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July 2017

U.S. Economy Rebounds in the Second Quarter

The U.S. economy rebounded strongly between the months of April and June, government data showed Friday morning, driven by a pickup in spending from the federal government and U.S. consumers.

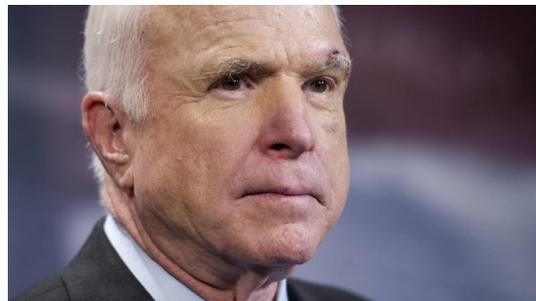
Read more [here](#).



Senate Narrowly Rejects Measure to Partly Repeal Affordable Care Act

The Senate rejected the "skinny repeal" health care legislation early Friday morning, leaving it unclear how Republicans will proceed in their years-long effort to overhaul Obamacare.

Read more [here](#).



White House and GOP Leaders Tout Deal to Cut Taxes, But Offer Few Details

After three months of meetings, the White House and Republican congressional leaders said Thursday they were "confident that a shared vision for tax reform exists." But they released almost no details about what that vision would look like.

Read more [here](#).



Wal-Mart Outlines Policy Roadmap to Boost U.S. Manufacturing

Four years into Wal-Mart's mission to support U.S. manufacturing jobs, the retailer continues efforts to shape discussions at the national level between manufacturers, government and non-government organizations and other stakeholders.

Read more [here](#).



Workforce Challenges Top Concern for Manufacturers

Manufacturers are optimistic about their industry and the U.S. economy but concerned about the ongoing struggle to find qualified workers, according to the 2017 Manufacturing Report from professional services firm Sikich LLP.

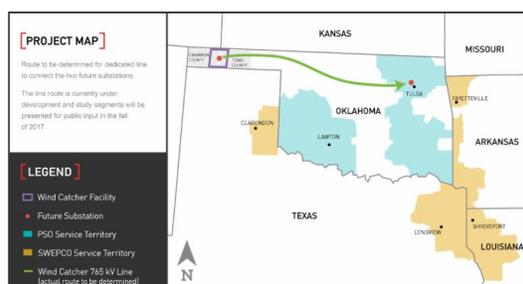
Read more [here](#).



SWEPSCO Announces Plans for Wind Catcher Energy Connection Project

Southwestern Electric Power Co. (SWEPSCO), an Arkansas State Chamber Pinnacle Crown member, recently announced plans for a major clean energy project that will provide 6 million megawatt-hours (mWh) of new wind energy annually to SWEPSCO customers in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

Read more [here](#).



No End in Sight for U.S. Oil Export Boom, Analysts Say

U.S. export volumes of petroleum products are on track to break last year's record of 2.5 million barrels per day in 2017, fueled by growing demand from Latin America as well as Europe and Asia.

Read more [here](#).



Office of Skills Development Offering Workforce Grants for Businesses and Non-Profits

The Office of Skills Development, a division within the Arkansas Department of Career Education, is offering grants that support the development of the Arkansas workforce by strategically investing in training programs that are prioritized by employer needs and economic impact.

For more information, click [here](#).



Survey Shows U.S. Manufacturing “Trending in Right Direction”

Global Trade reports that the recently released NAM Outlook Survey shows that “the manufacturing sector has begun to turn a corner in recent months, trending in the right direction both in the United States and globally.”

Read more [here](#).



ExporTech starting August 23 at Arkansas World Trade Center

ExportTech is a comprehensive three-session – eight-hour per session program designed to accelerate export growth for small and mid-size manufacturers. The program will be held at the Arkansas World Trade Center with the first session starting on August 23.

To register or for more information, click [here](#).



U.S. Consumer Confidence Jumps Back in July

The AP reports that U.S. consumer confidence rose in July, according to analysis by the New York-based Conference Board showing that its consumer confidence index rose to 121.1, rebounding from June’s score of 117.3 and representing “the highest level since July 2001.”

Read more [here](#)



Clarksville Utility, Scenic Hill Solar Partnering on \$10 Million Solar Power Plant

Clarksville Light & Water Company and Little Rock-based Scenic Hill Solar recently signed a 30-year contract to build a \$10 million 6.5 megawatt solar power facility.

Read more [here](#).



Methodist FamilyHealth Breaks Ground on New Little Rock Residential Treatment Center

Arkansas State Chamber member Methodist Family Health recently broke ground on a new residential treatment center at its campus at 2002 S. Fillmore St. in Little Rock. The building will be two stories, encompass 33,625 sq. ft. and is scheduled to open by January 2019.

Read more [here](#).



Pipe-Maker TMK IPSCO Celebrates Re-Start of Manufacturing in Blytheville

Pipe-maker TMK IPSCO recently celebrated the re-start of manufacturing in Blytheville. After a tough two years when oil prices plummeted, the mill started up again on Feb. 27, then added a second shift on May 1. It now employs 160 people.



Read more [here](#).

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