



Adam Crozier, head of ITV, which says STV owes it £37million



Iconoclastic beer-maker BrewDog had record sales



Sausage casings company Devro in £12m investment

THE MONTH IN FIGURES



▼ Unemployment rate 7.9%. Down 0.3% quarter on quarter to December (Figures February)



▲ Manufacturing output up 3.6% year on year to December (Figures Feb)



▼ 2.8 per cent year on year to February (Halifax House Price Index)



▼ 7 points 5990.30 (Feb 7-Mar 7)



▲ 0.01 1.63 (Feb 7-Mar 7)



▲ 0.03 0.86 (Feb 6 -Mar 6)

TV cash concern but Devro sizzles

LAW FIRM EXPANDS CITY OFFICE AMID RIVAL UPHEAVAL

Mar 7 One of Scotland's biggest law firms is ramping up its presence in Glasgow amid an upheaval in the profession that could see the ranks of the country's legal partnerships decimated. Shepherd and Wedderburn has signed a lease on a new office that gives it 25% more space in a city where its chief executive, Patrick Andrews, believes the firm can steal a march on rivals.

ITV SAYS STV ADMITS £37M LIABILITY CLAIM

Mar 3 ITV said that fellow Channel 3 broadcaster STV has admitted it owes £37 million after dropping several of the London-based network's leading shows such as The Bill and Doc Martin. Both sides still insisted they want to reach a settlement ahead of a court date scheduled for May. If STV ends up handing over any cash, it is likely to be a portion of this sum as the company has several of its own claims against ITV. STV said it faces a maximum £21.1m bill if it loses its claims against ITV.

TEXTILE GROUP DAWSON HIT BY PENSION COSTS

Mar 2 Dawson International, the shrunken textile group, is paying £1.5m a year to maintain its final

salary pension scheme yet only £400,000 of that is being used to repair the £12m deficit for the benefit of scheme members. Almost £600,000 is being paid in a levy to the Pension Protection Fund, the insurance safety net where the riskiest firms pay the most, and £500,000 to actuaries and other professional advisers.

ARRAN BREWERY IN TALKS TO FUND £1.6M EXPANSION

Feb 24 Arran Brewery, the award-winning Scottish beer-maker bought out of administration almost three years ago, is in advanced negotiations with investors to fund a £1.6m expansion that will see its speciality island brew become available for the first time across the UK, The Herald can reveal. The company, which is based at Cladach, near Brodick, said the new cash will be partly used for opening a new bottling plant in Scotland to help it ramp up volumes from one million to five million bottles a year over the next three years.

NORTH SEA INVESTMENT PREDICTED TO HIT £8BN

Feb 23 Oil and gas firms will increase investment in the North Sea by one-third this year to cash in on surging crude prices in a development that could create up

to 15,000 jobs across the industry, according to a trade body. Oil & Gas UK has predicted that firms will invest £8bn in new projects in the waters off the UK this year, up 60% on what they spent in 2009.

DEVRO INVESTMENT TO BOOST FOOD INDUSTRY

Feb 21 Devro Scotland, the UK subsidiary of the world's leading manufacturer of collagen products for the food industry, announced a £12m investment in its Bellshill factory, to increase the plant's manufacturing capabilities and take advantage of the growth being seen by Devro in its global collagen casings market.

MACKIE'S TARGETS AMERICAN MARKET

Feb 19 Mackie's is launching a push into the crisp market in the US as the ice-cream-maker aims to bounce back from a 62% fall in profits which is revealed in its latest accounts. The family-owned firm has recruited agents to sell Mackie's crisps in the US where it believes there is great potential for the brand, which has been thwarted so far by American regulations.

HSBC TO EXPAND ITS SCOTTISH OPERATION

Feb 18 HSBC's chief executive in Scotland John Rendall has revealed

ambitious expansion plans for the bank north of the Border, declaring that he intends to recruit at least 100 staff this year. The move comes as the bank continues its rapid growth and pushes ahead with its dual strategy of investment and poaching big business customers from high-street competitors.

CAMERON WRITES TO SINGH

Feb 17 David Cameron appears to have thrown his weight behind Cairn Energy's attempts to get Indian government approval for a controversial deal to sell the bulk of its business in the country. The Prime Minister has written to his opposite number in India, Dr Manmohan Singh, concerning the deal to sell 40% to 51% of Cairn India to Vedanta Resources for up to \$8.5 billion (£5.3bn), which has hit an official logjam. Edinburgh-based Cairn Energy has spent months seeking official sanction for the agreement with Vedanta, which is due to lapse on April 15. The pressure on the company intensified when oil minister S Jaipal Reddy said the deal should be referred to the Indian cabinet.

BREWDOG'S RECORD SALES AS LARGE BREWERIES SHUNNED

Feb 16 Fledgling Fraserburgh beer company BrewDog revealed record sales on the back of the

increasingly unquenchable global thirst for artisan beers, and outlined plans for four new BrewDog bars. The company, known for its quirky marketing and often unusual craft beer, said UK sales had surged by 230% last year and said its products are now available in Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons and Waitrose. This is in the face of a market that was 3.9% down during 2010, according to the British Beer & Pub Association, as pubs closed during the recession. The producer of Punk IPA, the flagship brand which accounts for just over 50% of sales, saw total sales rocket to £3.9 million, or the equivalent of more than seven million bottles.

WOLFSON MICROELECTRONICS NARROWS FULL-YEAR LOSSES

Feb 15 Wolfson Microelectronics, the maker of chips for many of the world's must-have electronic gadgets, sharply narrowed its 2010 losses, signalling that the Scottish company's drive into the fast-growing smartphone, gaming and e-book sectors has set the firm on the road to recovery. Mike Hickey, the Edinburgh-based company's chief executive, also told The Herald he was "comfortable" with expectations that Wolfson would break back into a full-year profit by the end of 2011.