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September 2018

Economists Say Trade War with China Poses Risks for U.S. Economic Growth

Reuters reports a survey of economists finds that “the U.S. economy will expand at a robust pace in coming quarters but slow to 2 percent by the end of 2019.”

Read more [here](#).



Entergy Arkansas To Bring Advanced Meters to Homes and Businesses

Entergy Arkansas, Inc., a State Chamber/AIA Apex Pinnacle member, recently announced it will begin installing advanced meters in homes and businesses in 2019 with projected completion in 2021.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Jobless Claims Fall to 48-Year Low

Bloomberg News reports “U.S. filings for unemployment benefits unexpectedly fell for a third straight week to a 48-year low, indicating a tight job market.”

Read more [here](#).



AT&T Invests \$550 Million in Arkansas Wireless, Wired Networks

AT&T, an Arkansas State Chamber Peak Pinnacle member, recently reported that it has invested nearly \$550 million in its statewide wireless and wired networks from 2015 – 2017.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Household Wealth Hits Record

The AP reports, “A rising stock market lifted U.S. household wealth to a record \$106.9 trillion in the April-June quarter.”

Read more [here](#).



Southwestern Energy Selling Core Fayetteville Shale Assets in Arkansas

Southwestern Energy Company, an AIA Peak Pinnacle member, is selling its Fayetteville shale natural gas assets in Arkansas to Oklahoma City-based Flywheel Energy LLC.

Read more [here](#).



Caterpillar Leans on Old Playbook To Cope with China Tariffs

Reuters reports on Caterpillar's efforts to protect the company's margins from U.S. tariffs on imported aluminum and steel.

Read more [here](#).



SPP To Be Reliability Coordinator for 15 Western Utilities

Fifteen western utilities want Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a State Chamber Crown Pinnacle member, to provide reliability coordination services for them starting in late 2019.

Read more [here](#).



Attracting the Next Generation of

Students Starts with Manufacturing Day

Attracting the next generation of students starts with Manufacturing Day, which this year will be held on Oct. 5.

Read more [here](#).



NAM, Business Groups Lay Out Priorities To Ensure Support for NAFTA

Leaders of three of the nation's most powerful business groups detailed six priorities they say need to be fulfilled to earn their support for an update of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)."

Read more [here](#).



Manufacturers Having Trouble Filling Positions

Many manufacturers "cannot find enough Americans to fill open positions and the workforce crisis is projected to get worse."

Read more [here](#).



NLRB's "Joint Employer" Standard a Win for Manufacturing Workers

According to a Shopfloor blog, "the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) took important action that will help manufacturers, workers and our economy by creating a more reliable and workable 'joint employer' standard."

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Pushing for EU Trade Deal Before Midterm Elections

Politico Europe reports that U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer is pushing to "finalize outcomes" with the EU on a trade deal by November."

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Consumer Sentiment Reaches Second-Highest Level Since 2004

CNBC reports that the U.S. consumer sentiment index hit 100.8 in September versus a 96.6 estimate, the second-highest level since 2004.

Read more [here](#).



IRS Issues Proposed Corporate Tax Rules

Bloomberg News reports that the IRS proposed regulations recently to implement changes to corporate tax rules under the 2017 tax reform law.

Read more [here](#).



Tariffs Increasing Input Costs for Manufacturers

A Federal Reserve Beige Book survey says the U.S. economy "is expanding at a moderate pace with tight labor market conditions and rising input costs partly due to trade disruptions."

Read more [here](#).



EIA: U.S. Likely Became Largest Oil Producer This Year

Bloomberg News reports that according to the EIA, earlier this year, the U.S. likely surpassed Russia and Saudi Arabia to become the world's largest oil producer.

Read more [here](#).



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