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December 2017

Trump: Tax Reform Bill Will Be “A Great Christmas Gift” For Middle Class

President Trump called the Republican tax reform bill “a great Christmas gift” for the middle class and predicted the U.S. economy will “start to rock” after Congress passes the legislation.

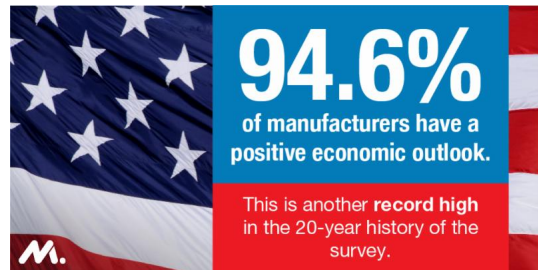
Read more [here](#).



NAM Manufacturers’ Outlook Reaches 96.4 Percent, Highest in Survey’s 20-Year History

The latest NAM Manufacturers’ Outlook Survey reflected continued optimism in the sector, with the headline index rising to unprecedented heights. Indeed, 94.6 percent of respondents said they are positive about their own company’s outlook, the highest in the survey’s 20-year history.

Read more [here](#).



Wal-Mart Pleased with Progress of Company’s U.S. Manufacturing Agenda

As 2017 winds to a close, Wal-Mart continues to promote a 10-year commitment to support its U.S. manufacturing jobs initiative with the company saying it is on target to hit its goal to source \$250 billion in additional goods made in the U.S. by 2023.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Industrial Production Up 0.2 Percent in November

The AP reported the Federal Reserve announced that “U.S. industrial production rose 0.2 percent in November due to a rebound in extracting oil and natural gas after a stoppage due to Hurricane Nate.”

Read more [here](#).



Trump Touts Administration’s Efforts To Roll Back Regulations

The Washington Times reports that according to President Trump, in the first 11 months of 2017, his Administration “canceled or delayed over 1,500 planned regulatory actions, more than any previous president by far.”

Read more [here](#).



NAM’s Timmons Says Tax Reform Legislation Marks “Historic Progress For Manufacturers”

The National Association of Manufacturers released a statement from NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act conference report: “America will be better off than we are today once this tax reform bill becomes law. This legislation represents historic progress for manufacturers and for all Americans.”

Read more [here](#).



Wal-Mart Stores To Change Its Legal Name Effective Feb. 1

Wal-Mart Stores filed a notice recently with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission announcing plans to change its legal name effective Feb. 1, which is the start of the company’s fiscal year. The corporate name will change to Walmart Inc., in a move to reflect how customers want to shop, the retailer said.

Read more [here](#).



Morrilton Packing Co. To Add 34 Jobs in \$2.1 Million Investment

The Arkansas-based parent company of Petit Jean Meats, Morrilton Packing Co., said that it will create 34 new jobs as part of a \$2.1 million investment.

Read more [here](#).



Oil industry Plans To Spend \$100 Billion in U.S. Fields Next Year

Oil companies expect to spend billions more next year on drilling wells and pumping oil across the United States, a financial boost for firms that sell tools and equipment, farm out crews for rigs and fracking fleets and employ thousands across Texas.

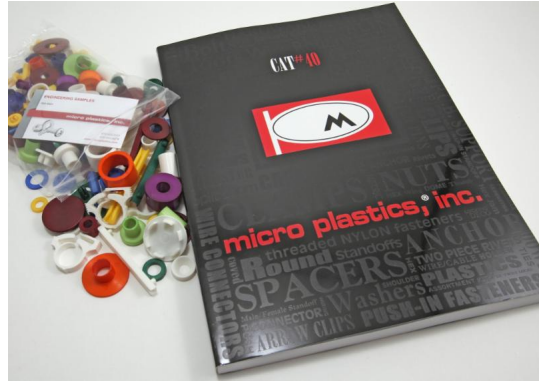
Read more [here](#).



U.K. Parts Manufacturer Acquires Micro Plastics Operation in Flippin

Privately owned Arkansas plastic-maker Micro Plastics Inc, which has an operation in Flippin, southwest of Mountain Home that employs approximately 400 workers, has been acquired by a component-maker based in the United Kingdom.

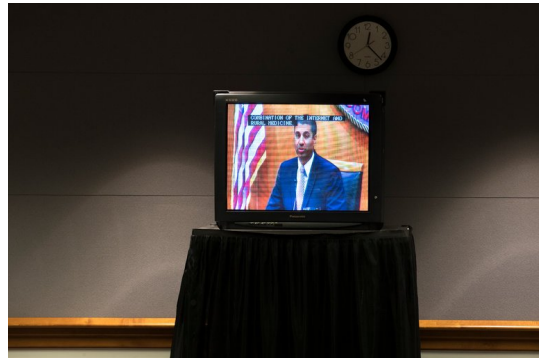
Read more [here](#).



FCC Votes to Repeal Restrictive Regulations on the Internet

Manufacturers notched another victory when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted last Thursday to roll back restrictive Obama-era regulations on the internet. The previous rules, known as "net neutrality," were slowing investment in the nation's broadband infrastructure.

Read more [here](#).



Column: Modernizing NAFTA Would Be "A Boon" To U.S. Economy

In a column for The Hill, American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers' President Chet Thompson writes that "negotiations to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) are a chance to boost the competitiveness of US companies in Canada and Mexico.

Read more [here](#).



Tax Reform Has China Vexed

The Wall Street Journal reports China is worried that Congress' work on tax reform is a threat to its global competitiveness by making the United States "a more attractive place to invest."

Read more [here](#).



How Employers Can Engage Employees in Cybersecurity

Employees who are disengaged or have low morale can pose a cybersecurity risk. Experts say employers should consider "gamifying" cybersecurity training and breaking it up into shorter segments to keep employees engaged.

Read more [here](#).



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