

## Figuring it out

by Carlotta Magnanini

### REPORTERS IN THE FIRING LINE

**132:** the number of war journalists and reporters killed “in the field” in 2012.

**10:** the number of journalists killed in 2011. **110:** the number of journalists killed in 2009, **32** of whom in the Maguindanao massacre, in the Philippines.

Last year, **39** journalists and informants were killed in Syria alone. **12** in Somalia; **8** in Pakistan; **7** in Mexico; **5** in Brazil; **3** both in Colombia and the Honduras. (SOURCE: FTP)

### A CLEAN PARTNERSHIP

**\$1.3 million:** that’s the cost of unused soap bars in Hilton hotels worldwide. The Global Soap Project has announced a partnership with the hotel chain, which will donate the above amount to recycle and ship bars of unused soap from its international hotels to the developing world.

(SOURCE: GLOBAL SOAP PROJECT)

### PRIME ARTICLES

**34,155:** the number of scientific papers published in 2012 by Iranian academics. This figure means the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks first among Middle Eastern countries as the most prolific producers of scientific works and **17<sup>th</sup>** worldwide.

Russia only tops Iran by **150** articles while Taiwan has produced approximately **600** more. These countries are ranked **16<sup>th</sup>** and **15<sup>th</sup>** in the world. Turkey is in **19<sup>th</sup>** place.

(SOURCE: SCOPUS)

### ARABS IN THE USA

**60 million:** the number of homes Al Jazeera will reach thanks to its acquisition of Current TV. The deal is estimated at **\$400 million**, **\$100 million** of which goes directly to Al Gore, one of the founders of the TV network started in 2005.

(SOURCE: FORBES)

### CENSUS

**402,000:** the number of iPhones sold every day throughout the world; more than the number of children born (**300,000**).

(SOURCE: CNET)

### ONLINE FUNDRAISING

The future looks rosy for crowdfunding, the internet fundraising phenomenon. Following the success of websites such as Kickstarter and Indiegogo, the amount of money raised by word of mouth on the web in 2012 rose 91% over 2011, to an estimated **\$2.8 billion**.

Funds raised and the percentage increases as of 2009:

**2009:** \$530 million  
**2010:** \$854 million (+60%)  
**2011:** \$1.47 billion (+72%)  
**2012:** \$2.8 billion (+91%)

There are currently **530** crowdfunding platforms (+60% compared to 2011).

(SOURCE: CROWDSOURCING.ORG)

### HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS

Less spending for everyone. In Italy, research shows a potential rise in intermediate and ordinary VAT (from 10% to 12% and from 21% to 22%) rates would lead households to reduce their spending by **0.6%** on foodstuffs and **0.9%** for non-foodstuffs. This would translate into spending euro **250** less per year per household, of which euro **29** would be saved on foodstuffs and euro **220** on non-foodstuffs. Forecasts estimate this would result in a **0.5%** drop in GDP and the loss of **100,000** jobs.

(SOURCE: REF.RICERCH)

### LOAD OF RUBBISH

**2,570 million tonnes:** the amount of waste Europe’s **27** countries produce in just one year, **94.5 million** (or 3.7%) of which is hazardous waste. This means each citizen generates an annual average of **5.1 tonnes** of rubbish and **118 kg** of hazardous waste.

(SOURCE: EUROSTAT)

### ANTI-STRESS

**The least stressful job of 2013?** In the US, at least: **university professor**. A study by Career Cast produced a list of professions with fewer deadlines and pressures in the course of their activities, with some being more lucrative than others...

(average yearly salary)

**University professor** \$62,000  
**Seamstress/Tailor** \$26,000  
**Jeweller** \$35,000  
**Medical Laboratory Technician** \$47,000  
**Audiologist** \$67,000  
**Dietician** \$53,000  
**Hairstylist** \$23,000  
**Librarian** \$55,000  
**Drill press operator** \$32,000

(SOURCE: CAREERCAST.COM)

### WORKPLACE DISTRACTIONS

**3:** the number of minutes between one interruption and the next that distract office workers from their jobs. A study revealed that the “culprits” are social networks and new technologies that are supposed to “make life easier”.

**23:** the number of minutes needed to regain lost concentration, according to researchers at the University of California, Irvine.

(SOURCE: WSJ)

### THE COST OF CATASTROPHE

*billions of dollars:*

Hurricane Katrina (2005) \$48.2  
 Hurricane Andrew (1992) \$25.3  
 9/11 (2001) \$24.3  
 Earthquake in Northridge, USA (1992) \$19.3  
 Hurricane Ike (2008) \$13.3  
 Hurricane Wilma (2005) \$12.1  
 Hurricane Charley (2004) \$9.1  
 Hurricane Hugo (1989) \$7.8  
 Hurricane Ivan (2004) \$7.1  
 Hurricane Rita (2005) \$6.6

(SOURCE: KIPLINGER.COM)



U.S. COAST GUARD/KOLANSE/ROBOTE/CONTRASTO