Economists agree bad times are ahead, but how bad?

By RICHARD HUGHES
UPI Business Writer

Samuelson said, "we are in a recession. The inflation we are in is not over; not near being over. It is serious." He predicted the economy will continue to decline.

Shapiro said the recession — the sixth since the end of World War II — would last longer and be more severe than the others because the oil embargo resulted in excessive inventories, postponing a business

next year. "Don't hold your breath waiting for the consumer price index to go down," he said. "If the situation gets worse than it has been, the nation, out of desperation, will probably turn to another bout of wage and price controls."

Many economists believe wage and price controls contributed to the current rapid inflationary spiral by prompting large catch-up increases in prices and wages when they were lifted.

Milton Friedman, University of Chicago economist, thinks the inflation rate could be down to 6 per cent by sometime in 1975. Standard & Poor's, the financial news and rating service, agrees with this figure.

But not even Simon and Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, are that optimistic. They look for a decline to about 7 to 8 per cent. And the conference board, a private, non-profit business research group, believes consumer prices will continue to rise at the rate of 9.9 per cent.

Agriculture department economists say food prices should continue to rise at the rate of about 15 per cent early in the year but,

Drop in General Electric's Operating Margin Leads Some Analysts to Lower '75 Estimates

By CHARLES J. ELIA

When General Electric warned early this month that first quarter profit would be "significantly lower," some followers of the company weren't very surprised.

Alan Benasuli of Drexel Burnham & Co. The analyst has lowered his 1975 estimate for GE to the $2.80 to $2.95 a share range from $3.10 a share earlier. Last year, GE earned $2.94 a share.

"We're neutral on the stock," he says. "It's a great company but it's selling at

Economists, indu[...] foresee slow grow[...]

Car Sales [...]ped by 29% [...]arly April

[...]tributes 34% Decline [...] Prior Year Partly [...] Sales-Contest Timing

Economy reverts to 'crisis syndrome'

By JOHN CUNNIFF
AP Business Analyst

NEW YORK (AP) — The disaster syndrome, in which a lot of people were convinced that the disintegration of economic society lay ahead has been replaced in recent weeks by the crisis syndrome.

There is a vast difference. Economic society can live with

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL,
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Housing Starts, Building Permits Fell Last Month

Rates Were Second-Lowest Ever, but the Long Slump Could Be Bottoming Out

Economic comeback this year ruled out by Penn professor

The Philadelphia area economy isn't going to get better nearly as quickly as some economists have predicted, according to University of Pennsylvania professor Norman J. Glickman.

Results of a computer study show "rapid deterioration in the Delaware Valley economic picture in the last two months," says Glickman, assistant p[...] regional pla[...]

Dr. Glick[...] closely to [...] Wharton Ec[...]

Of his [...] for the 8-[...] Glickman sa[...]

his figures, which show it declining only to 8.46% next year, 7.7% in 1977 and 6.25% in 1978.

The Gross Regional Output (GPO) could drop by slightly over 3% this year, and won't start up again till 1976, at a rate of 2.69%. The GPO is the total value of goods and services in the area.

"Beyond 1976, we see a reason-

Industry Output Fell 1% in March, 6th Drop in Row

But 24% Jump in Assembly Of Autos Helped Offset Decline in Other Areas

of 1973 totaled $41.[...] crease of 17.3% fr[...] during the same per[...] orders at the $5.3 [...] August were up 21.3[...] month last year, w[...] ders, at the $6.7 bil[...] up 32.8%.

Energy shorta[...] to U.S. marke[...]

RCA Corp. Net Plummeted 46% In First Quarter

Skid, Continuing '74 Tre[...] Laid to Consumer Goo[...] Weakness During Slu[...]

April fails to spark upturn in car sales

DETROIT (AP) — Car sales in early April failed to signal the spring upturn which auto executives hoped would put the industry back on its feet.

And Chrysler Corp. revealed it had an operating loss of $170 million in the last quarter of

sales fell 14 per cent.

In other auto developments yesterday:

— The federal government reported that the nation's industrial output last month registered its smallest drop since October, largely due to an

agreement with unions to close most of its auto plants for four days next month to help reduce a large backlog of unsold cars.

— British Leyland Motor Corp. said it has asked the government for a new loan to tide it over until publication of a

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