



By Michael Neidle, President of Optimal Management, Inc.

# SURVIVE

## THE RECESSION

### How the Current Economic Crisis Might Impact Staffing

Once upon a time the stock market was considered safe, and everyone lived happily ever after. But the market is just a reflection of the economy, which will impact employment and staffing, so we need to understand what is happening here. The market is built on confidence, which is a very frail thing, and there have been financial panics every 20 years or so starting in 1819, some of them severe. We are currently in a two-stage decline – the first caused by the credit crisis due to the subprime housing meltdown and, after brief recovery, the second drop resulting from a fall in corporate profits with 500-1,000 point swings in the Dow commonplace. No one really knows where the bottom is.

---