# The Boston Globe

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## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL DEPARTMENT 42 CROSS STREET, FINANCE OFFICE SOMERVILLE, MA 02145

The School Committee of the City of Somerville in sealed Proposals for a Website Developer Consultant to sign and deliver a new website which will serve as a "of information about early childhood for Somerville Falles for the Somerville (MA) Public Schools for the pe April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015.

All Proposals shall be filed no later than 3:00 p.m. on Mon day, March 24, 2014 at the Office of the Finance Director Somerville School Department, 42 cross Street, Somerville MA 02145. There will be a Proposal review including pos-sible interview with the finalists.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS.

Page 1/1

Feb 27, 2014

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BURKEM



Packages moved along a FedEx conveyor belt in Los Angeles International Airport. Eight of the Fed's 12 regions reported slightly improved activity in January and early February

### Weather held back economy

Fed report finds winter storms slowed growth

> By Martin Crutsinger WASHINGTON - A Federal

Reserve survey shows severe weather held back economic growth in much of the nation from January through early February, Even so, conditions strengthened in most US re-gions, thanks to slight gains in areas such as employment and commercial real estate.

Eight of the Fed's 12 regions reported improved activity, according to the Beige Book survey released Wednesday. The improvement was depicted as "modest to moderate."

New York and Philadelphia. two regions hard hit by winter storms and freezing cold, re-ported a drop in activity attrib-uted to the weather. Retail sales, including auto purchases, were depressed. So was manu-facturing. Factories reported power outages and delayed de-

liveries of supplies.

The Beige Book is based on anecdotal reports from businesses and will be considered. with other data when the Fed meets March 18-19. The summary and the indi-

vidual reports from each of the 12 regions were sprinkled with references to the barsh weather much of the country has endured this winter.
In New England, the report

found little hiring and modest wage increases, although busi-nesses generally had cautiously positive outlook. The report in-cluded information from the last weeks of 2013.

In Massechusetts, home and condominium sales were flat in December compared with a year ago, while sales declined in New Hampshire and Rhode Is-land and increased in Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont, the Fed reported.

Regional retail businesses

reported that sales at the end of 2013 ranged from slight de-cline to increases of up to 10 percent, compared with the previous year. Several mer-chants said they expected to see modest increases in apparel prices as a result of the rising cost of raw materials and over-

Boston area hotels reported record occupancy rates and rev-enues for 2013 and revenues are expected to continue to grow. While severe winter weather helped hotels' bottom lines, restaurants, museums, and other venues lost revenue due to harsh winter conditions.

Several manufacturers also reported being affected by weather, losing days of produc-tion in February. Of 13 manufacturers, nine reported higher sales than a year ago. Three firms in the semiconductor industry reported strong sales, "confirming the end of that sec-tor's slowdown," the report said. Most firms reported in-creased capital spending in 2013 and expect increases again in 2014.

New England software and information technology providers reported stronger-than-expected business through February. Wages were steady and firms were awarding merit pay hikes in the 2.5 to 3.5 percent

Staffing firms said the areas of greatest demand for workers include software, engineering, specialty manufacturing, and health care.

The national report also indicated that severe weather had hurt factory production and manufacturing sales in Cleve-land, Richmond, Atlanta, Chi-

cago, St. Louis, and Dallas.
Weather had caused power
outages, disrupted supply chains, and curtailed factory production schedules.
Travel and tourism were re-

rted to be strong across most of the districts, with the heavy snowfall benefiting ski resorts in some parts of the country.

When the Fed meets later this month, it will be the first meeting under the new chair, Janet Yellen.

Most analysts expect the Fed will continue paring the bond purchases it has been making to try to keep long-term loan rates low to support the economy. In an appearance last week to deliver the Fed's twice-a-year economic report to Congram, Yellen said recent data have pointed to some weaker-thanrpected gains in consumer spending and job growth.

She said the Fed will be

watching to see whether the slowdown proves to be only a weather. Yellen said she was open to adjusting the pace of the bond-buying reductions if the economy should weaken.

A key piece of data likely to

influence the March meeting will be the release Friday of the jobless report for February.

Magan Woolhouse of the Globe stuff contributed to this report.

# Bank of England expands inquiry into currency case

LONDON - The Bank of England mid on Wednesday it had suspended an employee as it escalated a review into whether bank officials had known about or condoned potential manipulation of the curicy markets.

The British central bank also released minutes of meetings between officials and industry representatives that indicated there were concerns about pos-sible manipulation of rates as early as 2006.

early as 2006.

As regulators in Britsin, the
United States, and other countries investigate whether traders at the world's largest banks colluded to manipulate foreign exchange rates, questions are being raised about the Bank of Begland's role as a watchdog. Two years ago, the Bank of Eng-land and other regulators were criticized by British awmakers for failing to recognize the ma-nipulation of the London inter-bank offer rate, or Libor, and taking steps to stop it.
"Alarm bells should be ring-

ing when a central bank sus-pends staff in connection with market rigging," said Simon Morris, a partner at the London law firm CMS Cameron McKenna. "This is serious because the whole basis of regulation is be sed on trust and interrity." The bank said its oversight

committee had begun an inves-tigation to determine whether bank officials were involved in or knew about attempted or ac-tual manipulation of the currency markets or any other improper behavior in the foreign exchange markets. The law firm Travers Smith

has been appointed legal coun-sel to the committee and will prepare a report on the investigation. The report "will be pub-lished in due course," the cen-tral bank said.

"The Bank of England does

not condone any form of mar-ket manipulation in any context whatsoever," the bank said in a

reiterated its guidance to staff regarding management of re-cords and escalation of important information."

The central bank said an extensive internal review of docu-ments, e-mails, and other records that began in October had found no evidence that Bank of England employees col-hided to manipulate the currency market or share confidential client information.

The suspended employee was not identified, and the Bank of England declined to

**IBbank** 

employee's role.

faced questions in recent months about communications between its staff members and traders who were part of an in-dustry subcommittee that discu med is use affecting the currency markets. In the minutes of a July 2006 meeting released on Wednesday, "It was noted that there was evidence of attempts to move the market around popular [rate] fixing times by players that had no particular interest in that fix?

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### 'E-sports' gaining a solid fan base

month some 45 million fans log on to watch and hang out in game-centric chat rooms.

Twitch transmitters with big audiences are entitled to a cut of advertising revenues. With 1.2 million views of his live mes, Serge early qualifies. He also gets a cut of the ad-

vertising dollars his videos gen-erate for YouTube. Serge won't say how much he earns, but it pays for his high-end computer gear, his apartment not fa from Boston's Prudential Cen ter, and nights out with his girl-

friend.
"It costed out as a hobbur"



Videos of his gaming exploits have had 97 million views on YouTube and provided Steve Sarge with a steady income.

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