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WASHINGTON WATCH



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Column: U.S. Economy “Poised To Deliver”

In a column for The Washington Times, University of Maryland Economist Peter Morici writes that “oppressive taxes and over regulations that burdened business for so long are receding, and the American economy is poised to deliver on the promised prosperity of the digital age.”



Read more [here](#).

NAM’s Timmons: With Tax Reform Done, “Manufacturers Will Deliver” On Growth

In a column for Real Clear Politics, NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons wrote that following President Trump and Congress delivering on tax reform last month, “now manufacturers will deliver as well.”



Read more [here](#).

ADP: U.S. Created 250,000 Jobs in December

Fox Business reports, “ADP released its December jobs data Thursday morning, which showed 250,000 jobs were created in December, handily surpassing analysts’ expectations for 190,000.”



Read more [here](#).

Strong December ISM Factory Index Underscores Strong U.S. Economic Momentum

Bloomberg News reports that “U.S. manufacturing expanded in December at the fastest pace in three

months, as gains in orders and production capped the strongest year for factories since 2004.”

Read more [here](#).



Wall Street's Positive Response To Tax Cuts Drives Dow Over 25,000

The AP reports that “Wall Street sure loves the tax bill,” pointing out that “the Dow Jones industrial average surged past 25,000 Thursday, a strong signal of investor enthusiasm for President Donald Trump’s \$1.5 trillion tax cut.”

Read more [here](#).



Fed December Meeting Minutes Show U.S. Economy On “Solid Footing”

Fox Business reports that the Federal Reserve released the minutes of its December meeting on Wednesday, which “indicated the US economy is on solid footing and that tax reform may drive business investment and ultimately GDP.”

Read more [here](#).



Labor Department: U.S. Added 148,000 Jobs in December

Reuters reported that the Labor Department announced U.S. payrolls “rose by 148,000 last month after a surge of 252,000 in November,” while the unemployment rate “was unchanged at a 17-year low of 4.1 percent.”

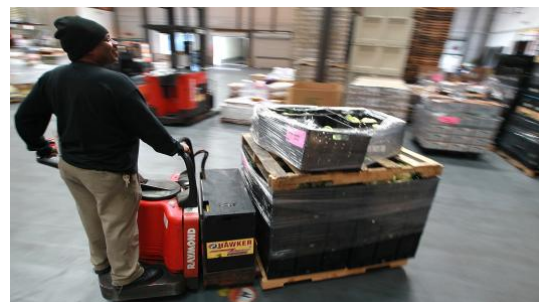
Read more [here](#).



Commerce Department: Factory Orders Rose By 1.3% In November

RTT News reported that the Commerce Department recently announced that “new orders for U.S. manufactured goods jumped by more than expected in the month of November.”

Read more [here](#).



Manufacturers Support Trump Administration Plan To Expand

Offshore Drilling

Massachusetts Live reported a Springfield Republican article on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's announcement that the Trump Administration "would expand the areas available for offshore oil and gas drilling, including in locations off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts." Among other organizations quoted about the plan, "the National Association of Manufacturers also offered support for the Trump administration's plan."

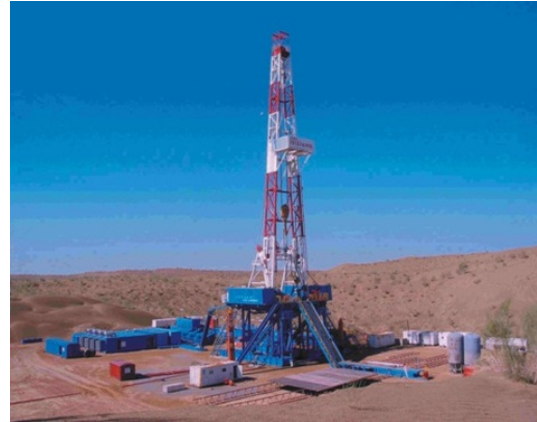
Read more [here](#).



Crude Prices Above \$60 Mean Shale Activity Will Increase

U.S. shale exploration and production should increase this year if crude oil prices can remain above \$60 per barrel, writes John Kemp.

Read more [here](#).



Commerce Department: U.S. Construction Spending at Record High in November

The AP reports that the Commerce Department recently announced that U.S. construction spending rose by 0.8% in November, "the fourth consecutive monthly gain."

Read more [here](#).



To Boost Workforce, States Offering Residents Tuition-Free Community College, Technical School

The Minneapolis Star Tribune reports that, in an effort to "churn out more workers with marketable skills, an increasing number of states are offering residents free tuition to community colleges and technical schools."

Read more [here](#).



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