Economy

#### Manufacturing sector lagging behind

Reuters 12

(8/29/12 “Economy Still Growing, but Manufacturing Soft: Fed” http://www.cnbc.com/id/48829221)

The U.S. economy continued to grow gradually in July and early August, but manufacturing activity was softening in many areas of the country, the Federal Reserve said on Wednesday.

In its Beige Book report of anecdotal information on business activity collected from contacts nationwide, the U.S. central bank said retail activity, including auto sales, had picked up since the last report.

"Reports from the twelve Federal Reserve districts suggest economic activity continued to expand gradually in July and early August across most regions and sectors," the Beige Book said.

The economic snapshot was prepared for use by Fed officials at their upcoming policy meeting on Sept. 12-13, when policymakers will debate whether further central bank bond purchases are warranted to spark a stronger recovery.

The economy grew at a 1.7 percent annual rate in the second quarter, supported by exports and investment in the construction of nonresidential structures. The pace was a slowdown from the 2.0 percent rate set in the first quarter.

The Beige Book captured the beginning of the third quarter and suggested the speed of the recovery was falling short of what was needed to spur faster hiring.

"Most districts reported that employment was holding steady or growing only slightly," the Fed said.

It also noted that manufacturing was softening in many districts, matching findings from recent regional factory surveys. Much of the slowdown is blamed on weak demand overseas, especially in Asia.

"Many districts reported some softening in manufacturing, either a slowdown in the rate of growth or a decline in the level of sales, output or orders," the Fed said. "Across the districts, few manufacturing firms reported any major hiring or layoffs."

#### No labor shortage – we have enough workers and labor immigration solve.

Reinhardt and Murray ’08, [Sonya Reinhardt, Master of Environmental Management degree in the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences of Duke University, Dr. Brian Murray, Prof of Environmental Management degree in the Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences of Duke University, May 2008“Economic Barriers to the Expansion of Nuclear Power in the United States”, <http://dukespace.lib.duke.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/10161/526/MP_sbr7_a_200805.pdf>]

A labor shortage is not a large enough barrier to stop an expansion of new nuclear power. Not only is the nuclear industry recruiting the next generation of nuclear power plant workers, but labor immigration, which has traditionally solved this problem during other labor shortage periods, may also relieve this challenge. The global supply of uranium is not a large enough barrier to halt a new nuclear power plant build. The spot prices will continue to be volatile since the 2007 agreement between Ux Consulting and Nymex, which introduced the trading of uranium futures products for the first time, but uranium extraction will continue to be viable for at least the next 50 years.

Even the biggest optimists concede – Decoupling is false due to U.S. consumers and imports.

Times, 2006 (1/18)

Still, even the biggest optimists concede that nobody would escape unscathed if the U.S. economy were to hit a wall. Its big local trading partners, Mexico and Canada, would probably be hurt the most, but the reverberations would be felt worldwide. The key bone of contention is the extent of the suffering. Those who dispute the decoupling theory point to the seemingly insatiable appetite of American consumers for imported goods, which has been a critical driver of the world's economic expansion. For example, while China's imports are way up, those gains are due less to a free-spending middle class than to increasing demand for raw materials and components to feed the country's manufacturing sector, which turns the material into finished products to ship to the U.S. "If you just look at the numbers, it looks like Asia's exports to China are larger than they are to the U.S.," says Rob Subbaraman, senior Asia economist for Lehman Brothers in Hong Kong. "But people aren't taking into account where the end demand is coming from." Stephen Roach, Morgan Stanley's chief economist and one of the most skeptical observers of this world economic scene, has long warned about the dangers of flagging U.S. demand. Now he's concerned too about signs he sees of a possible Chinese slowdown--one reason why he thinks global growth this year will be "significantly below what most are expecting."

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Putin is strong – opposition is divided.

Monaghan 12 [Andrew, Research Advisor in the Research Division of the NATO Defense College (NDC) in Rome July 2012 The end of The PuTin era? http://carnegieendowment.org/files/end\_of\_putin.pdf]

Yet, all forms of opposition are fractured and far from presenting a real challenge to the Putin system. The demonstrations remain limited in scale and are not the face of a swelling, unified opposition democratic movement. Moreover, the careers of the current systemic opposition leaders may be end- ing. Its senior figures were defeated handily in the presidential election and are now likely to wrestle with internal power struggles. Setting the movement back further is Putin’s unwillingness to guarantee that he will engage in the kind of reforms that many opponents and some supporters claim are required. An attempt to implement slow, evolutionary change appears to be the most likely way forward for the Russian leadership. This was already seen in one of the Kremlin’s early responses to the demon- strations—the dismissal of a number of officials and the promise that after the election there would be a serious “rotation” of personnel. A rotation, however, does not mean a deep reshuffle with the firing of senior officials. In the immediate term at least, Putin is not losing power. Of course, with the left-leaning parties in parliament offering some opposition and numerous practical difficulties wracking the country, from insufficient or decrepit infra- structure to corruption, Putin’s leadership team still confronts many chal- lenges. But it is far from clear that the end of the Putin era is nigh.