

# Numbers, Bloody Numbers

Sixteen hundred at Maytag, eight thousand at Delta Airlines, ten thousand at Nortel Industries and thousands more at large and small companies on both sides of the U.S – Canadian border. The painful parade of layoff announcements continues.

The rising tide of pink slips showing up in pay envelopes across North America should be the most important issue facing legislators from Ottawa to Washington D.C.

Mass layoffs at manufacturing companies, aerospace, trucking, electronics and high tech firms are bringing many large cities to their financial knees and pushing many small towns to the brink of economic oblivion.

The tax revenues that once flowed from a healthy economy are being replaced by budget deficits and the cruel choices that come with them. Civic leaders must choose between police protection and safe drinking water; between a much-needed hospital and equally needed housing for senior citizens.

The two most advanced countries in North America deserve better choices.

Without a change to trade policies that encourage the transfer of jobs and facilities to developing countries, the dilemma is likely to continue. Even Mexico, once the destination of many U.S. and Canadian firms, is now being bypassed for even cheaper wages in China, Indonesia and Malaysia.

North America's workers owe it to their families, their communities and their fellow workers to mobilize and demand action to protect the jobs that remain. If we do not, the painful numbers will only get larger and worse.

**Have you heard?**

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