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September 2017

U.S. Now World's Second Most "Competitive" Economy

The U.S. is the second-most competitive economy in the world, its highest ranking in eight years, the World Economic Forum said Tuesday as the country's innovation edge and business optimism bolstered its standing.

Read more [here](#).



Wal-Mart Stores Announces Plans for New Headquarters in Bentonville

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., a State Chamber Pinnacle Apex member, recently announced plans to build a new home office campus in Bentonville. The project will be built in phases and the company anticipates construction will take between 5 to 7 years.

Read more [here](#).



Tax Reform Needed for More Economic Growth

In a column for The Hill, Association of American Railroads President and CEO Edward Hamberger writes that reforming the tax code "to put the US on equal footing with global competitors by reducing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent is the best and most immediate way" to greater economic growth.

Read more [here](#).



Arkansas's Congressional Delegation Meets with Energy Secretary Perry to Reiterate Opposition to Clean Line Project

Arkansas's entire congressional delegation met with U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry Monday to end the agency's participation in the controversial Clean Line project – a three-state wind-energy transmission line that will stretch across Arkansas – that is now held up in federal court.



Read more [here](#).

Republicans Plan To Cut Corporate Tax Rate “Aggressively”

Reuters reports that Congressional Republicans and Trump Administration officials “are about to show how aggressively they intend to cut the corporate tax rate, while trying to avoid the appearance of favoring the wealthy.”



Read more [here](#).

Pfizer Encourages Youth Interest in Manufacturing, Touts Collaboration with NAM on “Creators Wanted” Campaign

In a column for Forbes, Pfizer's Bob Betzig writes that “political leaders, business leaders and the media have generated renewed interest and focus on manufacturing in America,” and he emphasizes that “new jobs in modern manufacturing extend beyond shop floors and laboratories into offices and state-of-the-art tech centers and even unconventional workshare spaces.”



Read more [here](#).

NFIB Survey: U.S. Small Businesses Expanding at Strongest Pace Since 2006

USA Today reports that American entrepreneurs “are moving ahead with investment and expansion plans that could juice economic growth.”



Read more [here](#).

Leading Economic Indicators Increased 0.4% In August, Beating Expectations

CNBC reports that leading economic indicators “increased 0.4 percent in August, greater than the 0.2 percent increase economists polled by Reuters anticipated.”



Read more [here](#).

Post-Hurricane Rebuilding Could Be Stymied by Worker Shortage

While the commercial construction economy is good overall, two-thirds of contractors in the South are having trouble finding workers.

Read more [here](#).



Senate Confirms Former NAM Staffer William Emanuel To National Labor Relations Board

Reuters reported that the Senate on Monday confirmed labor lawyer William Emanuel to the National Labor Relations Board, “giving the agency a Republican majority widely expected to roll back recent decisions that business groups have said favored unions.”

Read more [here](#).



Analysis: U.S. Oil, Gas Industry To Become More Stable Despite Hurricanes

U.S. oil and natural gas markets will shrug off the impacts of hurricanes Harvey and Irma soon and move further along the path to stability and possibly modest growth this year and next, predicts energy analyst David Blackmon.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Directs Education Department To Create \$200 Million in Grants for STEM Education

The AP reports that “President Donald Trump on Monday directed his education secretary to prioritize science and technology education and spend at least \$200 million annually on competitive grants so schools can broaden access to computer science education in particular.”

Read more [here](#).

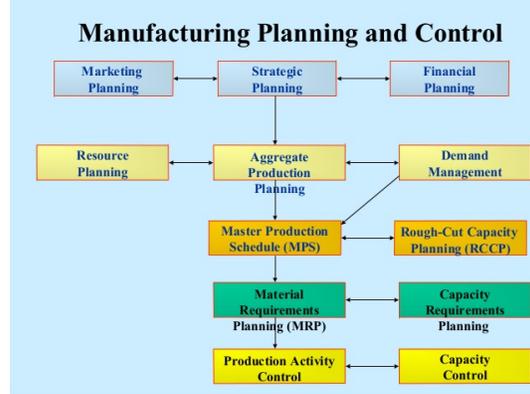


Manufacturers No Longer Have Decades To Strategize

Manufacturing network strategy has grown in complexity while time frames have contracted, write Tony Gambell, Parag Patel and Anand Shekhar of McKinsey. They recommend that manufacturers

"formulate multiple network scenarios that not only optimize for today's realities but also present options for dealing with tomorrow's uncertainties."

Read more [here](#).



Explosion of Big Data's Manufacturing Benefits Continues

Next-generation data analytics are transforming manufacturing, as companies are "looking very systematically at everything they do, from the methods they use to make things, [to] technologies like 3-D printing and additive printing, all the way to their business models," says Jon Sobel, CEO of Sight Machine.

Read more [here](#).



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