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Application deadline Feb. 12th at 5pm.



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Camp Day

Tuesday, February 10
9:30 am – 3:30 pm

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Wanted: Counselors; wranglers; instructors in arts and crafts, sports, lifesaving/water safety, small craft; individuals with nature and outdoor education skills, people interested in working with youth in a variety of outdoor settings throughout Texas and the nation.

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Sponsored by the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences, the Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences Club, and the TAMU Career Center

Productivity gain raises hope that companies will hire more workers

By Jeannine Aversa
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

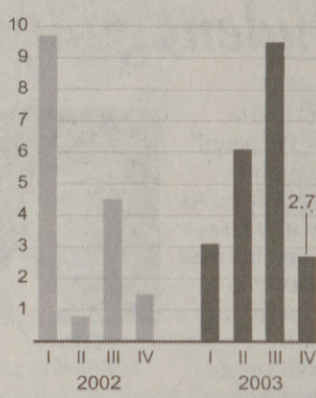
WASHINGTON — The productivity of America's workers grew modestly in the final three months of 2003, raising hopes that companies will step up hiring to meet demand rather than relying solely on increased efficiency.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that productivity — the amount an employee produces for every hour on the job — grew at a 2.7 percent annual rate from October through December. Although that was a slowdown from the 9.5 percent rate for the three previous months, it nevertheless was a respectable pace that bodes well for the economy's recovery, analysts said.

"You can squeeze only so much juice out of an orange. There is no question that businesses — seeing demand grow — are hiring more people in response to slowing productivity

Productivity

Here is a look at non-farm business productivity, percent change from previous quarter. Seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

gains," said Wells Fargo's chief economist Sung Won Sohn. "But how many people will be hired going forward — that is really a debatable question."

For all of 2003, productivity grew by 4.2 percent, following a 4.9 percent increase in 2002.

Productivity gains are important to the economy's long-term vitality. They allow the economy to grow faster without setting off inflation. Companies can pay workers more without raising prices, which would eat up those wage gains. Productivity can bolster a company's profitability.

As profits improve, companies may be more willing to boost capital investment and hiring. Economists are predicting the nation's payrolls grew by around 180,000 jobs in January, compared with a net gain of 1,000 jobs in December. The government was releasing the employment report for January on Friday.

Analysts are hopeful that companies — after having squeezed so much efficiencies out of existing workers last year — will expand their ranks of workers in the months ahead to meet customers' demand.

There were some encouraging signs to this end in Thursday's report.

Chinese government: 37 dead in stampede at holiday gathering

BEIJING (AP) — At least 37 people were killed and 15 others injured Thursday when a crowd stampeded during a holiday gathering outside the Chinese capital on the final day of the country's Lunar New Year celebrations, the government said.

Officials, including President Hu Jintao, expressed "deep concern" and ordered an investigation. The mayor of Beijing was on scene supervising.

"This is a very serious incident," said Wu Kun, a spokesman for the Beijing city

government. "There could even be more people dead. It's still a very confusing scene up there."

The official Xinhua News Agency reported the accident happened in Miyun County, an extreme northern suburb of Beijing. Wu said it occurred at 7:45 p.m. in a popular gathering spot called Mihong Park near the town of Miyun when someone tripped in a crowded area, causing a chain reaction.

"One person fell down on a grate in the park and caused



At least 37 dead and 15 injured in holiday celebration stampede

SOURCE: Associated Press

many people to fall down. There was a stampede," Wu said. "I was a lot of people. I'm not sure how many."

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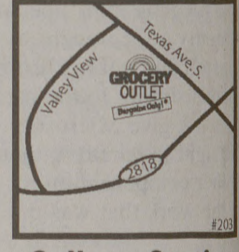
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