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June 2018

Manufacturers' Outlook Survey Shows Record Level of Optimism

The National Association of Manufacturers' Outlook Survey for the second quarter "shows that 95.1 percent of manufacturers have a positive outlook for their companies – an all-time record in the survey's 20-year history – following enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act."

Read more [here](#).



Glatfelter Unveils New \$90 Million Manufacturing Operation in Fort Smith

Glatfelter, an Associated Industries of Arkansas member, recently unveiled their new \$90 million manufacturing operation in Fort Smith. The investment totaled \$90 million and employs 67.

Read more [here](#).



NAM Welcomes Nomination of Kimberly Reed To Head Export-Import Bank

The National Association of Manufacturers praised President Trump's nomination of Kimberly Reed to head the Ex-Im Bank: "Kimberly Reed is a sterling choice and in nominating her to lead the agency, President Trump is standing with America's manufacturing workers."

Read more [here](#).



Ace Glass Recycling Facility in Little Rock To Be 100 Percent Solar Powered

Arkansas State Chamber member, glass manufacturer and installer Ace Glass Construction Corp. of Little Rock recently announced plans to open a Platinum LEED-certified glass facility that will operate with 100 percent solar power, recycle glass and implement lean manufacturing processes.

Read more [here](#).



Commerce Department: Housing Starts Hit 11-Year High

The AP reports that a “surge of construction in the Midwest drove U.S. housing starts up 5 percent in May from the prior month.” The Commerce Department announced that housing starts rose “to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.35 million, the strongest pace since July 2007.”

Read more [here](#).



Businesses Await Guidance on New Tax Deduction Rules For “Pass-Throughs”

The Hill reports, “Lawmakers, businesses and tax professionals are eagerly awaiting a guidance package from the Treasury Department and IRS on a key deduction in the new tax-cut law.”

Read more [here](#).



NAM Welcomes Department of Labor Rule on Association Health Plans

The National Association of Manufacturers released a statement from NAM Vice President of Infrastructure, Innovation and Human Resources Robyn Boerstling saying, “Lowering health care costs has long been a top priority for manufacturers.”

Read more [here](#).



Risever Breaks Ground on \$20 Million Jonesboro Plant

Hefei Risever Machinery (Risever), a Chinese-based heavy equipment parts manufacturer, recently broke ground on a \$20 million facility in Jonesboro. The plant will be located in the Craighead Technology Park and will employ 130 workers.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Gas Production Poised for Massive Growth

U.S. dry natural gas production is expected to climb by 60 percent from 2017 levels to about 118 billion cubic feet per day over the next two decades, according to a report by IHS Markit, as the gas boom transforms the U.S. into an energy export powerhouse.

Read more [here](#).



Tyson Foods To Open Technology Center in Downtown Springdale

Associated Industries of Arkansas Pinnacle Summit member Tyson Foods, Inc. recently announced plans to build a manufacturing and automation technology center, southwest of the company's original headquarters in downtown Springdale.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Energy Industry Warns of Fallout from U.S.-China Trade War

U.S. energy exports could fall victim to rising trade tensions between the U.S. and China – the biggest buyer of U.S. oil – as the Asian nation prepares to impose 25 percent tariffs on U.S. petroleum exports.

Read more [here](#).



EPA Says It Can't Require Refiners To Make Up Waived Biofuel Volumes

Oil refiners cannot be forced to blend additional biofuels into gasoline to compensate for volumes exempted through waivers authorized under the Renewable Fuel Standard, the Environmental Protection Agency recently announced.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Reverses Obama-Era Ocean Protections

President Donald Trump has revoked an Obama-era policy designed to protect U.S. oceans and the Great Lakes in a move expected to give a boost to oil and natural gas drilling, fishing and other industries.

Read more [here](#).



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