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January 2018

NAM's Timmons: Manufacturing Now Contributes \$2.25 Trillion To U.S. Economy, A "Huge Milestone"

In a press release, the National Association of Manufacturers reported that "manufacturing now contributes \$2.25 trillion to the U.S. economy." NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons said, "This is a huge milestone – a new high."

Read more [here](#).



NAM's Kelly: Supreme Court WOTUS Ruling "A Win for Manufacturers"

In a press release, the National Association of Manufacturers published a statement from NAM Senior Vice President and General Counsel Linda Kelly in response to the Supreme Court's ruling Monday in National Association of Manufacturers v. Department of Defense.

Read more [here](#).



Analysis: Economy "Lifting Off" On Trump's "Rocket Fuel" Policies

A Washington Times analysis reports that President Trump will mark his first year in office "riding a wave of strong economic news." The Times cites rising corporate profits, declining unemployment, growing GDP, and higher consumer and business optimism.

Read more [here](#).



Fed Beige Book Survey: “Modest to Moderate Growth” Prevalent Across Country

Bloomberg News reports that the Federal Reserve released its latest “Beige Book” economic report recently, which found that “almost all of the 12 Federal Reserve districts reported ‘modest to moderate gains’ in economic activity at the start of 2018.”

Read more [here](#).



Poll: 69 Percent of Americans Satisfied with State of Economy

An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, released Friday, showed that 69% of those polled “said they are satisfied with the state of the economy, reaching a 17-year high,” and the “positive sentiment extends across party lines, with 86 percent of Republicans, 57 percent of Democrats and 65 percent of Independents in favor.”

Read more [here](#).



Trump To Tout U.S. Economy, Urge Fair Trade At Davos

Reuters reports President Trump will attend this year’s World Economic Forum in Davos because he wanted “to call attention to growth in the U.S. economy and the soaring stock market.”

Read more [here](#).



Trump Administration Finalizing Infrastructure Plan

Reuters reports the Trump Administration is preparing its infrastructure plan, which is expected to be released after President Trump’s State of the Union address. Reuters says the plan is expected to include \$200 billion in federal funding over the next 10 years.

Read more [here](#).



Rusken Packaging Plans \$20 Million Expansion in Harrisburg

One of Harrisburg’s leading employers plans to double its workforce by the spring of 2018. Rusken Packaging will undergo a \$20 million expansion and hire about 50 new employees.

Read more [here](#).



New Jobless Claims Drop By 41K to 220K, Fewest Since February 1973

Bloomberg News reports the Labor Department announced that initial jobless claims fell recently by 41,000 to 220,000, "the lowest level since February 1973," and the "biggest drop since December 2008."

Read more [here](#).



Rogers Manufacturer Expanding Operations

C&M Machine Holding Inc., a Rogers manufacturer, is planning an expansion project that will more than double its operations at 207 Buttry Road, just off Arkansas Highway 94.

Read more [here](#).



December Housing Starts Down By 8.2 Percent, Permits Steady

Bloomberg News reports the federal government announced that housing starts in December "eased from the fastest pace in 13 months while permits held steady to finish the strongest year for housing construction in a decade."

Read more [here](#).



Hot Springs Manufacturer Adding 50 Jobs in \$3.5 million Expansion Project

Hot Springs manufacturer Timber Automation recently announced it is investing more than \$3.5 million to add 50 new employees and expand its 145,000-square-foot facility in Garland County.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Oil Output To Skyrocket This Year Amid Higher Prices, IEA Predicts

The International Energy Agency expects "explosive" growth in U.S. oil production this year while oil prices remain high, putting the country on track to top Saudi Arabia and approach Russia as the world's No. 1 crude producer.

Read more [here](#).



Cooks BBQ To Open Plant in Searcy County, Add 45 New Jobs

Cooks BBQ Products recently announced it will open a manufacturing facility in Pindall (Searcy County), under the name Ozark Mountain Wood Products. The company will invest approximately \$1.4 million in the facility and create 45 new jobs.



Read more [here](#).

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