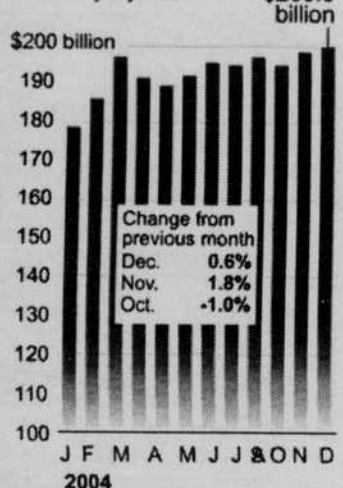


Factories: Manufacturing jobs up by 76,000

Durable goods

Here is a look at new orders for durable goods.

Seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: Department of Commerce AP

Continued from page 6

increased competition from low-wage nations.

Manufacturing employment did post a small increase of 76,000 jobs last year, but that did little to dent the heavy losses in earlier years.

One of the factors at play is a strong boom in productivity as U.S. companies have found ways to get more production out of their existing employees, which has meant they have been slow to rehire workers, even though orders are rebounding.

That situation is not expected to reverse quickly, although many economists are predicting continued moderate increases in manufacturing employment this year as U.S. companies reap the benefits of a falling dollar, which makes imports more expensive to U.S. consumers and their goods more competitive on overseas markets.

"What the manufacturing industry needs to maintain the strong

momentum is for the rest of the world to grow, invest and buy our exports; the dollar to continue to decline in value ... and stable energy prices," said Daniel J. Meckstroth, chief economist for the Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI, another industry trade group.

The 0.6 percent rise in orders for December was led by a 6.4 percent jump in demand for computers and other electronic products, a category that covers communications equipment, which was up 17.8 percent after a big drop the previous month.

The overall gain came despite a 3 percent decline in transportation, reflecting big decreases in demand for both civilian and military aircraft. Excluding the volatile transportation sector, new orders were up 2.1 percent in December following two straight months of declines.

Orders for all durable goods totaled \$200.3 billion in December after adjusting for normal seasonal variations.

Stickers: Policy, not content, behind decal ban rationale

Continued from page 1

administration of the University of Oregon?" asked Kevin McCullough on his Weblog at crosswalk.com/news/weblogs/kmc/ on Monday. McCullough is a radio talk show host and syndicated columnist based in New York City, and he brought up the story on his show.

McCullough posted University President Dave Frohnmayer's e-mail address and phone number on the Web site and called on readers to "form a blog swarm/storm."

Similar messages appeared on other Weblogs. One Weblogger, a graduate of the University identified as "Gaius Livius," gave an explanation for the University's actions.

"A relatively small, but vociferously vocal and disproportionately influential leftist clique among the faculty, administrators and students dictates policy at the Berkeley of the Northwest," the Weblogger said. "They loathe the United States in general, and anyone/anything connected to social/political conservatism in particular."

The next day, yellow ribbons appeared on the bannisters of Johnson Hall and other campus locations. Executive Assistant to the President David Hubin said these ribbons are legal and therefore did not have to be removed.

"They are a political statement, and there's not a policy that precludes it," Hubin said.

The New York Times published a short article, and radio talk show host Lars Larson let loose on the University on his show.

Hubin reaffirmed that the state's policy that prohibits the magnetic decals has nothing to do with the actual decal's content, citing an instance in which a fire marshal was prohibited from putting

a "Check Your Fire Alarm" bumper sticker on his truck because of the administrative rule.

"The question of whether the decal is political or not really has no bearing," he said.

Meanwhile, phone calls and e-mails poured in from all over the country to the University president's office. Assistant Media Director Melody Leslie estimated she spent nearly two work days handling about 500 e-mails and calls.

"It makes me a bit sad that the public's money has to be spent to respond to a deliberate misinformation campaign," she said.

Hubin said he responded to a call from the wife of an officer who is on active duty in Mosul. He said after he explained the policy the woman pointed out that the military has similar policies.

"Our policy was not an indication that we don't support the sacrifice their loved ones are making," he said.

Leslie said the e-mails and phone calls have tapered off significantly and that many of the callers have actually volunteered to help correct the misinformation.

But McCullough's assault on the University has not ceased. Following his initial post on Monday, McCullough hypothesized that the person who filed the complaint was actually a donor to the University that was "anti-war/anti-American."

McCullough said he wants to continue the campaign until "the point where they actually put the magnetic ribbons on the university trucks," he wrote in his Weblog on Wednesday. He is currently searching for someone to donate 500 magnetic decals.

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Tiger Truck: New vehicle generates zero emissions

Continued from page 1

lasts about five years.

Also, the truck produces no emissions.

"It's a lot better for the campus because ... when the truck's idling through campus it doesn't spew emissions," Kaplan said.

According to Tiger Truck's Web site, the Tiger Truck uses a 48-volt battery that lasts between 22 and 66 miles per charge with an eight-hour recharge time if the battery is completely depleted.

Jim Fleck, the recycling coordinator for Facilities Services, said the truck

is powered by "an onboard charger. ... You just plug it into a household outlet and it's all self-contained with everything it needs to recharge."

Fleck said many other electric vehicles have a charger that must be mounted.

"We recycled 1,200 tons last year, and that's about 660 pounds of recycling per day split up, but we don't pick up recycling on the weekends," Kaplan said.

By the end of winter term, the Tiger Truck will take over many of the bicycle routes typically serviced by the 35-40 student employees the

Facilities Services program hires, Fleck said.

"We feel it's a vehicle that would lend itself to other uses," Fleck said. "We would like the campus environment to have more electric vehicles."

For now, the truck has improved Facilities Services' recycling tasks.

"It's a huge benefit to students, and it models that electric vehicles are the future, but shows it's something that works today," Kaplan said.

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