

March 28, 2011

Higher prices at the pump have consumers shopping less, survey says

Yahoo!/Reuters (3/21)

About three-quarters of U.S. consumers surveyed by America's Research Group said they're cutting back on shopping as gas prices rise, and the majority of them said they don't expect to return to more generous spending until next year at the earliest.

"What we are going to see happen is that consumers will try and cut back on all discretionary purchases, until finally they are going to have to make a decision at some point what do I really have to give up?" said ARG President Britt Beemer.

Commercial property prices in U.S. slip for second month

Bloomberg (3/22)

Commercial property prices in the U.S. dropped 1.2% in January, marking the second straight month of decreases, according to Moody's REAL Commercial Property Price Index. Despite the drop, prices remain 4.2% higher than August's eight-year low.

"The underlying demand for commercial real estate has begun its turnaround, but you're not going to see much price appreciation until the slack in supply is taken up," said economist Christopher Cornell.

Travel editors discuss trends and a shift in consumer demands

Travel Weekly (3/27)

Travel editors from several magazines and newspapers gathered in New York for the Travel Weekly Consumer Travel Editors Roundtable. They discussed topics related to travel trends, including how the economic downturn might have permanently changed consumer expectations. For example, consumers have become increasingly frustrated by hotels that charge for Wi-Fi, the editors said.

STR: US hotel performance week ending 26 Feb. 2011

Hospitality.net (3/7)

The U.S. hotel industry reported increases in all three key performance metrics during the week of 20-26 February 2011, according to data from STR. In year-over-year comparisons, occupancy increased 8.4 percent to 59.9 percent, average daily rate was up 3.4 percent to US\$99.38, and revenue per available room finished the week up 12.1 percent to US\$59.54.

Preparation is key to getting hotel financing, insider says

HotelNewsNow.com (3/22)

Joe Epstein, founder and president at the hotel financing firm First

American Realty Associates, says borrowers can get good deals on hotels as long as they are prepared.

"Absolutely do not try to get a loan today unless every 'i' is dotted and every 't' is crossed. Otherwise you're wasting your time. You may be in the right place, but you're going to get kicked out because you're just not prepared," Epstein said.

The Case for Boardroom Bullies

Business Insider (3/24)

Should workplace bullying be legal? Business Insider's Suzanne Lucas thinks so. It's not that Lucas thinks bullying is right, it's just that she believes the [anti-bullying legislation](#) currently being considered in New York and Maryland would be.

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