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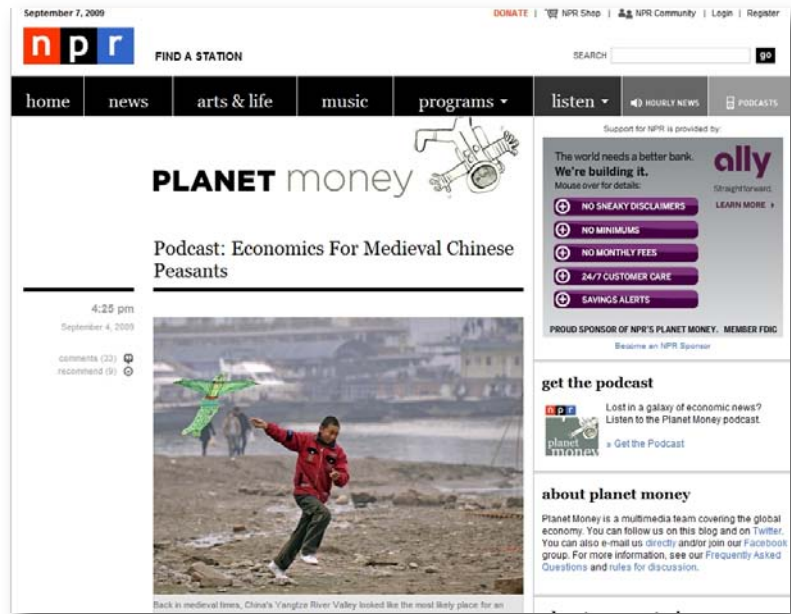


# Understanding our Complex Economy



# NPR Planet Money

As more and more radio listeners seek out nuanced financial reporting in language they can understand, NPR's Planet Money radio show has quickly become one of the most popular and trusted sources of financial news. Planet Money is a show designed to discuss complex economic news and trends in very simple terms. The show bounces between revealing interviews with major Wall Street players and fun skits and thought experiments that bring the otherwise arcane concepts to life. You can visit the [Planet Money Blog](#) to find show times in your area or browse the regularly-updated articles. Or, if you prefer, you can subscribe to the [Planet Money Podcast](#) via [iTunes](#).



# Guru Focus

Not all stock analysts offer sound advice. In fact, many "experts" frequently underperform day-traders and market averages. [Guru Focus](#) is a website designed to hold stock analysts accountable. Whenever an analyst recommends or purchases a stock, it is entered into a [public portfolio](#) on the site. You can see whose portfolio is performing the best and worst on several different metrics. Among the site's most popular features is the ability to [view portfolios of celebrity investors](#) and fund managers like [Warren Buffett](#) and [Bill Gates](#).

Scoreboard	Portfolio**	Stock Picks - 6 Months		Stock Picks - 12 Months		Since Inception			Turnover (%)
		Gain Since Qtr. End (%)	# of Stocks Bought	The Average Gain* (%)	# of Stocks Bought	Average Return* (%)	5-year (%)	10-year (%)	
David Tepper	37.3	41	116.88	74	96.14			22.36	42
Edward Lampert	-0.3	2	112	17	54.35				0
Ian Cumming	14.8	4	103.75	8	71.5				20
Mohnish Pabrai	28.2	11	71.64	19	75.32				12
Robert Rodriguez	16.9	3	66.67	20	45.25	-2.1	6.2		0
Robert Karr	14.6	9	64.33	12	70.42			22.19	75
Seth Klarman	14.2	12	58.33	37	30.51				0
Bill Ackman	18.3	6	56.17	21	12.38				25
Arnold Van Den Berg	14.5	80	53.33	118	37.41	-2	9.8	10.5	29



# Consumer & Labor Statistics

Analysts often focus on labor and consumer statistics as a way to understand wide-scale behavioral patterns of American workers. The [Consumer Confidence Index](#) measures the general mood people have about the economy and their willingness (or lack thereof) to spend and invest money. Generally speaking, high consumer confidence coincides with shared prosperity, while low consumer confidence ratings indicate worsening economic conditions. The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) offers [national and regional statistics](#) on just about everything you could imagine concerning jobs in the U.S.

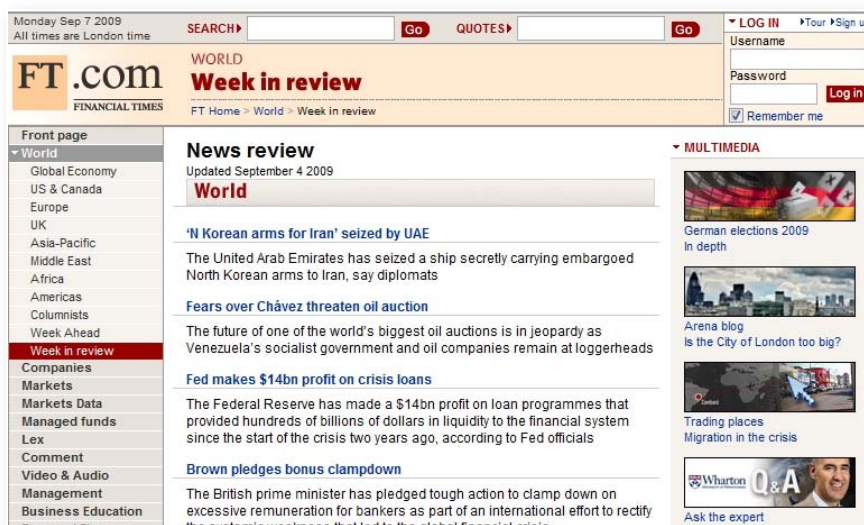


The screenshot shows the Bureau of Labor Statistics website. The main heading is "BLS Information". Under "SUBJECT AREAS", there is a list of topics including Inflation & Prices, Spending & Time Use, Unemployment, Employment, Pay & Benefits, Productivity, Workplace Injuries, International, Regional Offices, and Programs A-Z. The "Regional Information Offices" section features a map of the United States divided into six regions: Western, Mountain-Plains, Midwest, New England, Southwest, and Southeast. Each region is color-coded and labeled with its major office city: San Francisco, Dallas, Kansas City, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. Below the map, there is a legend and a list of regional descriptions with their respective state and territory inclusions.



# The Economist

As our economy becomes increasingly dependent on the decisions and conditions of other countries, investors must pay more attention to breaking news throughout the world. The Economist is a magazine dedicated to making sense of the global economy in terms that are accessible to a Western audience. The [Economist website](#) is particularly useful; it offers [country briefings](#) for each major economic power as well as a [weekly news roundup](#), featuring all of the week's most important global economic news events.



The screenshot shows the FT.com website. The main heading is "WORLD Week in review". The page is dated Monday Sep 7 2009. The "News review" section is updated September 4 2009. The "World" section includes several news items: "N Korean arms for Iran' seized by UAE", "Fears over Chávez threaten oil auction", "Fed makes \$14bn profit on crisis loans", and "Brown pledges bonus clampdown". The "MULTIMEDIA" section includes a "German elections 2009" article, an "Arena blog" article, and a "Wharton Q&A" section.

# Google Finance

If you're looking for a quick glimpse at the U.S. stock market, it's hard to beat [Google Finance](#). Google Finance offers all of the staple statistics, such as [detailed charts and analytics for the three major indexes](#) and [stock averages within industries](#). You can also [manage your portfolio](#) (real or imaginary) in real-time. But, Google also includes some less-conventional tools that are invaluable. For instance, the [Stock Screener](#) allows you to enter criteria (e.g., market capitalization above \$5 billion), and then see all of the stocks that match that criteria.

**Google finance**

**Markets**  
 News  
 Portfolios  
 Stock screener  
 Google Domestic  
 Trends

**Recent quotes**  
 dta 1%  
 ICAD 1.97 3.14%  
[Create portfolio from quotes](#)

**Market summary**  
**Kraft Offers to Purchase Cadbury for \$16.7 Billion; Cadbury...**  
 Bloomberg - 31 minutes ago  
 By Paul Jarvis Sept. 7 (Bloomberg) -- Kraft Foods Inc., the world's second-largest foodmaker, said Cadbury Plc rejected a proposed 10.2 billion-pound (\$16.7 billion) offer which would create "a global powerhouse in snacks, confectionery and quick ..."  
**Kraft seeks Cadbury deal, \$16.7 billion bid rejected** Reuters  
**Cadbury rejects \$16.7 billion bid from Kraft** MarketWatch  
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**Top stories** | Market | Portfolio related  
**Art Palasky: Wage growth can help bring out the best in...**  
 Sacramento Bee - 37 minutes ago - [Related articles >](#)  
**Abu Dhabi to buy Chartered; Hymix stake up for grabs**  
 Reuters - 2 hours ago - [Related articles >](#)  
**China Unicom And Telefonica Reach Deal**  
 Forbes - 1 hour ago - [Related articles >](#)  
**US BUSINESS Summary**  
 Washington Post - 18 minutes ago - [Related articles >](#)  
**Google's Exiting China Head to Run \$116 Million Fund**  
 Bloomberg - 1 hour ago - [Related articles >](#)  
[More market news >](#)

**Sector summary**

Sector	Change	% down / up
Basic Materials	+1.19%	
Capital Goods	+1.76%	
Conglomerates	+2.03%	
Cons. Cyclical	+1.54%	
Cons. Non-Cyclical	+0.84%	
Energy	+1.94%	
Financial	+1.31%	
Healthcare	+1.21%	
Services	+1.47%	
Technology	+1.86%	
Transportation	+2.29%	
Utilities	+0.81%	

**Stock screener**

Region: United States | Exchange: All exchanges | Sector: All Sectors

**Criteria**

Criteria	Min	Company Distribution	Max
Market cap	5000		2.27T
P/E ratio	0.07		32085
Div yield (%)	0		169
52w price change (%)	-97.7		4831

Companies: 1 - 20 out of 2686

Company name	Symbol	Market cap	P/E ratio	Div yield (%)	52w price change (%)
012Smile Communications Ltd. (ADR)	SMLC	276.68M	9.38	0.00	25.86
1st Constitution Bancorp	FCCY	31.37M	16.43	0.00	-25.43
1st Source Corporation	SRCE	373.69M	14.28	3.81	-34.63
2Com Corporation	CCOM	1.56B	13.96	0.00	83.11
3M Company	MMM	49.36B	17.49	2.89	-0.76
3SBio Inc. (ADR)	SSBY	211.47M	30.19	0.00	-1.02
51job, Inc. (ADR)	JOBS	344.95M	36.68	0.00	13.99
99 Cents Only Stores	NDN	921.72M	48.01	0.00	57.13
A Power Energy Generation Systems, Ltd.	APWR	306.73M	11.74	0.00	-60.08
AQ Smith Corporation	AQS	1.13B	15.36	2.08	-9.13
A. Schulman, Inc.	SHLM	510.94M	54.24	3.06	-18.56
AFP Proveda SA (ADR)	PVQ	746.35M	23.73	0.00	13.87
AAON, Inc.	AAON	347.18M	12.48	1.76	-4.09
AAR Corp.	AAR	655.03M	8.80	0.00	0.80
Aaron's, Inc.	AAN	1.43B	14.14	0.27	-10.23
Abaxis, Inc.	ABAX	573.05M	44.73	0.00	32.41
ABB Ltd (ADR)	ABB	42.91B	17.50	0.00	-24.24

# Federal Reserve News

The Federal Reserve is responsible for setting monetary policy within the U.S., which is just another way of saying that the Federal Reserve decides how much money to print and how much interest to charge for it. Because it sits atop the economic food chain, all of the Fed's decisions weigh heavily on businesses throughout the world. Fortunately, the [Federal Reserve website](#) is relatively transparent, complete with [regularly updated stories](#), an [RSS feed](#) and an [e-newsletter](#).



**News & Events**

**Features**

- Minutes of Federal Open Market Committee, August 11-12, 2009**  
September 2, 2009
- Federal Reserve announces amounts of Term Auction Facility (TAF) credit offered at September auctions will be reduced to \$75 billion**  
August 28, 2009