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A2 MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008

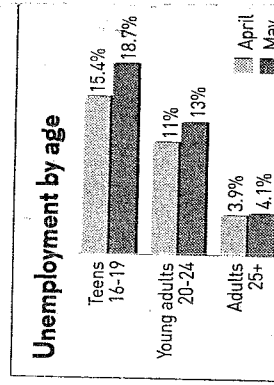
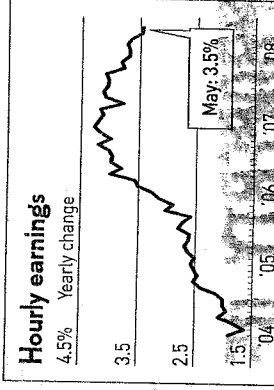
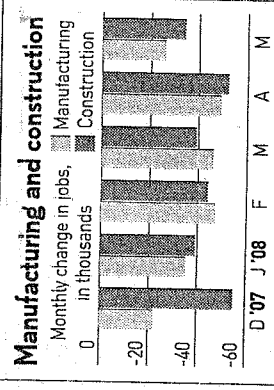
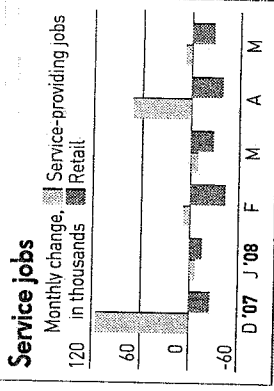
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MARKETS

Dismal Jobs Report, Especially For The Kids

Service-related firms, which account for the bulk of employment and hiring, barely added staff last month as retailers and temp agencies slashed jobs. Factories and builders shed workers again. Wage gains have cooled. The jobless-rate spike was led by a record rise in teen unemployment.

Sources: Labor Dept., Dallas Fed



TO THE POINT

BUSINESS BRIEFS

TECHNOLOGY

ASM mulls offer from U.S. rival

The Dutch manufacturer of chip-making gear said it has received an unsolicited bid for 2 of its divisions from larger U.S. rival Applied Materials. ASM Int'l said it's examining the offer and will make a decision no later than June 14. Applied Materials has indicated the 2 divisions, which focus on atomic layer deposition and plasma enhanced chemical vapor deposition, have a value of 400 mil-\$500 mil. ASM surged .8% to 28.72. Applied Materials fell 1% to 18.89.

mazon's main site suffers outage

The online retailer's shares fell 6% to 80.63 after its Web site was knocked offline by a technical failure Fri. For more than 3 hours, visitors to Amazon.com were met with message saying service was unavailable. Amazon's overseas sites,

CHEMICALS

Lubrizol to hike chemical prices

The specialty chemicals maker said it would raise prices of its specialty chemicals by 12% to 20%, citing high oil prices. The price hikes will go into effect June 16. Lubrizol sells lubricants for engine oils and other industrial uses, in addition to specialty resins, plastics and coatings. On May 28, Dow Chemical said it would raise its prices by up to 20%. Lubrizol rose 2.5% to 55.46.

■ **Mosaic's** credit rating was raised to BBB- from the non-investment grade BB+ by Standard & Poor's, which cited the potash maker's improving finances. Mosaic slipped 0.85 to 133.36.

RETAIL

Wal-Mart touts edge in low prices

A reinvested focus on low prices by the world's largest retailer has en-

ECONOMY

Wholesale inventories jump 1.3%

Wholesalers' stockpiles shot up far more in April than the 0.5% expected, though it was likely driven by higher prices for oil and food. March inventories were revised up to a 0.1% gain vs. the initial reading of a 0.1% drop. Wholesale-level sales rose 1.4% in April - they also were likely price-driven - a sign that firms aren't stuck with unwanted goods. Higher inventories will boost Q2 GDP.

ECRI's leading index falls again

The Economic Cycle Research Institute's leading U.S. index fell for a 4th straight week, down 0.4 point in the week ended May 30 to 132.4. The smoothed annualized growth rate ticked down to -6.2% from -6% after improving for 8 weeks from a near-record low of -11.1% in late March.

■ **Consumer credit** rose by \$9 bil in April, the Fed said vs. views for \$7 bil. Credit card borrowing rose at the slowest pace in nearly 2 years.

NATION

Bush mulls new stimulus measure

The president is considering new measures to help stimulate the battered economy, the White House said. White House counselor E. Gillespie said Bush's advisers are constantly looking at options for new economic proposals. Gillespie spoke before a Bush speech on the economy, timed around the ceremonial swearing-in of the president's new housing secretary, Steven Preston. In his remarks, Bush stuck to promoting his existing economic policies.

Court upholds al-Qaida conviction

A federal appeals court upheld the conviction of a Virginia man convicted of joining al-Qaida and plotting to assassinate President Bush but said that he must be resentenced. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected a 30-year prison term and ordered a new sentencing hearing for Ahmed Omar Abu Ali. Prosecutors had argued that the inde-



ISLAMIC DEMONSTRATORS protest a headscarf ban in Istanbul on Friday, a day after Turkey's top court annulled a law allowing women to wear them in universities. The court ruled that the law violated Turkey's secular system as enshrined in an unchangeable constitutional article. AP

FINANCE

Lehman may report results early

The struggling investment bank may release Q2 results a week earlier than expected and announce new plans to raise capital through a rights offering published recently.

CONSUMER

Marvel falls on lackluster outlook

The licensor of comic book characters dropped 5.7% to 33.99 after Stifel Nicolaus downgraded it to hold from buy, saying it doesn't see any catalyst that could push shares