

AMS UPDATE



September 2009
Volume 10, Issue 11

A PORTRAIT OF RESILIENCE

New markers of economic recovery are being reported in the news each day, from consumer spending to the jobless rate. It is unclear if these are signs of a lasting development or a small fluctuation in the larger trend, but one thing is clear: the unemployment rate remains high.

But talk about “trends” and rates are meaningless in the face of actual people and actual layoffs.

This is a difficult time not just nationwide, but globally. As a result, much is currently being written and discussed not only about how to help those who have been laid-off, but more and more about those who are staying in their jobs during these trying times.

The recent changes have been difficult. A feeling of loss and sadness is natural, as is anxiety about the future even if you are the one staying, not going.

AMS has been in business for nearly 30 years. In that time the company has weathered other very challenging economic conditions for manufacturing. AMS has always come back stronger, and that is still the intention. Resilience is something to take pride in.

Furthermore, AMS is in the best shape it has ever been to compete for jobs. Over the years as the company became more focused on one customer, AMS’s original job shop flexibility was put on a back burner. Many of the recent changes in processes and procedures – from implementation of ISO9001:2008 and PLEX to lean manufacturing methodologies -- serve to make AMS better able to serve a variety of customers than ever before. Each decision strengthens the company’s flexibility and responsiveness to create customer satisfaction and attract new clients.

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- How you can make your paycheck more “resilient”

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12 WAYS TO WASTE YOU MONEY

Do you know where all your money goes? It is never a bad time do an audit of day-to-day money decisions – it just always seems like a task that can wait until tomorrow.

Whether a new or seasoned budgeter, nearly everyone has spending holes -- leaks in your budget that drain money with you hardly noticing.

These small drips can add up to big bucks. Once you find the holes and plug them, you'll keep more money in your pocket.

Money expert, Erin Burt, at Kiplinger online outlines common ways people waste money. See if any of these 12 sound familiar, and

then look for ways to plug your own leaks.

1. Don't use a flexible-spending account.

AMS’s flex-spending accounts allow you to set aside pretax dollars to pay for medical costs not covered by insurance or qualified child-care costs. Why pay for things with post-tax money when you could be paying with pre-tax money?

2. Carry a credit-card balance. If you have a \$1,000 balance on a card charging 18%, you blow \$180 every year on interest. That's money you could certainly put to better use elsewhere. Get in the habit of paying off your balance in full each month.

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12 Ways to Waste Your Money

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3. Buy on impulse. When you buy before you think, you don't give yourself time to shop around for the best price. Go home and sleep on the decision. If you still want to make the purchase a day or so later, do your comparison-shopping, check your budget and go for it. Often you'll decide you don't need the item after all.

4. Pay to use an ATM. A buck or two here and there may not seem like a big deal. But if you're frequenting ATMs outside your bank's network, the surcharges can add up quickly.

5. Dine out frequently. A habit of spending \$10, \$20, and \$30 per person for dinner can be a huge drain on your wallet. Throw in a \$6 sandwich for lunch and a \$4 latte in the morning, and you've got quite a leak

6. Buy brand name instead of generic. From groceries to clothing to prescription drugs, you could save money by choosing the off-brand over the fancy label. And in many cases, you won't sacrifice in quality.

7. Waste electricity. Of the total energy used to run home electronics, 40% is consumed when the appliances are turned off. Appliances with a clock or that operate by remote are typical culprits. The obvious way -- pull the plug. Or buy a device to do it for you, such as a Smart Power Strip, which will stop drawing electricity when the gadgets are turned off and pay for itself within a few months.

8. Pay banking fees. Overdraw your checking account and you'll pay \$20 to \$30 a pop, so it pays to keep tabs on your balance. Plus, are you still paying for a checking account? But make sure free checking is really free. If the bank charges a fee for a balance

that drops below a certain level? That's not free.

9. Buy things you don't use. This sounds like a no-brainer to avoid, but how many times have you seen something on sale and thought you couldn't pass it up? Even if something is 50% off, you're spending too much if you don't use it. Coupons, for instance, can be a great way to save on your grocery bills. But if you buy things you wouldn't have purchased in the first place simply for the sake of using the coupon, you're wasting your money. The same goes for buying in bulk. A bargain is no bargain if it sits unused on your shelf or gets thrown away.

10. Keep unhealthy habits. Smoking is not only bad for your health, it burns up your cash. As of September 1, the price cigarettes in Wisconsin went up 75 cents a pack. A pack-a-day habit at \$5 a pack costs \$150 a month and \$1,860 a year. A junk-food habit can be costly as well. Not to mention the money you'll waste on medical bills down the road.

11. Pay for something you can get for free. Dust off your library card and check out books, music and movies for free (or dirt-cheap).

12. Pay for unnecessary services. How many cable channels can a person watch? Do you really need all those extra features for your cell phone? Are you getting your money's worth out of that gym membership? Are you taking full advantage of your subscriptions (such as Netflix, TiVo or magazines)? Take a look at what you're paying for and what your family is actually using. Trim accordingly.

If you don't believe this will make a serious impact, simply write down ALL household spending for one week, and all bills for one month. Once the little leaks are all collected in one place – you may actually see a need to plug them instead of waiting until that “tomorrow” somewhere in the future.



Are you letting money go down the drain?

		6	8				1	8	
9	5	7	1	6	7	8	2	9	8
1	2	3	7	2	1	2	6	9	1
			7	1	2	1			
			9	4	6	2	1		
			4	2			8	1	
			6	8	6	8	2	3	
			9	1	8	1	8	1	
9	1	2	1	7	2	8	1	9	6
2	3					7	6	7	2

Puzzle Solution

Portrait of Resilience

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And attracting new work and new clients is a priority, even as many companies are cutting back or waiting to place orders until they see some movement in the economy. AMS is receiving very high marks in recent facilities audits – looking good for future work, but customers are being cautious about placing any orders. Which means more searching for work for right now. One avenue being thoroughly

explored are government contracts with Erik Anderson spearheading the initiative.

The world is far from perfect or predictable, but perhaps now less ever before. Experts do agree that real lasting economic recovery is going to be slow and difficult if the jobless rate remains high. It is AMS's intention to do whatever we can to hurry the recovery along by being able to hire and rehire soon.

SEPTEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

BIRTHDAYS

Sean Teipner September 1
 William Gwinn September 12
 Tim Bowden September 13
 Dave Peterson September 18
 Pete Johnson September 21
 Bryan Marg September 22
 Dave Reynolds September 26

ANNIVERSARIES

Dean Simmons 8 years on 9/10
 Corina Anderson 15 years on 9/14
 Bob Zimmerman 1 year on 9/15
 Gicu Cornea 2 years on 9/17
 Matt Levake 3 years on 9/18
 Craig Dean 8 years on 9/24
 Dave Reynolds 8 years on 9/24
 Brian Eckerman 4 years on 9/26

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Peterson family! Dave, Olivia and big sister Alexia proudly announce the arrival of Camren Danielle Peterson on August 13. Camren was 6lbs 6oz, 20 inches.

WELCOME BACK!

Len Fernando to 2nd shift in Whitewater, Len formally worked on 2nd shift in Jefferson.

REMINDER: VACATION/TIME OFF REQUESTS

Requests for time off are handled on a first-come, first-served basis. While we would ideally like to honor everyone's first choice, that is not always possible without causing machine shutdowns, this is especially true now with fewer co-workers to cover machines.

Approved vacation requests are being posted on the employee bulletin board. Please consult this to see which dates are open or taken and make requests more than a week in advance to increase the chances you

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

SEPTEMBER 2008 TO AUGUST 2009

The following individuals had perfect attendance for the entire year:

SHANE ANDERSON
 TRISH BIZEAU
 TIM BOWDEN
 CRAIG DEAN
 BRIAN ECKERMAN
 DENNIS GRAVERT
 ARCHIE HAFER
 MIKE HILL
 TRACY JONES
 MIKE LUEBKE

TERRY MARKEE
 ERIC PERKINS
 DAVE PETERSON
 ELI STOLLENWERK
 DAN STOLTE
 PAUL STONE
 SEAN TEIPNER
 TOM WARD
 JANET WHITE
 MARK ZUEHLKE

Great Job! Your teamwork and dedication are the pillars of AMS's operation and even if it is not said every day it is appreciated every day.

HALF YEAR

Named below are AMSers who have made it at least halfway to a full year of perfect attendance --

BILL BEAVER
 RANDY HAUKOM
 BRAD MALUEG
 BRYAN MARG
 ADAM MASKE
 DAN RINGENBERG
 DEAN SIMMONS JR.
 RICK SPRINGHUTH
 MARY STACEY
 DAN WEBER
 JOHN WELLER

Great Start!



*Guaranteeing
Precision since
1980*

BUSINESS ADDRESSES

211 Collins Rd.
Jefferson, WI 53549
and
369 N. Newcomb St
Whitewater, WI 53190

PHONE:

(920) 674-6003

FAX:

(920) 674-3148

E-MAIL:

julie.anderson@amscnc.com

We're on the Web!

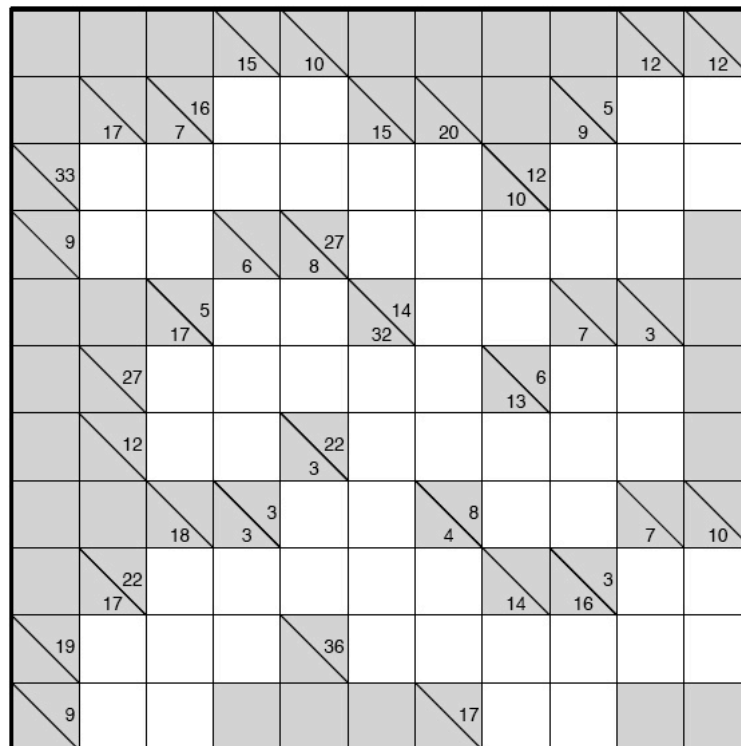
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Puzzle - KAKURO

Think of them as the mathematical equivalent of crosswords. Also known as Cross Sums or Kakro in Japan.

A Kakuro consists of a playing area of filled and empty cells similar to a crossword puzzle. Some black cells contain a diagonal slash from top left to bottom right with numbers in them, called "the clues". A number in the top right corner relates to an "across" clue and one in the bottom left a "down" clue.



Rules

The object of a Kakuro is to insert digits from 1-9 into the white cells to total the clue associated with it. However no digit can be duplicated in an entry. For example the total 6 you could have 1 & 5, 2 & 4 but not 3 & 3. Sound simple? Be warned it gets hard and is as addictive as Sudoku. Solution is found on page 2.

Good Luck!

Safety Zone: Preview of Things to Come

The September Safety Committee meeting will focus on the findings from the recent Safety Walk-through and Accident Investigations.

During this meeting decisions will also be made about a recording secretary and liaisons for each shift in both plants in order to facilitate communication about safety issues.

In October the Safety Team will work to coordinate a flu shot clinic at AMS, currently scheduled for October 21st between 7:00-8:00am and in the afternoon between 3:00-4:00pm.

Look for more information on the upcoming Flu Clinic coming from the Safety committee in the coming weeks.

