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Crisis Brings Real Change by Lisa Anderson, CSCP, member of the [ACA Group](#)

The current recession has thrust many companies and individuals into crisis. At a minimum, plans have been put on hold and in many cases, it has been the worst crisis experienced since the Great Depression. So, what can we do productively to deal with crisis? To read the rest of my thought provoking article, where you will learn about 3 proactive approaches to transform crisis into real change – things that can REALLY make a difference, [click here!](#)

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Can you afford to do Physical Inventories? By Kathy Pennise, member of the [ACA Group](#)

Having worked in manufacturing for the last 28 years- I can tell you that doing a physical inventory at most companies puts the company into a crisis mode. Some of these companies have now adopted a cycle count program and are enjoying the benefits of not being in a crisis when it comes to inventory accuracy. To get insight on the costs of doing a physical along with some key steps in successfully eliminating a physical inventory from your company, read the full article [here](#).

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Radical Inventory Reduction By Doug Howardell, CPIM, PMP, member of the [ACA Group](#)

Companies, like all organisms, only change in response to fear or pain. We can use the current climate of fear and pain to make real change, even radical change. Companies are looking for any way they can to keep costs down and reduce the need for working capital. To bring real change, we need to do something radical. We need a way to reduce inventory by 20, 30 or 40%! To read about the 4 steps we've identified to radically reduce inventory and the full article, click [here](#).

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Surviving in a Challenging Economy By Carlos Conejo, CSSBB, member of the [ACA Group](#)

In today's global marketplace, ideas and technologies are constantly evolving. To be successful, businesses need to adopt growth, innovation and leadership as the cornerstones of their strategies. Read how winning attitudes have arisen out of difficult times - some real examples of companies who changed courses during recessions, by clicking [here](#).

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Getting Lean to Maximize Factory Resources-Part 2-Make to Order By Andy Pattantus, member of the [ACA Group](#)

In our last newsletter, we learned how reducing batch sizes saved half a million dollars. This month, Andy explains how by making another **single** change to your production environment, changing from "Make to Stock" to "Make to Order" for finished goods, creates huge savings in labor and Finished Goods inventory. Read Andy's full article [here](#) to see the incredible savings made while still maintaining high customer service level.

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A Case for Insourcing By Jim Strong, CPIM, CSCP, member of the [ACA Group](#)

Jim builds a case for re-considering where products are manufactured during recessionary times. Often, the make vs. buy decision is one solely based on costs. But are all the real costs being considered? Just because it used to be expensive to build product in one's home country, new techniques have allowed us to reduce our costs by eliminating waste. Read more about making this most important decision – to buy abroad or make product at home – by clicking [here](#).

Question for our readers: Have Your Changes Hit the Bottom Line Yet?

We know that if you are still in business, your company has probably made some changes to ensure your survival during this recession. We want to find out from our readers if those changes have provided results to the bottom line yet.

Please send us a short paragraph on what you have done and what results you've seen from those activities. To contact us, please send an e-mail to: ek@theacagroup.com. Use the subject of "Bottom Line".

We'll summarize the responses in a future newsletter as a way of sharing your successes with the other readers. You can also send us your feedback on this newsletter to the same e-mail address. Did you find this newsletter useful, interesting, etc.? We appreciate your comments.