



The Heavy News Weekly



National Associations Lobby for Industry Priorities

Originally published by Journey of Commerce and featured in CCA Weekly



**Canadian
Construction
Association**

With the upcoming federal election and sizeable concerns facing construction, two men who lobby on behalf of Canada's construction industry wield well-stocked tool boxes.

"In order to be an effective lobbyist in Ottawa, first you need to know your file inside and out. You must be better prepared than those who are lobbying against your interests. You also have to know who pulls the levers of power and make your case directly to them," wrote Merit Canada president Terrance Oakey.

Merit represents eight provincial open shop construction associations.

Oakey was recently immersed in the stormy passage by the Senate of the divisive Bill C-377 (to force unions to publicly reveal how they spend their money), he said.

"Being a lobbyist in Ottawa always requires you to think three or four moves ahead and anticipating how your opponent will react. Just like I learned on political campaigns, to get anything accomplished you really have to work the opposition," said Oakey, 38, who has worked for former prime minister Joe Clark, and Conservative Senators Marjory Lebreton and David Angus.

In This Edition:

National Associations Lobby for Industry Priorities	1-3
Welcome new MHCA Members!	4
Appointments	4
WORKSAFELY™ Safety Tips	11
WORKSAFELY™ Training Schedule	12
Prices: Low, Slow or On the Go?	13

“The opposition is always trying to undermine what you are trying to do. Those who are lobbying against us have reacted to our efforts exactly as we anticipated, often with over-heated language which allowed us to be the reasonable voice for change.

“Our challenges are cutting through the noise in Ottawa and getting an audience with policy makers. There are thousands of groups all trying to get the attention of government.”

However, it isn't always easy.

“Given Merit Canada takes some controversial positions, we also have to outwork our opponents and ensure our voice is heard,” Oakey said.

Bill Ferreira, director of government relations for the 17,000-member Canadian Construction Association (CCA), is responsible for the association's lobbying efforts.

He agreed that extensive knowledge that allows for nimble responses is crucial.

But after 25 years of working in Ottawa, Ferreira, 46, said there's nothing magical about being a lobbyist.

Previously a lobbyist for the Forest Products Association of Canada, he joined the CCA in 2008.

“There's no one perfect solution. It comes down to political acumen and understanding public policy issues,” said Ferreira, who has a political science degree from Ottawa's Carleton University and worked as a policy advisor for former Liberal MP Sergio Marchi.

“You have to keep in mind that there's a larger government agenda and tailor your policy to ensure it fits with the government agenda.”

Public policy makers –federal and provincial politicians – are always on the lookout for ideas, which is where lobbyists fit, Ferreira added.

“They (politicians) look to industry for guidance on new policies,” he said.

The need for ongoing investment in public infrastructure and the skills shortage are two policy areas being pushed by the CCA.

Important to the CCA is the expansion and modernization of trade-enabling infrastructure, such as highways, ports and railways, in response to recent trade agreement in Asia, South America and the European Union.

“If there are bottlenecks, the trade initiatives are wasted,” said Ferreira.

The CCA also supports construction of more oil pipelines to efficiently move the resource.

As well, government has to get creative to encourage private companies to improve infrastructure, Ferreira added.

With a projected shortfall of 300,000 construction workers over the next decade, Ferreira said the CCA has been lobbying on various fronts, including immigration reform, skills training and citizenship requirements.

“Our preference is to train domestically,” he said.

However, enticing students to the trades remains an obstacle.

Seasoned workers are necessary to provide mentorship and fill the gaps.

As well, ongoing shortages of skills such as heavy equipment operators, pipe layers and labourers have led to recruitment from Ireland, Germany, other European countries and the U.S.

For Merit, the dominant issues are finding replacements for retiring workers and ensuring member companies keep pace with emerging technology to operate efficient job sites.

Oakey, previously a lobbyist for the Retail Council of Canada, joined Merit in 2011, which he said has enjoyed incredible success at the federal level under his leadership.

"Our priorities were to repeal the Fair Wage Act, implement a secret ballot vote for employees joining a union, reforming the federal immigration system to better recognize skilled tradespeople, and bring union financial disclosure legislation to Canada.

"I am proud to say we have accomplished all of this, pending a final positive vote on C-377," he said.

As for future lobbying intentions, Oakey said Merit is waiting until after the federal election, Oct. 19, to set an agenda.

"Our members know that a Conservative government is more receptive to our message so they will be helping local candidates in the ridings in which they live and work," Oakey said, adding that Merit will work with any government to promote its interests.

The CCA will continue to focus on infrastructure enhancement and the skills shortage.

"We'll deal with whatever government Canadians decide to elect," Ferreira said.

As a non-partisan group, the CCA is pleased that all federal parties have focused on issues that are important to the construction industry.

To ensure all of Parliament Hill's doors remain open, Ferreira said.

"You won't get anywhere with vinegar," he added.

Get Gold Seal Certified

Since 1991, the Gold Seal Certification program has set the Gold Standard in the Management of Construction. Today, more than 8,000 construction professionals have been recognized as Gold Seal Certified.

What are the benefits of Gold Seal Certification?

Whether you are a **Construction Professional, a Contractor, Project Manager, or an Owner of a construction project**, Gold Seal Certification can help you set a high standard - the Gold standard - on a construction project.

Learn more at www.goldsealcertification.com



CANADIAN CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE DE LA CONSTRUCTION



THE MHCA IS A PROUD PARTNER ASSOCIATION OF GOLD SEAL CERTIFICATION

Stay Connected >>> mhca.mb.ca/goldsealcertification >>>



Welcome new MHCA Members!

The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association is proud to welcome its newest members **Antigo Construction Inc.** and **GCS Energy Services Ltd.**

Antigo Construction Inc. is a full-service concrete, pavement, and breaking specialist equipped to provide concrete pavement rubblization, cracking & seating, and breaking for removal. Antigo operates Badger Breakers, which are manufactured by its affiliate, Badger State Highway Equipment Inc. Antigo operates throughout the United States and abroad, based out of its main headquarters in Antigo, WI, with extended offices located in Boise, ID, and the United Kingdom. **For more information, contact Matthew Shinnners at mshinnners@antigoconstruction.com or visit www.antigoconstruction.com**



GCS Energy Services Ltd. is a privately owned, Canadian industrial contractor committed to providing clients with quality construction in a safe and efficient manner. Standing on an impressive safety record and years of solid experience, specialties include general, electrical, and civil contracting. Custom crushing and an extensive heavy equipment rental division round out the diverse offerings of tried and true results. The GCS goal is safe, quality service on time and on budget. Whatever it takes, each and every time. **For more information, contact Jim Moser at jmoser@gcsenergy.ca or visit www.gcsenergy.ca.**



Appointments

MANITOBA INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION (MIT)

The MHCA is pleased to advise of and extend congratulations to Ron Weatherburn who has been named Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) Engineering & Operations, Manitoba Infrastructure & Transportation (MIT) effective immediately. Ron brings professionalism, knowledge and understanding of the department challenges and opportunities along with a demonstrated record of collaborative leadership and management skills. The MHCA looks forward to working with Ron in his new capacity.



WORKERS COMPENSATION BOARD OF MANITOBA (WCB)

The MHCA is pleased to advise that Chris Lorenc, President MHCA has, on recommendation of the Manitoba Employers Council (MEC), been appointed by Minister Responsible for the Workers Compensation Act, the Hon. Erna Braun, as employer representative to the WCB Board of Directors effective immediately.





2015 MHCA ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Wednesday, August 12, 2015 |
Elmhurst & Pine Ridge Golf Courses

REGISTRATION FEE: \$250 / person ^{+GST}
10:30 a.m. - Registration Desk opens
Noon - Shot Gun start

FOUR PERSON TEXAS SCRAMBLE INCLUDES:
Green Fees & Motorized Cart
An Assortment of Contests
Delicious Steak Dinner
Bus Shuttle between courses before/after dinner

The MHCA Golf Classic is officially **SOLD OUT!** Any further registration will be put on the waiting list.

Please provide your team members' names as soon as possible.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Spring Mixer

Assiniboia Downs
Winnipeg, MB

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

Annual Golf Classic

Pine Ridge & Elmhurst Golf Courses
Winnipeg, MB

Friday, November 20, 2015 (new date!)

Awards Breakfast & AGM

RBC Convention Centre
Winnipeg, MB

Saturday, November 21, 2015 (new date!)

Chairman's Gala

RBC Convention Centre
Winnipeg, MB

February 7 - 10, 2016

WCR&HRC Annual Convention

The Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui Resort
Wailea, Maui





NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 13, 2015

Take Safety Precautions While Working in Summer Heat

For workers exposed to summer's high temperatures, taking safety measures is critical to staying healthy and comfortable. Extreme heat can cause a range of reactions from general discomfort to serious illness.

Elevated daytime temperatures can make it uncomfortable to work outside or in non-air-conditioned buildings. Here are some ideas to increase comfort during periods of peak temperature:

- Wear clothing that is lightweight, light-coloured and loose-fitting.
- Use fans indoors.
- Take rest breaks and drink cool beverages.
- Focus on lighter activities whenever possible and leave physically demanding tasks for cooler periods.

More serious situations can lead to heat stress, a condition in which the body is unable to control its internal temperature. The following symptoms can result:

- Heat illness – headaches, dizziness, upset stomach and vomiting
- Heat exhaustion – fatigue, weakness, moist skin, rapid and weak pulse
- Heat stroke – hot dry skin, a rapid, strong pulse, mental confusion, unconsciousness, seizures and convulsions

Take these steps to prevent heat stress:

- Monitor yourself and your co-workers.
- Take breaks and remember to drink when you're thirsty.
- Wear lightweight, light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing.
- Work in the shade, away from heat sources.
- Build up tolerance to high temperatures.

Follow these measures to treat someone who is experiencing heat stress:

- Move the person to a cool, shaded area.
- Loosen or remove heavy clothing.
- Provide cool drinking water.
- Call 911 immediately.

Employers should work with their safety and health committees, worker representatives or workers to create a hot weather plan and determine work procedures for periods of high temperatures.

www.safemanitoba.com



For further details, refer to the Safe Work *Guideline for Thermal Stress* at <http://safemanitoba.com/uploads/guidelines/thermalstress.pdf> and *Tips - Outdoor Heat Stress* at <http://safemanitoba.com/uploads/bulletins/heatstress.pdf>.

Manitoba Health has additional information about the health effects of heat at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/heatrating.html>.

For more information, contact SAFE Work Manitoba at 204-957-SAFE (7233) or 1-855-957-SAFE (7233), or visit www.safemanitoba.com.

- 30 -

For more information, contact:

Warren Preece
Director of Communications
WCB Manitoba
(204) 954-4113
e-mail: wcb@wcb.mb.ca

NEWS RELEASE



HEOC

Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate



MANITOBA INSTITUTE OF
TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY



MANITOBA
CONSTRUCTION
SECTOR COUNCIL



Introducing the Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate (HEOC): a new program that's the first of its kind in Manitoba and offered exclusively at Manitoba Institute of Trades & Technology.

Gain first-hand knowledge and hands-on experience on the proper use of heavy equipment, used in or around worksites, and gain your Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) Operator Certificate in one of four specialty heavy equipment areas.

Visit www.mitt.ca for more information about the course and all it can offer you and your future career in heavy construction today!

**BE THE FIRST TO GAIN YOUR HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR CERTIFICATE
IN THE INDUSTRY!**

Register now at www.mitt.ca or call Penny at 204-989-6653

Stay Connected >>> mhca.mb.ca/HEOC >>>



Groundbreaker

The Official Publication of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association

WORKSAFELY™

THE SAFETY ISSUE



**AVAILABLE NOW AT
THE MHCA OFFICE
OR MHCA.MB.CA**



efficient
Controlled
Organized
Real Time

Truly defined. Truly **e**asy.



Join the club! Share your WORKSAFELY e-CORTM **Tips & Tricks** with us and be featured in the upcoming issue of *Heavy News Weekly*



WORKSAFELY MHCA SAFETY TIPS

Hearing Loss

Work-related hearing loss is a critical workplace issue, especially in construction where workers are exposed to high levels of noise and the potential for permanent hearing loss.

Workers can protect their hearing by:

- Making the workplace quieter by placing sources of loud noise, like compressors and generators, as far away from the work zone as possible.
- Decreasing the time spent around loud noise by rotating noisy jobs to quieter jobs where possible.
- Having yearly hearing tests done.
- Using hearing protection like ear plugs when needed.
- Monitoring effectiveness of hearing protectors.

For more tips, tricks, and valuable resources on effective workplace safety and health practices, visit mhca.mb.ca/WORKSAFELY



**TO REGISTER,
PLEASE CONTACT:**
Sarah Higgins
sarah@mhca.mb.ca

Training Schedule

July

Train the Trainer
WHMIS (1/2 day AM)
TDG (1/2 day PM)
Committee/Representative Training (1/2 day AM)
Flagperson (1/2 day PM)
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
COR™ Auditor
Traffic Control Coordinator

July 6 - 7 MHCA Office
July 8 MHCA Office
July 8 MHCA Office
July 9 MHCA Office
July 9 MHCA Office
July 9 MHCA Office
July 13 - 14 MHCA Office
July 15 MHCA Office
July 16 - 17 MHCA Office
July 22 - 23 MHCA Office

August

Flagperson (1/2 day AM)
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
COR™ Auditor
Train the Trainer
Excavating and Trenching (1/2 day AM)
Committee/Representative Training (1/2 day PM)

August 10 MHCA Office
August 17 - 18 MHCA Office
August 19 MHCA Office
August 20 - 21 MHCA Office
August 24 - 25 MHCA Office
August 26 MHCA Office
August 26 MHCA Office

September

Flagperson (1/2 day PM)
Traffic Control Coordinator
COR™ Leadership in Safety Excellence
COR™ Principles of Health & Safety Management
COR™ Auditor
WHMIS (1/2 day AM)
TDG (1/2 day PM)
Excavating and Trenching (1/2 day AM)
Committee/Representative Training (1/2 day PM)
Train the Trainer

Sept. 8 MHCA Office
Sept. 10 - 11 MHCA Office
Sept. 14 - 15 MHCA Office
Sept. 16 MHCA Office
Sept. 17 - 18 MHCA Office
Sept. 21 MHCA Office
Sept. 21 MHCA Office
Sept. 22 MHCA Office
Sept. 22 MHCA Office
Sept. 23 - 24 MHCA Office

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 Training Flagperson	15	16
17	18 COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	19 COR Leadership in Safety Excellence	20 COR Auditor	21 COR Auditor	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Prices: Low, Slow or On the Go?

By Peter G. Hall, Vice President and Chief Economist



The dreaded 'D' word has haunted us since crisis hit in 2008. For all our economic sophistication, deflation is a paradigm that still befuddles policymakers. The elusiveness of remedies has by default made the eluding of its onset the only true remedy. With the exception of Japan, so far, so good. But we're not yet ready to read the last rites on the scare. Or are we? How are prices behaving these days – are they low, slow or on the go?

Rewind to the 1970s, and inflation was the big enemy. The big intellectual guns were aimed at understanding the phenomenon, and wresting it to the ground. Monetary tightening at the end of the decade seemed to do the trick, but the 1980's saw a price revival that needed another stiff dose of monetary medicine to rein things in. Since then, expectations that were anchored at stated target levels have kept price growth remarkably in line. The outcome? There's a very well-defined playbook on inflation. Deflation is another matter. Japan's battle with the beast is going on a quarter-century, with no real breakthrough in sight. In the final analysis, history may conclude that quantitative easing rescued the US and Europe from Japan's fate, but it's likely too early to tell – unless there's something current prices are saying.

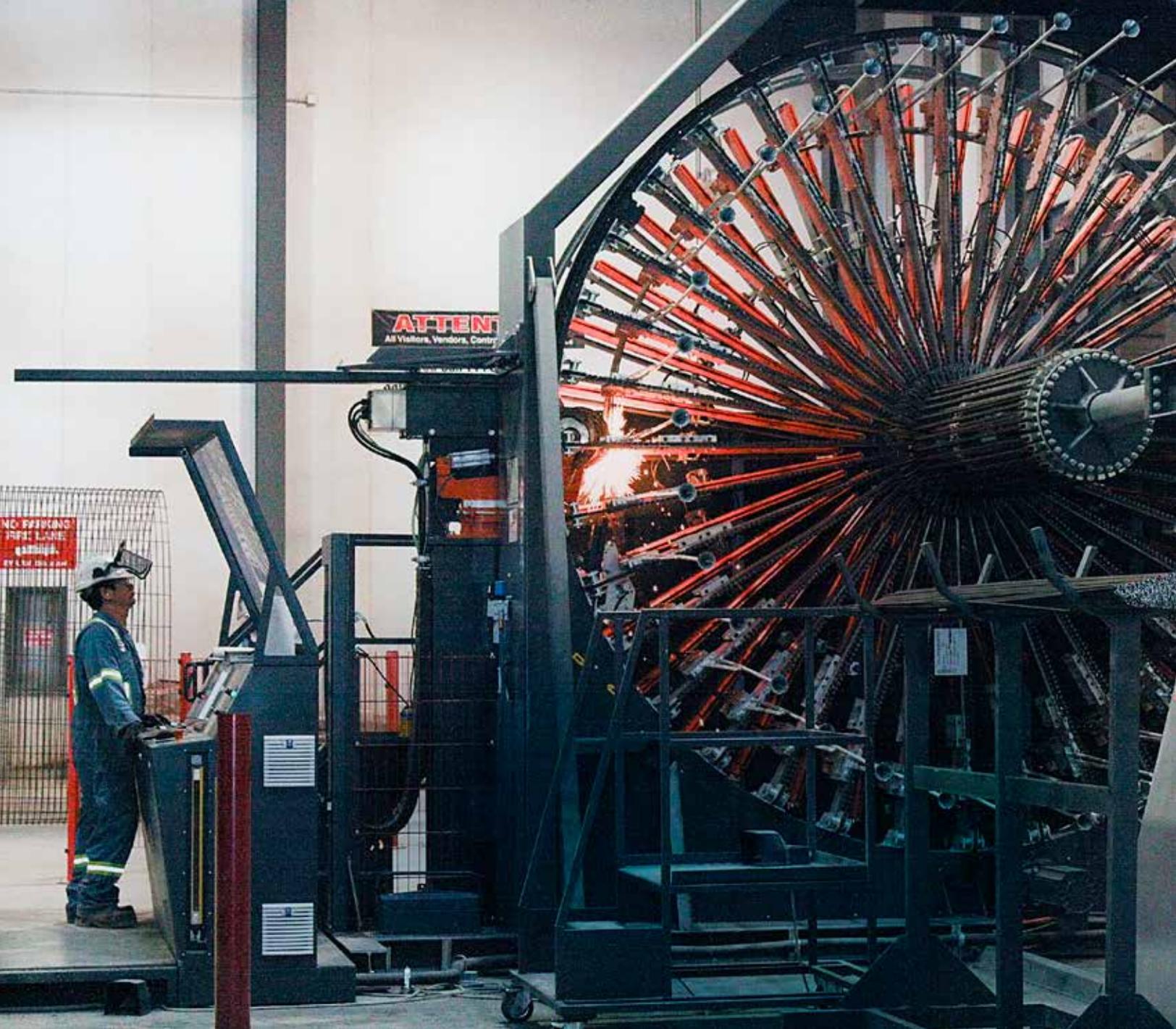
Cursory analysis of recent price activity can actually be shocking. For five months, US consumer prices have been flat on a year-over-year basis. Get it? That's zero growth, on the borderline of deflation. Europe is little better. Euro-area consumer prices dipped below the zero line last December, and only just popped into positive territory – marginally – in May. Tax changes helped to push Japanese prices to higher growth than seen in over two decades, but that is fading. Most recent data has slumped back into zero-hugging territory. So is that it – are we all joining Japan in a deflationary or disinflationary funk?

Not so fast – recall, we have seen commodity prices tumble over the past year, and those effects are spilling into retail pricing. As we have argued many times already, commodity price plunges are more about growth than about economic weakness, so their effect should be discounted. Moreover, central banks aren't supposed to pay as much attention to specific commodity price movements as to movements in the general price level. As such, what's more important is the movement of so-called core prices – the ones that net out the effects of food, energy and other volatile price categories. How are core prices doing? Here, year-to-year prices in the US are actually rising at a modest but decent 1.7 per cent year-on-year, with monthly gains punching well above the 2 per cent level since January. Continue the recent pace, and the Fed will have more traditional worries.

Year-to-year core prices in Europe are still soft, but are moving toward the 1 per cent mark. This is primarily the result of monthly increases, which have been gaining pace since March. Things are somewhat different in the UK. There, year-to-year prices are rising, but core prices are trending lower. Japan's core price growth is very slow, hugging the zero line closely since last August. Unfortunately Japan remains bound in structural issues that are still in search of a lasting remedy.

This might seem like a mixed story, but what seems to emerge is that the engine economies – the US, and Europe as a whole – are seeing the early signs of prices rising on a monthly basis to target levels. It's not long enough or strong enough to pull the numbers that the media uses up to levels that would capture the public imagination. But if sustained, they ultimately will. What will sustain these increases is basic demand in the economy, and that's where the story brightens. Data show – and many agree – that there is growing evidence of pent-up demand, which in simple terms is sort of an anti-excess. It's obvious in the US housing market, and based on pre- and post-crisis activity levels, seems obvious in Europe as well. Moreover, the investment hibernation that has been in place since the crisis has pushed industrial capacity usage to pre-crisis heights, and if demand is about to take off, there's going to be a lot of instant investment happening.

The bottom line? Prices seem to be on the move. If so, it would be some of the best evidence of economic liftoff. And unlike deflation, we know how to tame the other beast, if it rouses.



Stay Connected >>> mhca.mb.ca

