

BUSINESS

S&P 500 1,650.34	▲ +16.57	NASDAQ 3,462.61	▲ +23.82	DOW 15,215.25	▲ +123.57	6-MO T-BILLS .07%	...
30-YR T-BONDS 3.19%	▲ +.06	CRUDE OIL \$94.21	▼ -.96	EURO 1.2937	▼ -.0033	GOLD \$1,424.70	▼ -9.80

Interest rates



The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 1.98 percent Tuesday. Yields affect interest rates on consumer loans.

TREASURIES	YES	PVS	NET CHG	WK	MO	QTR	1YR AGO
3-month T-bill	.04	.03	+0.01	▲	▼	▼	.08
2-year T-note	.25	.25	..	▲	▲	▼	.27
6-month T-bill	.07	.07	..	▼	▼	▼	.13
10-year T-note	1.98	1.92	+0.06	▲	▲	▲	1.76
52-wk T-bill	.10	.10	..	▼	▼	▼	.17
30-year T-bond	3.19	3.13	+0.06	▲	▲	▲	2.92
5-year T-note	.86	.82	+0.04	▲	▲	▼	.71

PRIME RATE	FED FUNDS
YEST 3.25	.13
6 MO AGO 3.25	.13
1 YR AGO 3.25	.13

Commodities

The price of crude oil fell on worries that supplies are rising when demand is under pressure. It was the fourth straight day that crude's price fell. Natural gas rose.

FUELS	CLOSE	PVS.	%CH.	%YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	94.21	95.17	-1.01	+2.6
Ethanol (gal)	2.64	2.68	-0.67	+20.3
Heating Oil (gal)	2.87	2.89	-0.62	-5.7
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.02	3.93	+2.52	+20.1
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.84	2.82	+0.59	+0.9

METALS	CLOSE	PVS.	%CH.	%YTD
Gold (oz)	1424.70	1434.50	-0.68	-14.9
Silver (oz)	23.36	23.67	-1.33	-22.6
Platinum (oz)	1501.90	1484.50	+1.17	-2.4
Copper (lb)	3.29	3.36	-2.13	-9.6
Palladium (oz)	726.40	717.95	+1.18	+3.4

Foreign Exchange

The dollar rose against Japan's currency and is close to its highest level against the yen since 2008. The dollar also rose against the euro, British pound and other major currencies.

MAJORS	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	6MO. AGO	1YR. AGO
USD per British Pound	1.5222	-.0070	-.46%	1.5854	1.6105
Canadian Dollar	1.0176	+.0068	+67%	1.0030	1.0027
USD per Euro	1.2937	-.0033	-.26%	1.2745	1.2847
Japanese Yen	102.24	+.31	+30%	80.17	79.86
Mexican Peso	12.1989	+.0614	+50%	13.2551	13.6632

Global Markets

INDEX	YEST	CHG	CHG	WK	MO	QTR	YTD
S&P 500	1650.34	+16.57	+1.01%	▲	▲	▲	+15.72%
Frankfurt DAX	8309.11	+59.82	+0.72%	▲	▲	▲	+9.56%
London FTSE 100	6686.06	+54.30	+0.82%	▲	▲	▲	+13.37%
Hong Kong Hang Seng	22930.28	-59.53	-0.26%	▼	▲	▲	+1.21%
Paris CAC-40	3966.06	+20.86	+0.53%	▲	▲	▲	+8.90%
Tokyo Nikkei 225	14758.42	-23.79	-0.16%	▲	▲	▲	+41.97%



SBA official: Fargo company Branick a bright spot in small manufacturing

New laser cutter allows company to take on new jobs

By Dave Olson
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FARGO – Small manufacturing is helping lead America's economic recovery, and Fargo's Branick Industries is one of the brighter spots in the country, a top U.S. Small Business Administration official said Tuesday.

Marie Johns, deputy SBA administrator, toured Branick on Tuesday.

"Small business manufacturing is what it's all about, bringing business back to the U.S.," Johns said.

She said Branick, a machinery manufacturer that was founded 96 years ago, has kept refining itself over the years to remain a state-of-the-art manufacturing concern.

"They're staying competitive, and they're creating jobs here in Fargo," Johns said. The company's estimated 50 workers run shifts around the clock. "It's just a great story of American manufacturing."

She said she likes to travel across the country to see how SBA's services make a difference for businesses.

Branick officials showed Johns a laser-cutting machine the company purchased with the help of an SBA-backed loan.



Dave Olson / The Forum

Marie Johns, right, deputy administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration, chats Tuesday with Tom Bolgrean, vice president of operations for Branick Industries in Fargo. Johns toured the company's manufacturing plant, which recently put into operation laser-cutting equipment made possible by an SBA-backed loan.

Because of the machine, which can cut steel up to an inch thick and is valued at between \$650,000 and \$700,000, Branick can do some tasks it previously farmed out to other companies, said Duane Brasch, chairman of Branick.

"The efficiency of it (the machine) is such we're more competitive with our products," Brasch said, adding that an example of that was a recent order from Costco for 20 products Costco previously purchased from companies

in China.

The loan Branick received for the laser machine was made possible with support from the Dakota Certified Development Corp., as well as Alerus Financial, which provided the loan.

Sarah Larson, vice president of Dakota Certified Development, said the private not-for-profit helps businesses find the best loan packages available.

The agency secures about 40 SBA loans a year for businesses like Branick,

said Larson, who joined Johns on Tuesday's tour of Branick.

The group also included Matt Varilek, who was recently appointed regional administrator for SBA Region VIII, which encompasses Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Varilek said the SBA helps entrepreneurs transform good ideas into successful businesses and new jobs.

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