when it comes to its state budget and is counting on revenue from an ambitious privatization plan to plug a ballooning budget deficit.

[Full article](#)

**Caterpillar gets a new CEO.** *Business Week*  
Caterpillar Inc., the world's largest maker of construction and mining equipment, said Thursday that Douglas Oberhelman will become the company's CEO starting in July of next year. Owens, 63, informed the company in 2008 he was planning to retire in the fall of 2010 and has worked with its board of directors over the past year to develop a succession plan.

[Full article](#)

**Technology industry challenged.** *Business Week*  
Suddenly, after a yearlong slump, there's a bounce back in demand for tech gizmos—everything from smartphones to laptop PCs. Market researcher Gartner (IT) had expected PC shipments to decline 5.6% in the third quarter but instead found that sales had increased by 0.5%. Manufacturers are being challenged and must gauge demand accurately amid economic uncertainty.

[Full article](#)

October 21

**China gang on trial.** *Time.com*  
The operation brought more than 30 defendants to court this week: a crackdown on the alliance of criminal gangs and their corrupt official collaborators who have terrorized a huge metropolis for years. So unprecedented are the events unfolding in Chongqing, Sichuan province's largest city, that they are raising a slew of questions about their significance among both Chinese and foreign analysts. Could this be the beginning of a nationwide crackdown on corruption?

[Full article](#)

**Microsoft signs with Facebook and Twitter.** *Business Week*  
Microsoft has signed deals to get full feeds from Twitter and Facebook. Shortly, a dedicated beta site, [bing.com/twitter](http://bing.com/twitter), will have the ability to search full Twitter feeds. Search of Facebook public data will come later.

[Full article](#)

**Spain's high speed trains rival airline travel.** *Business Week*  
U.S. President Obama has set aside \$13 billion in stimulus and budget funds for high-speed trains in America. If he wants an example of how best to use that cash, Obama might take a look at Spain's growing high-speed network. Since early 2008, Spaniards have enjoyed the new, state-of-the-art Ave



railway service that makes the journey between the city centers of Madrid and Barcelona in just two-and-a-half hours.

[Full article](#)

October 20

**Toyota presence in Korea.** *Business Week*

Not only does Hyundai control 51% of the Korean market, but its affiliate Kia Motors is the second-largest player, with a 30% share. Put together, that's an astonishing 81%, a figure that dwarfs Toyota's 43% share in Japan. Due to these figures, Toyota announced it has begun selling Toyota-branded models at five dealerships, including three in Seoul.

[Full article](#)

**Fisker to build new plant, hybrid vehicles.** *Business Week*

Fisker recently received approval for a \$528.7 million government loan to develop plug-in hybrid vehicles. The company is expected to release its first vehicle, the Karma, in the summer of 2010. It will soon announce the location of a manufacturing facility where it will build plug-in electric vehicles.

[Full article](#)

**WTO: Trade talks will not bring at current pace.** *Business Week*

The World Trade Organization warned Tuesday that talks to open up the global economy were unlikely to produce a breakthrough accord by next year unless countries made significant compromises. WTO Chief Lamy said it was still possible to achieve success in 2010, but countries had to live up to their promises to fight protectionism and remove restrictions to trade in agriculture, manufacturing and services.

[Full article](#)

**Puma opens in Vietnam.** *Business Week*

German sporting goods company Puma AG opened a new product development center in Vietnam on Tuesday, part of an effort to streamline the creation of new apparel and reduce costs. The concept "will increase Puma's speed to market, reduces our cost base and makes sure that our products are of excellent quality," said CEO Jochen Zeitz.

[Full article](#)

**President Medvedev visits Serbia in seek of expansion.** *Business Week*

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has arrived in Serbia, bringing a \$1-billion loan to the recession-hit country as Moscow seeks to expand its influence in the Balkans.

[Full article](#)

**Afghan runoff election, International issues for the U.S.** *NPR*

The decision to hold a November runoff in the hotly disputed Afghan election may resolve some political tensions, but it presents some new challenges for the United States and its international partners in Afghanistan. It also leaves

open the question currently being considered by President Obama of whether to send more American troops to fight the eight-year war.

[Full article](#)

October 19

**British and Chinese win oil license in Iraq.** *Business Week*

Iraq's cabinet has approved a deal with BP to develop the huge Rumaila oil field in the country's first international energy deal since the American-led invasion in 2003. BP will share the licence to extract oil from the Rumaila field near Basra with China National Petroleum Corporation, the state-owned parent of PetroChina, and the Iraqi oil ministry.

[Full article](#)

**Skype job interview, the future.** *Time.com*

Looking to save time and money, companies are turning to video-chat software as a cheap, low-hassle way to vet job candidates. That means a growing number of people looking for work are meeting their prospective new bosses not at the office but in the comfort of their own home.

[Full article](#)

**Wireless home entertainment system.** *Business Week*

A venture capital-backed Israeli startup, Amimon, is driving the latest attempt at a cord-free home entertainment standard and this time it looks more likely to fly. What sets Amimon's WHDI apart from previous wireless A/V proposals is its speed and quality. Earlier efforts, such as the attempted WiMedia standard that built on Ultra-wideband (UWB) technology, streamed video in compressed form, which resulted in signal latency and a loss of clarity.

[Full article](#)

October 17

**Iraq approves deal with Britain's BP PLC.** *Business Week*

The Iraqi government has approved a deal with a consortium led by British giant BP PLC to develop a prized oil field in the south in a major step forward for the country's oil industry. Although Iraq sits on the world's third-largest oil reserve, with at least 115 billion barrels, the country is producing and exporting far below its potential and the government has been trying to entice foreign investment to boost output.

[Full article](#)

**HOPE II extended.** *Allbusiness.com*

U.S. President Obama announced the extension of the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2008 (HOPE II) allowing for certain textile products from Haiti to remain eligible for preferential tariff treatment after October 18, 2009. This legislation helps

Haitians rebuild their economy by developing homegrown industries that will provide long-term opportunities for growth within Haitian society," said U.S. Congressman Kendrick Meek.

[Full article](#)

October 16

**University of iTunes.** *CNN.com/world*

Hundreds of universities, and a growing number of business schools, are making recordings of lectures, seminars and conferences available to the general public via Web sites such as iTunes and YouTube.

[Full article](#)

**Ford spends 25% of marketing on digital and social media.** *Business Week*

According to J.D. Power, about 9% of spending this year by automakers will be digital, but that will rise to about 12% by 2012 as more companies embrace social networking, online gaming and rich media ads in place of traditional TV and print.

[Full article](#)

**Britain Channel 4 makes deal with YouTube.** *Business Week*

British Channel Four Television has signed a deal with YouTube to bring its flagship shows to the video-sharing site. "Syndication deals are key to Channel 4's strategy for monetising on-demand audiences," said Channel 4. "YouTube...already has 20 million users in the UK and we believe it is certain to be a major player in the UK [video on demand] market."

[Full article](#)

**Maine bill for cell phone warning label.** *Business Week*

Early next year, Maine Rep. Andrea Boland plans to introduce a bill that would require all cell phones and their packaging to carry a warning label, advising children and pregnant women to keep the device away from their heads and bodies.

[Full article](#)

**Venezuela lays undersea cable to Cuba with Alcatel.** *Business Week*

Venezuela plans to begin laying an undersea cable to Cuba soon in an effort to improve telecommunication links. Venezuela's science and technology minister, Jesse Chacon, says the government has an agreement with the Paris-based company Alcatel-Lucent to produce and lay the optical communications fiber.

[Full article](#)

October 15

**Twitter targets Japanese market.** *NPR*

Twitter teamed up with the Tokyo-based Internet firm Digital Garage Inc. in early 2008. It launched a Japanese-language platform for cell phones and other mobile devices in the spring of 2008, and hired a Japan country manager earlier this year. Twitter hopes to penetrate a country where other U.S. social networking sites including Facebook and MySpace have failed to capture much ground.

[Full article](#)

**Acer #1 is PC manufacturing.** *Business Week*

Acer has overtaken Dell to become the world's second-largest PC company, with market share behind only HP. Acer CEO Gianfranco Lanci is already setting his sights on the top company. "I would expect not only to pass Dell very soon, but also to breach the gap with HP in terms of [notebooks, Netbooks, and smartphones]."

[Full article](#)

**E-books by Google.** *Business Week*

Google Inc. is launching a new online service that will let readers buy electronic versions of books and read them on such gadgets as cell phones, laptops and possibly e-book devices. Google will collect 55% of the revenue and turn a "vast majority" of that to the retailers. The rest will go to the book's publisher, who will set prices.

[Full article](#)

**Finland: Fast internet is a legal right.** *CNN.com/technology*

Starting in July, telecommunication companies in the northern European nation will be required to provide all 5.2 million citizens with Internet connection that runs at speeds of at least 1 megabit per second. "We think it's something you cannot live without in modern society. Like banking services or water or electricity, you need Internet connection," Laura Viikonen, the legislative counselor for the Ministry of Transport and Communications, said.

[Full article](#)

**The "New" consumer.** *Business Week*

U.S. consumers at nearly every income level and spending stratum have pulled back over the past year, trading down from department stores to discounters or delaying purchases altogether. Smart retailers are starting to rethink their approach: They're getting creative about managing inventory, adjusting product lines, and dumping their addiction to promotional pricing.

[Full article](#)

**Dr Pepper moving forward in the Soda War.** *Business Week*

Dr Pepper Snapple Group has long run a distant third to Coca-Cola and PepsiCo, however the beverage maker is experiencing a surprising renaissance. Its stock is up 154% since March, compared with a 33% climb for Coke and a 32% rise for Pepsi.

[Full article](#)

**E.U. and South Korea sign trade pact.** *New York Times*

European Union and South Korea took a major step toward a free trade agreement aimed at generating billions of euros in new commerce. With talks on global trade deadlocked and concern about protectionism on the rise, analysts said the deal could send a powerful signal to other nations to press ahead with bilateral pacts of their own.

[Full article](#)

**Lake Chad disappearing?** *CNN.com/world*

Up to 30 million people are facing "a humanitarian disaster" as one of Africa's biggest lakes shrinks. The Lake Chad basin is "one of the most important agriculture heritage sites in the world the biodiversity, the migratory birds, not to mention more than 20 million people living out of Lake Chad such as fisherpeople, farmers."

[Full article](#)

[Full article](#)

October 14

**Apple takes advantage of Microsoft's release of Windows 7.** *Business Week*

The entire personal computer industry is gearing up for Microsoft's Oct. 22 release of Windows 7. Yet Apple, Microsoft's nearest competitor, is quietly planning to capitalize on the launch, too. Apple is expected to hit those computer buyers with advertising aimed at luring them to its Macs.

[Full article](#)

**The other half of "the world's back office": India.** *CNN.com/world business*

"Roughly today about 50% of the production is from the unorganized sector," says New Delhi-based economics professor Arun Kumar. Raj Kishore learned his trade from a dentist and a dental course but he does not have a degree in dentistry. He provides a service to customers who couldn't dream of affording a licensed dentist in an office.

[Full article](#)

**China and India grow together.** *Business Week*

Tata Consulting Services plans to grow its Chinese operation from a headcount of 1,100 to 5,000 in five years is just the latest sign of the growing business ties between the two Asian giants are booming. Simultaneously Beijing and New Delhi are trading accusations in their endless dispute about borders in Kashmir and the eastern Himalayas.

[Full article](#)

**Burberry shows strong sales.** *Business Week*

Burberry, known for its distinctive beige plaid, said sales in stores open more than a year rose by 5% in the quarter to Sept. 30, compared with a flat performance a year ago." Today's statement confirms our view that the Burberry brand is likely to continue to outperform the rest of the luxury sector in the current difficult environment," said Dennis Weber, an analyst at Evolution Securities

[Full article](#)

**GM sales in China surge.** *Business Week*

The surge in demand has helped China widen its lead over the U.S. as the world's top auto market, with 9.66 million vehicles sold in the first nine months of the year, up 34% from the same period last year. "We strongly believe in the growth opportunity in China and will continue to invest here," said CEO Fritz Henderson.

[Full article](#)

**Soda tax to raise healthcare funding.** *NPR*

Many question how to raise \$1 trillion in funding to change the healthcare system. One idea that has been suggested is a junk food tax. "This study that we did with UCLA showed that regardless of income or ethnicity, adults who drink one or more soda a day are 27% more likely to be overweight or obese," Goldstein says.

[Full article](#)

**Social class defines your social media?** *CNN.com/technology*

A recent study by market research firm Nielsen Claritas found that people in more affluent demographics are 25% more likely to be found friending on Facebook, while the less affluent are 37% more likely to connect on MySpace. Even more affluent are users of Twitter, the microblogging site, and LinkedIn, a networking site geared to white-collar professionals. Almost 38% of LinkedIn users earn more than \$100,000 a year.

[Full article](#)

October 13

**Clinton meets President Medvedev.** *CNN.com/europe*

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has invited U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to his private residence in suburban Barvikha for a discussion on a broad range of issues in what one senior State Department official called a "relaxed setting."

[Full article](#)

**Walmart's international challenges.** *Business Week*

Since venturing into Mexico in 1991, Walmart International has grown haphazardly. During the 1990s the retailer exported its big-box, low-price model. While that strategy worked in North America, the results were so bad in Germany and Korea that Walmart withdrew from those countries in 2006.

[Full article](#)

**Russia, China made trade agreements.** *CNN.com/world business*

"Russia and China have become genuine and comprehensive strategic and cooperative partners in recent years," Putin was quoted by Xinhua as saying. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Zhukov said the deals included two \$500-million-dollar banking deals one involving Russia's Vnesheconombank and the China Development Bank and the other between Russia's VTB bank and the Agricultural Bank of China.

[Full article](#)

**CIT CEO resigns.** *NPR*

Peek is stepping down as the company continues ongoing restructuring efforts to try and avoid bankruptcy. CIT has posted billions in losses as borrowing costs have outpaced the money it generates from lending to customers. As CIT's customers have struggled amid the recession, they have fallen behind on repaying loans.

[Full article](#)

**B of A reveals Merrill Lynch purchase documents.** *NPR*

Bank of America Corp., giving up a months-long fight with regulators, plans to turn over documents revealing legal advice it received on its purchase of Merrill Lynch. Bank of America spokesman Larry Di Rita said, "Given the pressure in multiple inquiries to provide additional insight, we've decided to waive it in this matter to get the issue behind us."

[Full article](#)

October 12

**Cadillac seeks new Ad Agency.** *Business Week*

Ad Age reported that current agency Modernista!, Boston, which has handled the Cadillac business for a few years, is being cut (the agency declined to participate in the review) for financial reasons. An independent agency, Modernista! is said to charge higher fees than GM's Interpublic Group and Publicis Agencies.

[Full article](#)

**Mexican government moves against monopolies.** *Business Week*

President Calderon began a war against public monopolies that prevent the country from being internationally competitive. He sent federal riot police to take over the installations of state-run electricity distribution company Luz y Fuerza del Centro (LyFC). The Business Coordinating Council says the electricity company's "exorbitant costs and constant losses damaged the national economy and the public's best interests."

[Full article](#)

[Full article](#)

**Latin America women, ethnic minorities earn less than men or whites.** *CNN Wire*

The survey of 18 Latin American nations by the Inter-American Development Bank found that women earn less than their male counterparts even if they are more educated. A comparison of average wages indicated men earn 10 percent more than women.

[Full article](#)

October 11

**Christmas in October.** *NPR*

Store managers are trying to get a head start on the holiday shopping season. Analysts say the rush is a response to three big problems: unemployment, income, and the credit crunch.

[Full article](#)

October 10

**Keeping Costa Rica Green.** *Time.com*

Costa Rica over the past generation has built a reputation as one of the world's greenest countries. "Cutting down a single tree in Costa Rica is cause for scandal," says Pedro Leon, head of the administration's Peace With Nature Initiative. However many are starting to question whether the President is a real friend of their eco-image and the carbon-neutral campaign.

[Full article](#)

**New Argentine media bill passed.** *CNN.com/world*

Argentina's Senate passed a controversial reform law that critics say targets media outlets critical of the government. The law approved by the Senate calls for the creation of a regulatory agency and spells out ownership rules regarding how many and what kind of outlets one company can hold.

[Full article](#)

**Turkey, Armenia establish diplomatic relations.** *CNN.com/europe*

The agreement will open their common border within two months after it is ratified by each country's parliament. The border has been closed since 1993. Turkish-Armenian relations are often overshadowed by the dispute over the massacre of ethnic Armenians in the final days of the Ottoman Empire, more than 90 years ago.

[Full article](#)

**Internet copyright protection concerns.** *Business Week*

The German government, among other parties, has raised concerns about a proposed legal settlement in the U.S. that would give Google the digital rights to millions of out-of-print books. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who will open the annual Frankfurt Book Fair next week, said in her weekly video podcast that the Internet carries "significant dangers" for the rights of authors.

[Full article](#)



**Poland signs Lisbon Treaty.** *CNN.com/europe*

The Polish president signed his country's ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, aimed at streamlining the workings of the European Union. The treaty creates an EU president and foreign minister and introduces rotating representatives for member countries in the EU Commission, the union's executive branch. This leaves the Czech Republic as the lone country that has not ratified the document.

[Full article](#)

**GM purchased by Tengzhong.** *Business Week*

GM's iconic Hummer brand has been acquired by Tengzhong, a Chinese heavy construction equipment maker for about \$150 million, marking another step in the long march by China to develop a world class local automobile industry.

[Full article](#)

October 9

**Dollar may be replaced as reserve currency.** *NPR*

Now that the worst of the crisis appears to have passed, the dollar is under pressure again. It's down more than 12% from its recent peak. Fred Bergsten of the Peterson Institute for International Economics says sentiment about the dollar has now turned negative.

[Full article](#)

**Miami condo market improving.** *NPR*

Many high-rise condominiums were built in Miami over the past few years however many have remained mostly empty. There has been a recent upswing in sales and there are expectations of Latin America buyers in the market. "Most of the people in Latin America, Miami is just like their second home," he says. "You buy, you tell a friend, a friend tells another friend. So, I'm pretty sure they will go out quite quickly."

[Full article](#)

**Warner Brothers to buy MGM?** *Business Week*

Warner Brothers has fancied itself as the white knight that intended to rescue MGM. WB figured it would take nearly \$2 billion to buy the studio. It is believed that their plan is to essentially put MGM out of its misery by shutting down production other than a few high-end titles, notably the James Bond series and the Lord of the Rings prequel The Hobbit.

[Full article](#)

**Maathai and Yunus speak about Nobel Peace Prize winner.** *Time.com*

The Nobel Peace Prize has gone to a sitting U.S. President just eight months into his first term. Maathai and Yunus tell the reasons why U.S. President Obama is a great choice.

[Full article](#)

**Neipoort's Portuguese wine.** *Business Week*

Despite the global economic downturn, Niepoort has been able to sell his vineyards' annual production of 450,000 bottles of port wine and 150,000 bottles of high-priced table wines within just a few days up to 80% of it abroad. Neipoort introduced a low-cost wine that he exports to 15 different countries. Each has its own name and bears labels designed by the best-known caricaturists of each destination country.

[Full article](#)

**Investigation of Google's Voice service.** *Business Week*

The FCC sent a letter to Google requesting information about its Voice service, which lets people sign up for one number that can route incoming calls to cell, office or home phones. Among other things, the FCC is asking Google to explain how its Voice service works, whether it blocks calls to certain numbers and whether it informs users that it does so.

[Full article](#)

**Citibank sells Phibro to Oxy.** *Business Week*

The deal gives Oxy control over a storied firm that was a leader in commodities trading long before futures contracts and exchange-traded funds put such assets in the portfolios of pension funds and individual investors. The sale solves a thorny political issue for Citigroup, which has received \$49 billion in U.S. taxpayer bailout funds and is 34% owned by the federal government.

[Full article](#)

**McDonald's in the Louvre?** *NPR*

French culture and American convenience will come together in Paris soon when McDonald's plans to open a restaurant in the forecourt of the Louvre art museum in December. The idea is meeting with sharp criticism from the French art community. "I think the museum will lose some of its grandeur if there's a McDonald's here in this close vicinity," Bossieu says. "And it may attract people who aren't necessarily interested in visiting the Louvre."

[Full article](#)

October 7

**Baja Mexico made safer for tourists.** *CNN.com/world*

Officials from the Baja California cities of Tijuana, Ensenada and Rosarito gathered earlier this week to announce the creation of the task force, which will be made up of bilingual officers and which will be designed primarily to serve Americans. American travelers, who represented 80% of the country's booming \$13 billion travel industry last year, are a critical part of Mexico's economy.

[Full article](#)

October 6

**Venezuela inflation decreases.** *Business Week*

The Central bank adopted a new method of measuring nationwide price gains last year, making year-on-year comparisons difficult. However, inflation in the capital of Caracas fell to 28.9% in September, down from 36% a year earlier. Finance Minister Ali Rodriguez has said Venezuela aims to close the year with inflation at 26 percent.

[Full article](#)

**Limbaugh may buy St. Louis Rams.** *NPR*

Rush Limbaugh says he would team with Dave Checketts, owner of pro hockey's St. Louis Blues, to bid on the football franchise. Limbaugh declined to discuss details, citing a confidentiality agreement with Goldman Sachs, the investment firm hired by the family of former Rams owner Georgia Frontiere to review assets of her estate, including the NFL team.

[Full article](#)

**Adobe to acquire Omniture.** *Business Week*

Adobe opened its offer for Omniture on Sept. 24, paying \$21.50 per share in an all-cash deal valued at \$1.8 billion. Omniture, based in Orem, Utah, makes online business optimization software, which it sells as an on-demand subscription service. Adobe, based in San Jose, Calif., focuses on developing technology to enhance design and the functionality of Internet sites.

[Full article](#)

**Tata Consultancy Services' new CEO.** *Business Week*

Natarajan Chandrasekaran took over as chief executive of Tata Consultancy Services vowing to boost the global market share of India's largest outsourcing company. In addition to pursuing strategic acquisitions, especially in Europe and Japan, Chandrasekaran said the company would focus on organic growth, pursuing larger deals as the IT industry consolidates, and turning more to emerging markets like India.

[Full article](#)

October 5

**Chrysler undergoes many changes.** *Business Week*

Just as Chrysler is readying announcements about new product plans and brand positioning, two of the people who were recently appointed to head those brands are leaving under pressure. Chrysler has been combining its Chrysler, Dodge, and Jeep franchises into a single dealer sales network. The company plans to add the Fiat 500 under its own name to the mix in two years.

[Full article](#)

**Macy's to sell Ellen Tracy sportswear.** *Business Week*

The department store operator said it signed the agreement with Ellen Tracy's owner, Brand Matter LLC, and its sportswear licensee, RVC

Enterprises. Macy's Inc will exclusively sell Ellen Tracy women's sportswear starting in spring 2010. The merchandise will launch in more than 100 Macy's stores and online at macys.com.

[Full article](#)

**Need to reform Russia immigration.** *Business Week*

The UN says Russia should ease barriers to immigration in order to reduce the impact of labor shortages, slower economic growth and other pressures brought on by its ongoing demographic crisis. Russia's population has fallen by 6.6 million since 1993, despite the influx of millions of immigrants, according to a U.N. report released last year, and by 2025 the country could lose a further 11 million people.

[Full article](#)

**Changes needed at World Bank.** *Business Week*

Ministers from Russia, India, Indonesia, Brazil and Venezuela spoke at the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank. They said the credibility of the bank, which assists developing countries, would erode unless countries have a voice consistent with their weight in the global economy.

[Full article](#)

**Vonage taps into mobile phone market.** *Business Week*

Vonage hopes to tap new markets by putting its service onto mobile phones. Users who download the applications will be able to make calls from the U.S. to overseas locations using Vonage's Internet-based technology. In the second quarter, Comcast's customer base jumped 24% to 7 million, while Skype, another provider of Internet calling, grew its user base by 42%, to 480.5 million. In the same period, Vonage lost 88,643 subscriber lines, ending the period with 2.49 million lines.

[Full article](#)

October 4

**Socialists win Greek presidential election.** *CNN.com/europe*

As Socialist leader George Papandreou promised to chart a new course for an economic comeback. "On this course, nothing is going to be easy it will take work, hard work," Papandreou said in his victory address. "And I will always be honest with the Greek people so that we may better solve the problems of the state."

[Full article](#)

**Google's Wave: replace email and Facebook?** *Business Week*

Combining instant messaging, e-mail, and real-time collaboration, Wave is an early form of so-called real-time communication designed to make it easier for people to work together or interact socially over the Internet. If Wave takes off, applications created by outside developers could make it more useful, and an app store would give those programmers and their financial backers a share in Wave's success.

[Full article](#)

October 3

**Lisbon Treaty passed in Europe.** *Business Week*

A strong majority of voters threw their support behind the reform document, one that is designed to make decision making within the 27-member bloc more efficient. With the Irish "yes," it is seen as likely that Polish President Lech Kaczynski will now attach his signature to the treaty.

[Full article](#)

October 2

**AT&T's reputation hurting from iPhone.** *CNN.com/technology*

The Apple iPhone has boosted AT&T's subscriber numbers, but network problems and a bevy of complaints from frustrated customers are likely hurting the company's reputation. According to the survey, AT&T scored 69 out of 100 among users, and 73 among non-iPhone owners.

[Full article](#)

**GE targets growth in India.** *Business Week*

"We should get to a point where ideas start transporting back to the developed world," Mr. Immelt said. GE has decided to let all its business heads in India report to the country head, underscoring the importance India has in its scheme of things and how much the company feels that a flexible environment in India could be more conducive for growth here. GE has set itself a target of growing by 30% a year for the next five years.

[Full article](#)

**Deloitte wants diversity.** *Business Week*

Deloitte CEO Barry Salzberg likes to talk about the value of diversity. However of the 4,500 partners and other top executives at his firm, 92% are white. The hope is to reach high-potential people of color at community colleges, interest them in accounting, and then shepherd them through a university to a job upon graduation. If it works, it could turn around a troubling trend.

[Full article](#)

**Economic opportunity for Brazil with Olympics.** *Business Week*

"I honestly believe it is Brazil's time," Lula, as the President is popularly known, told the Committee before the vote. "Our rivals today have all hosted the Games in their countries before. For them it will be just one more Olympics. For us, it will be an unparalleled opportunity."

[Full article](#)

**Google China v. Google U.S.** *NPR*

People worldwide go online in search of information end up using Google. However what the search results show is different in China. "We made a very

controversial decision a few years ago to enter China, and by that we have to follow their law," Schmidt says. "Their law does require a very precise form of omission or censorship around certain things, so for example the Falun Gong is omitted..."

[Full article](#)

**PM Putin warns Renault over Avtovaz.** *Business Week*

PM Vladimir Putin warned Renault on Friday that if it does not do more to help Russia's troubled carmaker AvtoVAZ it could see its 25% stake in the company reduced. AvtoVAZ, Russia's largest carmaker, which has been losing money for years, has seen demand for its Lada sedans fall sharply in 2009 due to the economic downturn.

[Full article](#)

**EU says U.S. must join climate change funding.** *Business Week*

The EU called on the United States to join it in stumping up cash to help poor developing nations cope with climate change. The EU wants to put the pressure on other major polluters such as the United States and China to get them to either promise emission cuts or pledge funding toward poorer nations.

[Full article](#)

October 1

**President da Silva's opinion of emerging world.** *Business Week*

As President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has brought to Brazil a blend of capitalism and populism that is taking Latin America's largest economy to new heights. In Brazil they have a financial system that is highly regulated. He says there is opportunity to do things we haven't done in the past and we don't want the president of a country or the state managing the economy.

[Full article](#)

**Turkey opens its economy.** *Business Week*

Turkey has a well-educated workforce, proximity to Europe, and a shrewd management class. However financial fragility, including a meltdown that sparked riots in 2001, has kept it from entering the first rank of emerging market economies. Now Turkey welcomes investment and has stepped up efforts to become a real player in the global economy.

[Full article](#)

**Digital business cards.** *CNN.com/technology*

While exchanging business cards remains standard protocol among many executives and nobody believes paper cards will become extinct anytime soon, more professionals are also opting for Web-based services or "digital business cards." "In reality, people get a [business] card and don't do anything with them," said Adam Ostrow, editor-in-chief of Mashable, a blog devoted to social media.

[Full article](#)

**Ireland's vote of Lisbon Treaty Act II.** *Business Week*

As one of the biggest beneficiaries of the European Union since joining 36 years ago, Ireland also has much to lose if the treaty is rejected. Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary stressed that a yes vote will enable Ireland "to continue to control both our income tax and our corporation tax rate and that's what drives so much foreign inward investment in this country and so many thousands of jobs in this country."

[Full article](#)

**GE entertains offers for NBC unit.** *Business Week*

After months of denying it's for sale, General Electric seems to be entertaining offers for its NBC Universal unit. Comcast is among those who are bidding for NBCU, whose properties include the NBC broadcast network, the Universal film studio and a brace of cable TV channels that include USA, Bravo and the SyFy network.

[Full article](#)

**China: 60 years of communism.** *Business Week*

An elaborate ceremony for the founding of the People's Republic unfolded on national television but behind tight security. China has gone from poor and internationally weak when the communists took over on Oct. 1, 1949, to the world's third-largest economy and new power whose input the U.S. superpower seeks to solve the global economic crisis and Iran's nuclear challenge.

[Full article](#)

**Cisco bids for Tandberg ASA.** *Business Week*

Cisco, the world's largest maker of computer networking equipment, announced a \$3 billion takeover bid for Tandberg ASA. Cisco chief executive John Chambers said the acquisition "showcases Cisco's financial strength and ability to quickly capture key market transitions for growth."

[Full article](#)

**ViaSat acquires Wild Blue.** *Business Week*

Privately held Wild Blue, in which Liberty Media Corp. holds a 37% stake, will become an operating subsidiary of ViaSat. ViaSat is planning to launch a satellite in the first quarter of 2011 that will enable Wild Blue to offer speeds of 2 Megabits per second to 8 Megabits per second closer to those offered by cable operators.

[Full article](#)

**Dubai reconsidering stake in Malaysian Islamic bank.** *Business Week*

Dubai Group said Thursday it is "in the process of reviewing its strategic options relating to its stake" in Bank Islam, Malaysia's oldest Islamic bank. The Dubai firm says it is redirecting its resources "closer to home" in the Middle East.

[Full article](#)

**French closing tax havens.** *Business Week*

French banks plan to shut all their branches and subsidiaries in countries considered tax havens. "This is a decision that was taken by all French banks," Perol said, speaking after a meeting of banking leaders with President Nicolas Sarkozy at the Elysee Palace.

[Full article](#)

**Sanofi-Aventis to buy Fovea.** *Business Week*

Fovea Pharmaceuticals is being bought by drug developer Sanofi-Aventis in a transaction valued at \$541.1 million.

[Full article](#)

