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WASHINGTON WATCH



April 2017

Consumer Confidence Reaches 16-Year High in March

CNBC reports that The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index for March rose to its highest level in more than 16 years, hitting 125.6 in March and beating economists' expectations of 114, according to a consensus estimate from Reuters.

Read more [here](#).



President, Vice President: NAM Survey Shows "Historic" Manufacturer Optimism

During remarks to business executives on Tuesday broadcast by CNBC's Squawk On the Street, Vice President Pence said that businesses and consumers "haven't been this optimistic in decades." He said, "We just learned from the National Association of Manufacturers that, in their historic quarterly report, 93 percent of manufacturers are optimistic about the future."

Read more [here](#).



Trump Previews Infrastructure Plans in Meeting with Business Leaders

The AP reports that President Trump "returned to the familiar" in meeting with 52 business leaders at the White House on Tuesday, focusing on "infrastructure and economic growth."

Read more [here](#).



Trump Signs Executive Order Rolling Back Clean Power Plan, Significant Energy Regulations

The Oil and Gas Journal reports on the Trump administration's "much-anticipated executive order" rolling back the Clean Power Plan and significant energy regulations.

Read more [here](#).



Supreme Court Allows NAM's WOTUS Rule Challenge To Continue

The Washington Examiner reports the Supreme Court said Monday that it will allow litigation to continue in the NAM's challenge to the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule.

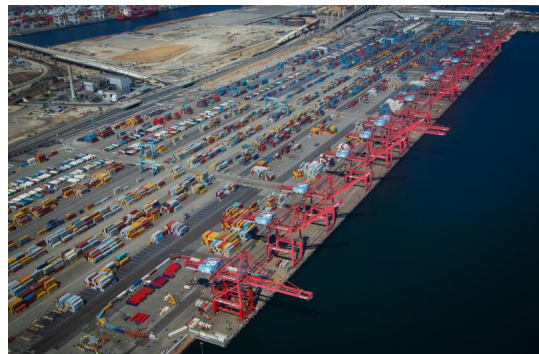
Read more [here](#).



Trade Deficit Fell By 9.6% In February To Four-Month Low, Beating Forecast

Bloomberg News reports the Commerce Department announced that the trade deficit fell in February by 9.6 percent to \$43.6 billion, "a four-month low as imports declined and exports improved amid a brighter outlook for global manufacturing."

Read more [here](#).



Op-Ed: STEM Education Prepares Kids for Global Economy

In an op-ed for The Hill, leaders of the National Science Teachers Association and the STEM teacher training initiative 100Kin10 argue that "one of the most effective ways to set our children up for success is to ensure they receive excellent STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education."

Read more [here](#).



Commerce: U.S. GDP Slowed Less Than Previously Reported in Fourth Quarter

Reuters reports U.S. economic growth “slowed less than previously reported” in the fourth quarter –GDP increased “at a 2.1 percent annualized rate instead of the previously reported 1.9 percent pace, the Commerce Department said.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Factory Orders Rose 1.0 Percent in February

Place article copy here. Be sure to make the articles short and concise as people tend not to read much more than a couple of paragraphs. Place article copy here.

Read more [here](#).



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Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas
1200 W. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201
P.O. Box 3645, Little Rock, AR 72203
501-372-2222 | arkansasstatechamber.com