



March 2018

Manufacturers Added “Whopping” 31,000 Jobs in February

NAM Chief Economist Chad Moutray wrote that “manufacturing employment rose by a whopping 31,000 in February, with the sector continuing to add net new jobs at a solid pace and with average weekly earnings for production workers up 3.8 percent year-over-year.”

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Industrial Production Rose 1.1 Percent in February, Biggest Gain in Four Months

Reuters reported that the Federal Reserve announced that “U.S. industrial production jumped 1.1 percent in February, the largest increase in four months.”

Read more [here](#).



Judge Stays Part of EPA Plan on Coal Plant Emissions

An 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judge recently stayed the most contentious portion of a federal air rule affecting coal plants in Arkansas, according to an article in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Read more [here](#).



**Commerce Department: U.S.
Housing Starts Fell 7 Percent in**

February

The AP reported that the Commerce Department announced that U.S. housing starts fell 7 percent in February, adding that “February’s slowdown in construction came from a 28 percent plunge in starts for multi-family buildings.”

Read more [here](#).



Arkansas Environmental Federation Holding Air Seminar May 9th in Little Rock

The Arkansas Environmental Federation will hold an Air Seminar from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9th at the Little Rock Airport Holiday Inn located at 3201 Bankhead Drive.

To register or for more information, click [here](#).



Bloomberg Column: U.S. Economic Expansion “Still Has A Ways to Go”

In a column for Bloomberg View, Neil Dutta writes of the current nine-year U.S. economic expansion that “in many ways, this expansion still has room to run.”

Read more [here](#).



IEA: Oil Supply Growing Faster Than Rising Demand

Reuters reports that the International Energy Agency (IEA) said that “global oil demand is expected to pick up this year, but supply is growing at a faster pace, leading to a rise in inventories in the first quarter of 2018.”

Read more [here](#).



Kudlow, Next Head of National Economic Council, A “Tremendous Advocate” for U.S. Competitiveness

NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons applauds President Trump’s appointment of Larry Kudlow as the next director of the National Economic Council.

Read more [here](#).



Today's Manufacturing Has Undergone "A Seismic Shift" In How It Operates

WVNews quotes NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons saying the manufacturing sector "has undergone a seismic shift in the way it operates. It's an industry that is about upscaling, upskilling and future-proofing jobs for all Americans – a dynamic environment that supports not just today's jobs but also tomorrow's."



Read more [here](#).

U.S. Unemployment Claims Fall, Pointing to Sustained Labor Strength

Reuters reports that "the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell recently, pointing to sustained labor strength."



Read more [here](#).

Deltic Timber and Potlatch Merge

PotlatchDeltic Corporation announced the successful completion of the previously announced merger of Potlatch Corporation with Deltic Timber Corporation in an all-stock transaction.



Read more [here](#).

U.S. Retail Sales Fell 0.1 Percent in February

Bloomberg News reports the Commerce Department announced that "U.S. retail sales unexpectedly fell in February for a third month, adding to signs that consumer spending – the biggest part of the economy – is easing after strong gains in the fourth quarter."



Read more [here](#).

Labor Department: U.S. Job Openings Hit Record High in January

Reuters reported that while “U.S. job openings jumped to a record high in January,” nevertheless “a persistent lag in hiring suggested that employers will probably have to raise wages to attract qualified workers.”

Read more [here](#).



The Manufacturing Institute's Heroes MAKE America Program Graduates Inaugural Class

The Manufacturing Institute announced that its veteran's training program, Heroes MAKE America, “graduated its inaugural class. The program “is a full-time career skills program launched in partnership with the U.S. Army Soldier for Life – Transition Assistance Program and the USO Pathfinder Program.”

Read more [here](#).



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