

Visit our Website



WASHINGTON WATCH



September 2018

Treasury Secretary Invites Chinese Officials for Further Trade Talks

Bloomberg News reports that the Trump Administration “has proposed another round of trade talks with Beijing.”

Read more [here](#).



Economy Created 201,000 Jobs in August; Wages Rose Most Since 2009

The Washington Post reported the Labor Department announced that “hiring picked up in August and so did worker pay.”

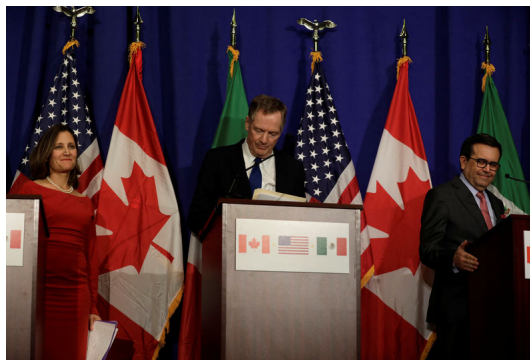
Read more [here](#).



Democrats Warn They Will Block any NAFTA Deal Not Including Canada

Bloomberg News reports that “key Democrats warned that if their party wins a U.S. House majority in November, they will strongly consider rejecting a Trump administration rewrite of a North American trade deal that doesn’t include Canada.”

Read more [here](#).



U.S. - EU Trade Talks to Resume

The Washington Examiner reports that U.S. trade officials will meet with the European Union this

month “in an effort to avert an all-out trade war.”

Read more [here](#).



Ryan Says He Will Avoid Shutdown; House Will Vote on Making Tax Cuts Permanent

Reuters reports Speaker Ryan said that “a government shutdown...will be avoided in coming weeks and the U.S. House of Representatives will vote in September on another round of tax cuts.”

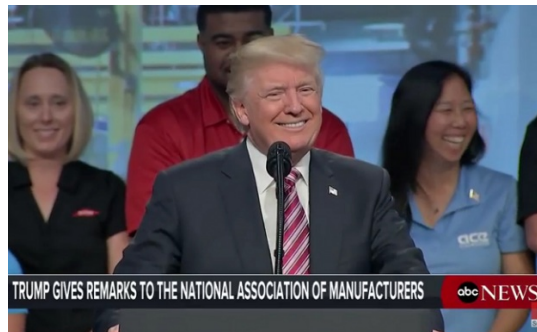
Read more [here](#).



Analysis: Blue Collar Jobs Growing at Fastest Rate in 30 Years

The Washington Post reports that “blue-collar jobs are growing at their fastest rate in more than 30 years, helping fuel a hiring boom in many small towns and rural areas.”

Read more [here](#).



Fed Expected To Continue Rates Policy on Positive Jobs, Wages Data

CNBC reports that the Federal Reserve is likely to continue its gradual interest rate increases in light of the recent employment report from the Census Bureau.

Read more [here](#).



NAM, Other Trade Association Economists Expect Positive Growth To Continue

Transport Topics reports, “Economists for trade associations representing manufacturing, construction and retail industries said they expect positive growth to continue for the remainder of 2018.”

Read more [here](#).



Labor Department: U.S. Weekly Jobless Claims Fall to Near 49-Year

Low

Reuters reports that the Labor Department announced “initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 203,000 for the week ended Sept. 1.”

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Productivity Rose 2.9 Percent in Second Quarter

Reuters reports that “U.S. worker productivity rose at its fastest pace in more than three years in the second quarter.”

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Stocks Continue Outperforming Global Counterparts

Bloomberg News reports that “U.S. stocks have outperformed their global counterparts for four consecutive months.”

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Trade Deficit Surges to Five-Month High

The AP reports the U.S. trade deficit rose to a five-month high in July. “The deficit in goods with China and the European Union set records.”

Read more [here](#).



Manufacturing Industry Being Squeezed by Tight Labor Market

CNBC reports that “while a strong economy is helping to bolster the” manufacturing “industry, it’s also being crunched by an increasingly tight labor market.”

Read more [here](#).



Manufacturing Employment Dips, But Overall Trends Remain Positive

In a blog post for Shopfloor, NAM Chief Economist Chad Moutray writes, "The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that manufacturers lost 3,000 workers in August, the first decline in 13 months.

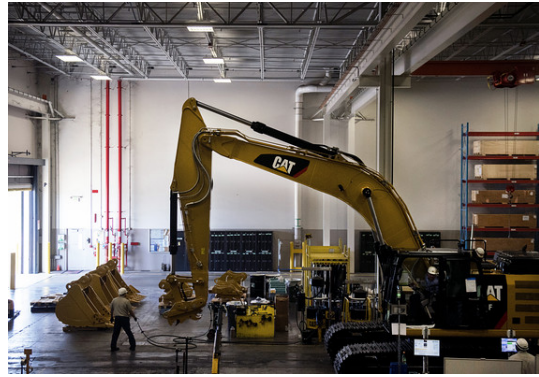
Read more [here](#).



U.S. Factory Activity at Highest Level in 14 Years

MarketWatch reports the Institute for Supply Management manufacturing index rose to 61.3 in August from 58.1 in July, hitting its highest level since May 2004.

Read more [here](#).



STAY CONNECTED



Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas
1200 W. Capitol Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201
P.O. Box 3645, Little Rock, AR 72203
501-372-2222 | arkansasstatechamber.com