The average retail price of electricity in the U.S. was 10.35¢ per kilowatt hour in February 2014, up from 9.79¢ in February 2013, according to the Energy Information Administration. Industry projections indicate that by 2020, power from rooftop solar PV could become cheaper than power from the grid in most parts of the U.S., according to CleanTechnica. It notes that by the end of the decade, one in four Americans in the largest metropolitan areas could go solar at better than grid prices. Solar costs are projected to decrease at a 7% pace per year through 2027.

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

PricewaterhouseCoopers reported that the U.S. oil and gas industry announced more mergers and acquisitions ($50 million and up) in Q1’14 than in any first quarter in more than a decade, according to USA TODAY. Deal volume totaled $19.8 billion (43 deals). M&A activity in this sector was also very strong in Q4’13. Deal volume totaled $43 billion (56 deals). In Q1’14, nearly one-third (31%) of all deals announced involved the process of extracting oil and natural gas from shale rock via hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

Thursday, May 1, 2014

The logistics industry in the U.S. is approximately $1.3 trillion in size, employs roughly six million people and is getting bigger every year, according to Fortune. Despite its vast reach, this industry operates mostly behind the scenes and has difficulty recruiting candidates. A report from the Materials Handling Industry noted that the logistics industry will be looking to fill around 1.4 million jobs by 2018. The industry needs new talent in analytics, robotics, engineering, managers, marketers, data analysts and human resources.

Friday, May 2, 2014

In April, the dividend-payers (421) in the S&P 500 (equal weight) posted a total return of 0.91%, vs. -2.36% for the non-payers (79), according to Standard & Poor’s. Year-to-date, the payers were up 3.48%, vs. a gain of 2.82% for the non-payers. For the 12-month period ending April 2014, payers were up 27.57%, vs. a gain of 31.47% for the non-payers. The number of total return of 0.91%, vs. -2.36% for the non-payers. The number of companies decreased their dividend, down from four a year ago. Year-to-date, the dividend-payers (421) in the S&P 500 (equal weight) posted a total return of 0.91%, vs. -2.36% for the non-payers.

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