

FDA Proposes Sweeping New Food Safety Rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration on Friday proposed the most sweeping food safety rules in decades, requiring farmers and food companies to be more vigilant in the wake of deadly outbreaks in peanuts, cantaloupe and leafy greens.

The long-overdue regulations are aimed at reducing the estimated 3,000 deaths a year from foodborne illness. Just since last summer, outbreaks of listeria in cheese and salmonella in peanut butter, mangoes and cantaloupe have been linked to more than 400 illnesses and as many as seven deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The actual number of those sickened is likely much higher.

The FDA's proposed rules would require farmers to take new precautions against contamination, to include making sure workers' hands are washed, irrigation water is clean, and that animals stay out of fields. Food manufacturers will have to submit food safety plans to the government to show they are keeping their operations clean.

Many responsible food companies and farmers are already following the steps that the FDA would now require them to take. But officials say the requirements could have saved lives and prevented illnesses in several of the large-scale outbreaks that have hit the country in recent years.

In a 2011 outbreak of listeria in cantaloupe that claimed 33 lives, for example, FDA inspectors found pools of dirty water on the floor and old, dirty processing equipment at Jensen Farms in Colorado where the cantaloupes were grown. In a peanut butter outbreak this year linked to 42 salmonella illnesses, inspectors found samples of salmonella throughout Sunland Inc.'s peanut processing plant in New Mexico and multiple obvious safety problems, such as birds flying over uncovered trailers of peanuts and employees not washing their hands.

Giffords Visits Newtown To Meet With Families

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP) — Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona on Friday visited the Connecticut town where a gunman killed 26 people last month inside an elementary school.

Giffords, who was shot and critically wounded in a 2011 shooting, met with U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and Newtown's first selectman, according to Sue Marcinek, an assistant to the selectman. Giffords was accompanied by her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly.

She was planning to meet later Friday with families of some of the Newtown victims, according to Steve Jensen, a spokesman for Wyman.

Giffords was left partially blind, with a paralyzed right arm and brain injury, when a gunman opened fire at a constituent meet-and-greet outside a Tucson grocery store on Jan. 8, 2011. Arizona's chief federal judge and five others were killed and 13 people, including Giffords, were injured.

The gunman, Jared Lee Loughner, pleaded guilty to 19 federal charges and was sentenced to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.

Syrian Forces Bombard Rebel Areas

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government warplanes and artillery pounded restive suburbs of Damascus on Friday and anti-regime activists said a car bomb targeted an intelligence building north of the capital.

Fighting in Syria's civil war has flared in areas around Damascus as rebels seeking to topple President Bashar Assad try to push into the city itself. The rebel advances in the suburbs threaten the government's grip on its seat of power, prompting a punishing response from the military on rebel areas skirting the capital.

Anti-regime activists circulated a video they said showed an explosion near a military intelligence office in the town of Nabk, north of the capital. They had no information on casualties and the government did not comment on the bombing.

The blast came one day after a car bomb hit a gas station in the capital itself, killing eleven people, activists said. While no one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, they could be guerrilla strikes by rebels groups who lack the force to battle Assad's troops in the capital.

Syria's 21-month conflict has turned into a bloody stalemate that the United Nations says has killed more than 60,000 people, and it warns the civil war could claim the lives of many more this year. International efforts to stop the fighting have failed so far, and although rebels have made gains in recent months, they still can't challenge Assad's hold on much of the country.

Chevy Sonic Embodies Detroit's 4-year Revival

DETROIT (AP) — When the word reached the Orion Assembly Plant, it spread along the serpentine assembly line like news of a death or natural disaster: General Motors, the biggest automaker in the world, had filed for bankruptcy protection.

On that grim day in 2009, Chevrolet and Pontiac sedans kept rolling down the line. And 1,700 worried workers stayed at their stations even as GM announced it would close the plant in a desperate bid to survive.

"The unknown was the scariest part," recalled Gerald Lang, who had worked at Orion for two years installing dashboards and doors. "We really had no clue what was going to happen."

There was something else that the workers didn't know: They were witnessing the opening act of one of the greatest recovery stories in American business.

Nearly four years later, Chevrolets are still moving down the assembly line under the plant's 82-acre roof. Lang and his co-workers now build the Sonic, the best-selling subcompact car in the nation. It's a vehicle no one thought could be made profitably in the U.S., by a company that few people thought would last.

Job Market Shrugs Off Fears Of 'Fiscal Cliff'

BY PAUL WISEMAN AND CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writers

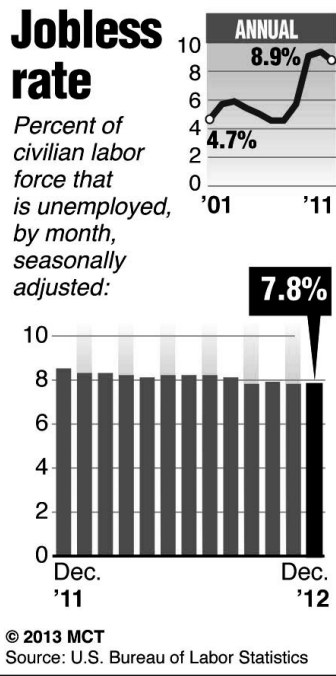
WASHINGTON — The U.S. job market proved resilient in December despite fears that a budget impasse in Washington would send the economy over the fiscal cliff and trigger growth-killing tax hikes and spending cuts.

Employers added 155,000 jobs last month, roughly matching the solid but unspectacular monthly pace of the past two years.

The gains announced Friday weren't enough to reduce unemployment, which remained a still-high 7.8 percent. The November rate was revised up a notch from the 7.7 percent the government had originally reported.

The stable pace of December hiring suggested that many employers tuned out the fracas in the nation's capital. The threat wasn't averted until a deal won final passage on New Year's Day.

Rather than hold back until the fiscal cliff was resolved, many employers kept hiring, most likely in anticipation of higher customer demand.



week in December, up from 34.4 in November. And their pay outgrew inflation. Hourly wages rose 7 cents to \$23.73 last month, a 2.1 percent increase compared with a year earlier. Over the same period, inflation rose 1.8 percent.

"Perhaps (the) underlying economic performance is accelerating, and even Washington can't screw it up," said Dan Greenhaus, chief global strategist at BTIG.

One company that hired last year and would like to add more jobs in 2013 is Arterioocyte, a Cleveland-based stem-cell therapy and medical device company. But CEO Don Brown is concerned about potential cuts in government spending, which he says could erode Arterioocyte's revenue.

One such cut is a 2 percent reduction in the reimbursements Medicare gives doctors and hospitals. That reduction was delayed by the budget deal reached this week. If the reimbursement cut is imposed later this year, it would lower revenue for the hospitals and surgeons that buy Arterioocyte's advanced products.

"Our entire customer base is unsure about what their reimbursement landscape is going to be," Brown said.

The Obama administration's health care reform law also imposed a 2.2 percent sales tax on medical devices. Brown estimates that will cost his company

\$400,000. He had hoped the tax would be eliminated as part of a fiscal cliff agreement.

Arterioocyte hired 10 workers last year and now employs 76. The new hires included research scientists, two marketing specialists and a sales representative. Brown hopes to make five to 10 additional hires this year, but he might be unable to do so if the Medicare cut takes effect.

Despite last month's hiring gains, Friday's report pointed to some weakness in the job market. For example, the number of unemployed actually rose 164,000 to 12.2 million. About 192,000 people entered the work force last month, but most did not find jobs.

The unemployment numbers come from a government survey of households. The number of jobs added comes from a separate survey of businesses.

A broader category that includes not only the unemployed but also part-time workers who want full-time jobs and people who have given up looking for work was unchanged in December at 22.7 million.

153,000 in both 2011 and 2012. That isn't enough to lower unemployment to what economists regard as a "normal" rate of 6 percent or less. The Federal Reserve doesn't expect unemployment to drop that low until after 2015.

The economy has replaced just 4.8 million, or 54 percent, of the 8.8 million jobs lost between January 2008, when the job market peaked, and February 2010, when it bottomed during the recession. It has been, by far, the weakest jobs recovery since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"A status quo report in today's labor market represents an ongoing jobs crisis," says Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the liberal Economic Policy Institute.

Still, the economy has been showing broad improvement. Layoffs are down. Banks are lending a bit more freely. Companies have built up a near-record \$1.7 trillion in cash. Consumers have cut their debts to pre-recession levels. Europe has avoided a financial catastrophe.

The once-depressed housing market is rebounding. A gauge of U.S. service firms' business activity expanded in December by the most in nearly a year. Manufacturing is benefiting from the best auto sales in five years. And Americans spent more at the end of the crucial holiday shopping season.

"There is little doubt that the seeds of faster growth are being planted," James Marple, an economist at TD Bank, said in a note to clients.

That said, most economists expect slight improvement at best in hiring this year. A 2 percentage point cut in the Social Security tax expired Jan. 1. That means a household with income of about \$50,000 will have about \$1,000 less to spend. A household with two high-paid workers will have up to \$4,500 less.

And the government may impose spending cuts this year.

Higher taxes and less government spending, along with uncertainty about future budget fights, could restrain growth and hiring.

That "likely means acceleration in the labor market will remain elusive for the time being," said Ellen Zentner, an economist at Nomura Securities.

Congress Approves \$9.7 Billion In Sandy Flood Aid

BY ANDREW MIGA
Associated Press



"It's a small down payment on the larger aid we need."

SEN. CHUCK SCHUMER, D-N.Y.

WASHINGTON — The new Congress on Friday rushed out \$9.7 billion to help pay flood insurance claims to 115,000 people and businesses afflicted by Superstorm Sandy, two days after New Jersey's governor and other Northeast Republicans up-braided Speaker John Boehner for killing a broader package for state and local governments in the storm's path.

The bill replenishes the National Flood Insurance Program that was due to run out of money next week with the pending Sandy-related claims as well as 5,000 unresolved claims from other floods.

"It's a small down payment on the larger aid we need," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. The legislation cleared the Senate by a voice vote following passage by the House, 354-67.

The government already has spent about \$2 billion on the emergency response to the late October storm, one of the worst ever in the Northeast. It slammed the Atlantic coastline from North Carolina to Maine, with the worst damage occurring in New York City and its suburbs, New Jersey and Connecticut. The storm is blamed for 140 deaths.

Boehner has promised a vote Jan. 15 on a broader, \$51 billion package of aid, which would bring the total to the more than \$60 billion requested by President Barack Obama. Senate leaders have promised a vote the

following week.

The Senate passed a \$60.4 billion bill a week ago but House Republicans, complaining that it was laden with pork projects unrelated to the storm, cut it by more than half. Boehner canceled a New Year's Day vote on it after nearly two-thirds of House Republicans voted against the "fiscal cliff" package of tax and spending increases.

The White House praised Friday's vote helping homeowners, renters and businesses, and urged Congress to act quickly on the remainder of Obama's request.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo issued a joint statement also imploring Congress to move hastily on the rest of the money. "We are trusting Congress to act accordingly on January 15th," they said.

It was a more temperate response than was heard earlier in the week, when a livid Christie blistered House Republicans and Boehner himself for holding up the aid and other GOP figures from the region, as well as Democrats, cried "betrayal."

All of the "no" votes in the House were cast by Republicans, who said other government programs had been cut to

house until he knows the final payout.

"We don't want to demolish the house and have them say, 'We have to go around and take more pictures,'" Rock said.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency had warned that the flood insurance program would run out of money next week if Congress didn't provide additional borrowing authority. Congress created the FEMA-run program in 1968 because few private insurers cover flood damage.

The \$2 billion FEMA already has spent went to providing shelter, restoring power and meeting other immediate needs. Eleven states — New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, New Hampshire, Delaware, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts — plus the District of Columbia have shared that money.

FEMA's disaster relief fund still has about \$4.3 billion, enough to pay for emergency response efforts into early spring, according to officials.

Sandy is the most costly natural disaster since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Northeast lawmakers have complained that while it took Congress just 10 days to approve about \$50 billion in Katrina aid, additional money for Sandy victims hasn't been forthcoming in more than two months.

The storm damaged or destroyed more than 72,000 homes and businesses in New Jersey. In New York, 305,000 housing units were damaged or destroyed and more than 265,000 businesses were disrupted, officials have said.

pay for the measure. As with past natural disasters, the Sandy aid proposals do not provide for offsetting spending cuts, meaning the aid comes at the cost of higher deficits.

The bill gives more authority to the National Flood Insurance Program to borrow money from the U.S. Treasury to pay claims. Premiums average about \$625 per year and residential claims under the program average nearly \$30,000.

Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., a fiscal conservative who voted against the flood bill, said he was among those with concerns it would add to huge budget deficits. "We have to talk seriously about offsets," Huelskamp said. "We can't take \$60 billion off budget, that's my problem with it."

The Club For Growth, a conservative group, urged lawmakers to oppose the flood insurance bill. "Congress should not allow the federal government to be involved in the flood insurance industry in the first place, let alone expand the national flood insurance program's authority," the group said in a statement.

Among those with a pending flood insurance claim is Philip Rock in New Jersey. Rock has gotten \$8,000 in flood insurance payments so far on a house he rents out in Toms River that was destroyed. He expects to receive much more from his \$220,000 insurance policy but can't level the

OBITUARIES

Hazel Menning
Hazel H. Menning, 96, of Yankton died Friday, Jan. 4, 2013, at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, with the Rev. Dave Lund officiating. Burial will be in the Morningside

Cemetery, Ree Heights, at approximately 1:30 p.m. Wednesday afternoon.

Visitations begin at 5 p.m. Monday with a Scripture service at 7 p.m. at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton. visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

PRESS & DAKOTAN
THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER
(605) 665-7811
Published by YANKTON MEDIA, INC.
319 Walnut St., Yankton, S.D. 57078

PUBLISHED DAILY MONDAY-SATURDAY MORNINGS
Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotan established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan established April 28, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:
Editor and Publisher Gary L. Wood
Advertising Director Michele Schiavelbin
Business Manager Tonya Schild
Circulation Director David Jeffcoat
Classified Manager Tera Schmidt
Composing Manager Kelly Larson
Editor Kelly Hertz
Mailroom Manager Bernard Metivier
New Media Director Beth Rye
Sports Editor James D. Cimburek

MEMBERSHIPS:
The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
PAYABLE IN ADVANCE: Carrier Delivery
— 1-month \$12.09, 3 months — \$36.27, 6 months — \$72.53, 1-year — \$133.09

MOTOR ROUTE, where available: 1-month \$14.51, 3 months — \$43.53, 6 months — \$87.05, 1-year — \$139.14.

MAIL IN RETAIL TRADE ZONE: 1-month — \$16.93, 3 months — \$50.79, 6 months — \$101.57, 1-year — \$148.82.

MAIL OUTSIDE RETAIL TRADE ZONE: 1-month — \$19.35, 3 months — \$58.05, 6 months — \$116.09, 1-year — \$186.33.
* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates

Pancake Supper
Wednesday, January 9th, 2013 • 4:30-7pm

All you can eat Pancakes & French Toast
Single serving: eggs, sausage or bacon
Coffee

\$5.00

Open to the public

THE CENTER
RECREATION • SOCIALIZATION • NUTRITION
900 Whiting Dr. • 665-4685

YOUR NEWS! THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644 www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

WINTZ FUNERAL HOME INC.
Harrington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

Private nonsectarian cemetery offering earth burial plots, mausoleum crypts and niches.

Shreves Law Office
Brian J. Shreves, Attorney at Law

- Criminal Law • Family Law • Trusts & Wills
- Social Security Disability • Personal Injury

Office: 605-665-2535 • Mobile: 605-215-1LAW
806 Belfast, Yankton • brianjs711@gmail.com

YANKTON MONUMENT CO.
Family Memorials by Gibson

AMBER LARSON

325 Douglas Ave., Yankton, SD 57078
Office (605) 664-0980 • 1-800-658-2294
Cell (605) 610-6992 • www.gibsonmonuments.com