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TUESDAY

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BUSINESS

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College grad
beats debit fee.

Manufacturing limps but could pick up speed

BY CHRISTOPHER
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AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON — U.S. manufacturing grew more slowly in October, hampered by weaker demand for exports and slower production at factories.

But companies ordered more goods, factories slashed their stockpiles and auto sales rose. Those trends suggest manufacturing activity could rebound in coming months.

Tuesday's data, which also showed a slight uptick in construction spending in September, point to an economy that is growing but remains too sluggish to lower the unemployment rate, which has been stuck at 9.1 percent for three straight months.

"Overall, economic conditions seem just about strong enough to avoid a recession, but not strong enough to generate any meaningful growth," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

The Institute for Supply Management said Tuesday that its manufacturing index dropped to 50.8, down from 51.6 in September. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion.

Measures of production and new export orders fell. A gauge of employment dipped but remained strong enough to signal that factories are adding workers.

Separately, the Commerce Department said builders spent slightly more in September on projects, the second straight monthly increase. A gain in spending on home construction offset declines in government projects. Still, the annual rate of spending is roughly half the \$1.5 trillion that economists consider healthy.

U.S. automakers reported stronger sales in October. That could lift manufacturing in the months to come. Sales are now back at the same pace they were before the March earthquake in Japan, which disrupted supplies and left many dealers with few popular models from Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co.

Chrysler said its U.S. sales jumped 27 percent in October compared to the same month a year ago. Ford Motor Co. said its sales rose 6 percent, while General Motors Co. sales were up 2 percent. Nissan and Hyundai reported big jumps in sales.

Honda and Toyota continued to struggle. Honda sales were unchanged; Toyota's dropped 8 percent.

Stocks plunged on worries that a planned referendum in Greece could derail a deal that European leaders forged last week to stem the region's debt crisis. The Dow Jones

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COURTESY PHOTO

ATTENDEES AND TRAINERS at Arcturus Star Products seminars, held during the first week of October, travel from around the world. Pictured, from left, are Desiree DeSpong of Tauranga, New Zealand, Leslie Bonner of Asheville, N.C., and Lori Sweet, company CEO. Shown receiving the treatment is Antoinette Nowakowski, DC, of Columbine Chiropractic Health in Durango, who attended the class.

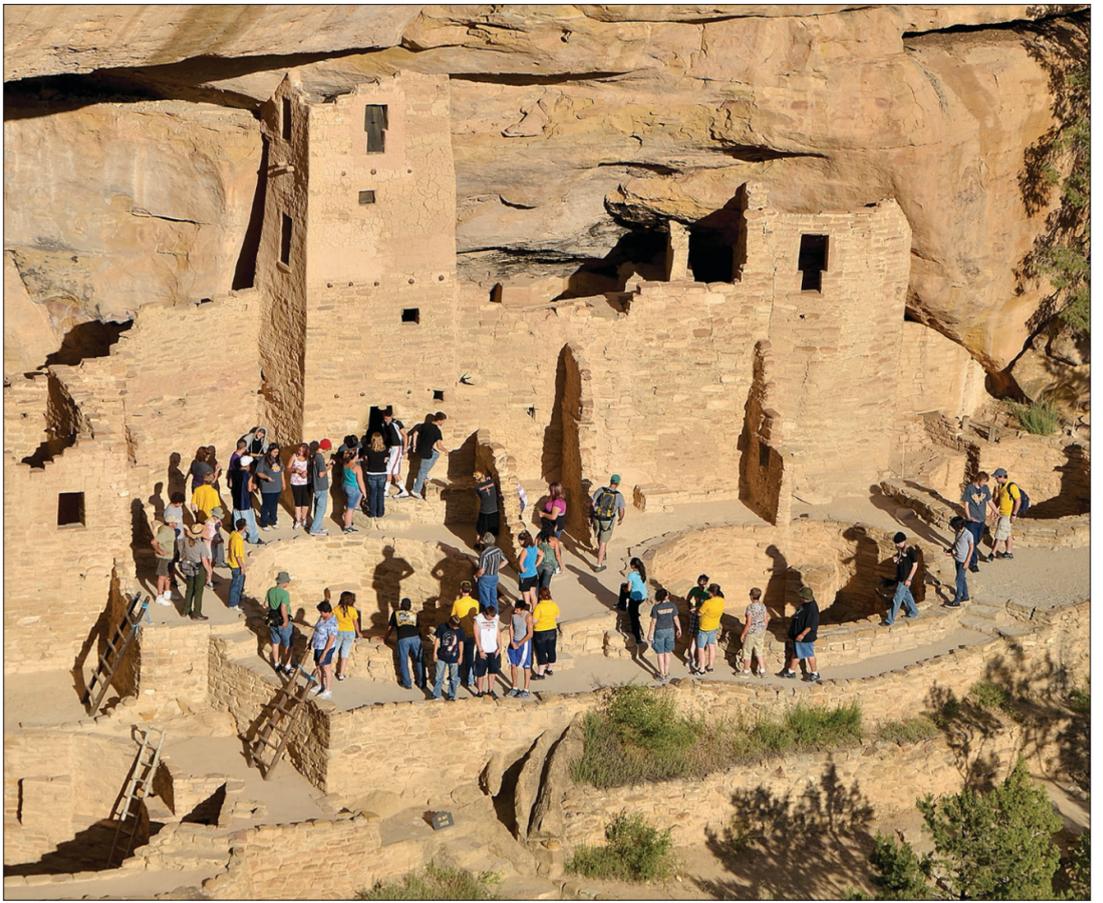
Seminar draws experts from around globe

Arcturus Star Products, a local health products manufacturer, sponsored a series of seminars for lymphatic therapy students recently in Cortez.

Seminar attendees and trainers came from around the United States, New Zealand and Canada. Fourteen students achieved certification through the LET Training Institute, a division of the company devoted to supporting the professional users of the products, according to a written statement from Arcturus Star Products. Among them are massage therapists, occupational therapists, chiropractors, naturopathic practitioners and estheticians.

Seminars are held in various locations in the United States as well as overseas. International trainer Desiree DeSpong of Tauranga, New Zealand, was in Cortez to teach as part of a visit that included teaching in Brooklyn, N.Y., and meeting with personnel at a Philadelphia hospital, where clinical trials are being planned.

Arcturus Star Products has an innovation that shows promise for the treatment of a condition called lymphedema, especially post-mastectomy, according to the company's statement. The Cortez company has been involved in trials for its use in an Australian university and New Zealand clinics, with DeSpong coordinating the research.



JOURNAL/SAM GREEN

TOURISTS visit Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde National Park in July this year. Officials say this year's tourism season went well for the Montezuma County area.

Successful season

Tourism season numbers show economy didn't keep visitors from enjoying vacations to Southwest Colorado locations

BY NATHALIE WINCH
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Rina Eisenberg, of Atlanta City, N.J., was just one of the many visitors who flocked to Cortez and surrounding areas during this year's tourism season.

"It was absolutely amazing," Eisenberg said about her visit to Mesa Verde National Park. "As a matter of fact, we went up there yesterday, and then came back up a second time to see it again."

As the tourist season wrapped up and the number of visitors began to dwindle, locals were hard at work assessing just how successful the season has been.

Despite a struggling economy, visitation at local tourism hot spots, such as welcome centers, Mesa Verde National Park and area hotels were up from last year. But the city's lodg-

ers tax revenue was down 5 percent from last year, according to September statistics.

The 5 percent drop isn't significant, and the lodgers tax revenue is just one of many indicators to the success of this year's tourism season, according to Mesa Verde Country Tourism Director Lynn Dyer.

"Basically, what the trend is this year, is that people want to travel but they're spending less money," Dyer said.

City of Cortez Finance Director Kathi Moss agreed, stating that the numbers likely mean people are traveling through Cortez, but not staying in the hotels as much.

"We're also getting a lot of regional travelers because people are still traveling but they're spending less money," Dyer said. "So they're traveling regionally and as economically as possible."

Lodging tax revenue being down despite an increase in visitation could also indicate area hotels have had to discount their prices in order to fill more rooms.

"But I don't know if that's what's going on or not," Dyer said.

Another indicator of the success of this year's tourism season are monthly sales tax revenues for the city, which were up 2 percent for the year to date in September. When factoring for inflation, the numbers show sales tax revenues held steady, Moss said.

"In comparison to other parts of the country that have been consistently and significantly down, and in this economy, the way it has been the past couple years, it's good that we're holding our own," Dyer said.

Visitation throughout the area has also held its own. Statistics indicate more

people visited the area this year than last.

"Our total visitation for the year to date is up 3.17 percent from last year," said Mesa Verde National Park Management Support Specialist Betty Lieurance. "This October, we had 522,428 visitors (for the year-to-date total), and the same month last year we had 506,368 (for the year-to-date total)."

The area also saw an increase in international travelers who likely took advantage of the weak dollar.

"The Canadian market has taken off because the state has more representation in Canada now," Dyer said.

Colorado Welcome Center visitation numbers supported this as well. Besides visitation to the Colorado Welcome Center being up 5 percent for the year to date in October, the center also

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Alice in Title-land



COURTESY PHOTO

ALICE IN WONDERLAND was the Halloween theme this year for the employees of Montezuma Dolores Title Co. Showing off their terrific costumes are, from left, Misty Kvasnicka, Edith Jarmon, Eve Boellstorff, DeVena Branson and Jo Cohoe.