

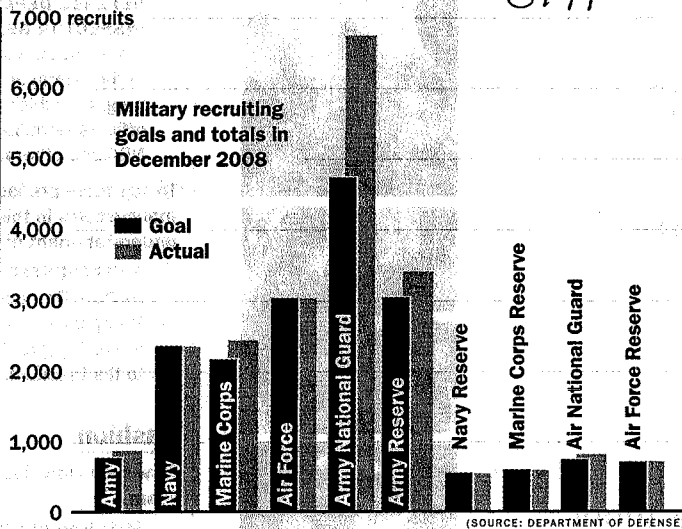
Lithuania

Just days after clashes in the Latvian capital Riga, unrest triggered by mounting economic woes spread to neighboring Lithuania, where protesters in Vilnius hurled eggs and rocks at the windows of the Parliament building (above). After enjoying years of rapid growth, former Soviet republics have been pummeled by the global financial crisis; Latvia has experienced the sharpest economic reversal among E.U. nations. Discord over controversial reforms has paralyzed their governments, with members of Latvia's ruling coalition calling for early elections.

MOSCOW

Protests

Following a reminder of high cost living, a prominent rights lawyer was arrested on Jan. 19. Authorities immediately arrested the Stanislavov, had the early of a Russian convicted of Chechen. More 1000 people died in Grozny, Chechen capital, when the gas.



9 | Washington

A RECESSION WINDFALL FOR RECRUITERS With layoffs sweeping the country, all branches of the military have met or surpassed their recruiting goals in recent months as Americans look for stable employment. In the fiscal year that ended in September, the military surpassed its goal by adding 184,841 new active-duty service members.

\$147 BILLION
New funds for British banks to promote lending

\$350 BILLION
Second half of the U.S. government's \$700 billion TARP bailout

\$825 BILLION
Proposed new U.S. House stimulus package

10 | Washington

Bailout Bonanza

Despite criticism that the distribution of the first \$350 billion from the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) lacked transparency, the Senate voted 52-42 to release the remaining bailout funds. The same day, House Democrats unveiled an even larger stimulus plan that would funnel money to local governments, fund infrastructure development and provide middle-class tax cuts. Britain, meanwhile, announced a bank-bailout plan as the European Commission predicted the loss of 3.5 million jobs in the European Union in 2009.



★ | What They're Applying for in Australia:

When officials at Tourism Queensland published an online posting for a "dream job" as caretaker of Hamilton Island, the agency's website crashed after receiving more than 1 million hits in three days. The job, which pays \$100,000 for a six-month stint, involves just 12 hours of "work" each month. Duties include swimming, fishing, snorkeling, producing a blog extolling the area's beauty and fetching mail.

250

Amount Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim plans to invest in the struggling New York Times amid falling ad revenue

1,000

Number of Chinese applicants for prized jobs in civil service who were caught cheating; some used advanced spy technology