The global IPO market is off to its best start on record, according to Reuters. There have been 44 deals announced with a valuation of $1 billion or more, up from 33 at this point a year ago, according to the Valuation and Risk Strategies research group at Standard & Poor’s. Transactions ($1 billion or more) of late are only taking an average of 115 days to close, which is at the low end of the 114 to 150 day range since 2006, according to S&P’s Capital IQ.

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A recent report from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that U.S. carbon dioxide emissions declined by 6% in 2009, and are now 8% below 2000 levels, according to Forbes. Global emissions, however, have risen more than 25% since 2000. While the data has yet to be released, it is expected to show that China now accounts for approximately 26% of global emissions, vs. around 15% for the U.S. China’s share may have surpassed that of the entire Western Hemisphere in 2010. Its emissions have been rising by nearly 10% per year.

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