

The demise of Detroit

The decline of the city of Detroit is a clear example of the rapid effects of deindustrialisation

In the 1950's it was the capital of the American automobile industry, providing employment to many of its 1.8 million citizens. Today it is a city of just over 700,000 suffering from severe urban decay, high rates of poverty and with a local government forced to file for bankruptcy.

Large areas of the former motor metropolis lie derelict, with many buildings from the city's glorious past now crumbling before the eyes of its citizens.

The bankrupt city government has debts of 19 billion dollars and has gone from the American city with the highest GDP per capita in 1960 to having some of the highest crime rates and levels of poverty. Police cutbacks and large numbers of former middle-class residents moving to the suburbs and beyond have been major contributing factors.

The situation the city finds itself in today did not happen overnight. The decline in the motor industry is considered the main reason for the city's demise. The three major manufacturers, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler began to move their operations to other locations across the United States in an attempt to avoid the power of the city's unions and the strict labour laws.

The need for fewer numbers of



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workers in the factories due to the modernisation of technology was also a major contributor. Fewer jobs forced residents to move elsewhere and subsequently fewer taxes were paid to the badly managed city government. Cutbacks were introduced, which further enticed residents to move away.

Statistics for the city demonstrate

a bleak situation. Between 2000 and 2012, Detroit lost 250,000 residents. Unemployment stands at 16 percent and it has the highest violent crime rate in the United States. Almost 80,000 structures and 66,000 lots are left abandoned. Basic city services have been affected with around 40 percent of street lights not working. Of the 317 parks that the city once

managed only 107 remain. An uncertain future lies ahead for Detroiters.

Websites depicting the urban decay in Detroit are the best way of seeing the fall of the city. Detroit Urbex is one example. The group behind the project say they created it "to raise awareness of the social and economic challenges the city of Detroit faces through photography."

Meet the 'Olinguito' — the newest mammal discovery

An animal, said to resemble a cross between a house cat and a teddy bear, is the newest mammal and first carnivore to be discovered in the Americas in 35 years — according to experts

The 'Olinguito' is the smallest member of the raccoon family and is native to high altitude forests in Colombia and Ecuador.

"We haven't been able to find anyone that knows about this animal. We haven't been able to find native names for it, that's why we used the term 'Olinguito,'" said zoologist Kristofer Helgen, from the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC.

"Most of the people we've been able to discuss this with... don't necessarily even distinguish Kinkajous, Olingos and Olinguitos and sometimes not even from some of the primates that are out there," he continued.

It is not easy spotting one of the long-tailed, furry animals. Olinguitos only come out at night — and spend most of their time in the forest canopy.



Smartphones have outsold more basic handsets worldwide

Smartphones outsell basic feature handsets

Smartphone sales exceeded feature phone sales for the first time in the April-to-June period, according to research firm Gartner

Worldwide mobile phone sales totalled 435 million units. Smartphone sales accounted for 225 million units, up 46.5 percent from the previous year. Feature phones totalled 210 million units, down 21 percent.

The highest smartphone growth rates came from Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

A smartphone is commonly defined as a device that has built-in applications and can connect to the internet. In contrast, feature phones tend to perform fewer functions and are priced more cheaply.

"Smartphones accounted for 51.8 percent of mobile phone sales in the second quarter of 2013, resulting in smartphone sales surpassing feature phone sales for the first time," said Anshul Gupta, principal research analyst at Gartner. However, a com-

peting firm, IDC, said this milestone had already been reached in the first three months of 2013.

However, some analysts said that the price of entry-level smartphones has come down sharply over the past few months, resulting in a major sales boost.

"We have a lot of Asian manufacturers such as Samsung, Huawei, ZTE and LG who are coming put with much more affordable smartphone models," said Andrew Milroy of consulting firm Frost & Sullivan. "That has helped them tap into a vast consumer base, especially in emerging markets."

Mr. Milroy added that some mobile phone carriers had also been offering pre-paid data plans, allowing consumers in these markets to limit their bills while using features such as email and mobile applications, which had also helped attract new customers.

Gartner said Samsung continued to be the top seller of smartphones globally.

Eurozone comes out of prolonged recession

The Eurozone has emerged from recession after a record 18 months of economic contraction

The bloc's GDP grew by 0.3 percent in the second quarter of 2013, slightly ahead of forecasts, the Eurostat Agency said.

The growth was widely expected after the German economy rose 0.7 percent between April and June. However, the overall figure masks the mixed economic fortunes among the countries that make up the 17-country Eurozone area.

Germany and France both posted stronger-than-expected growth, expanding 0.7 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

Portugal, among the smallest and the weakest Eurozone economies, showed the fastest growth, at 1.1 percent. The country was one of three that had to take a multi-billion-euro bailout.

But Spain, which had to seek outside support for its struggling banking sector, saw its economic output fall by 0.1 percent on the quarter.

Payment with the use of photos

Paying for goods and services just using a smartphone app is becoming a reality

Paypal is trialling a new facial recognition system in the UK which could mean people can leave their credit and debit cards at home. Instead, they can download a free app to access a Paypal account.



Handling area at production site

Italy and the Netherlands both saw output drop by 0.2 percent.

European Commission Vice-President Olli Rehn said the figures suggested the European economy

was gradually gaining momentum, but added there was no room for complacency.

However, there are still substantial obstacles to overcome.

Talking about facial recognition, Chatham House Security Research Associate, David Clemente explained, "It's really like a thumb print or a finger print. It doesn't change over time. So if they have your picture now, they could match that with the real you in five years' time using the same picture. Bank details may

change, but our thumb prints and facial geometry don't change."

It isn't the only new system on trial. In Denmark, festival goers have already tried out a payment system using an electronic bracelet. Paying by card takes around 7 seconds, but using the bracelet takes around 1 second.