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December 2018

White House Digs in on Border Wall Ahead of Possible Shutdown

The White House “pushed the federal government closer to the brink of a partial shutdown later this week, digging in on its demand for \$5 billion to build a border wall as congressional Democrats stood firm against it.”

Read more [here](#).



Zinke Submits Resignation Amid Ethics Investigations

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke submitted his resignation effective the end of the year amid over a dozen ethics investigations into his spending habits and other activities.

Read more [here](#).



Kimberly-Clark Closing Conway Plant by 2021; About 350 Workers To Lose Jobs

Associated Industries of Arkansas member Kimberly-Clark Corporation recently announced it will close its Conway plant that employs nearly 350 workers as part of a companywide restructuring plan. The Conway plant will close no later than 2021.

Read more [here](#).



Federal Reserve: Manufacturing Output Holds Steady in November

The Federal Reserve “said industrial production rose 0.6 percent last month,” but “data for October was revised downward to show that output fell 0.2 percent instead of advancing 0.1 percent as previously reported.”

Read more [here](#).



Trump Welcomes China’s Temporary Suspension of Auto Tariffs

Reuters reported the Chinese Finance Ministry announced that China “will temporarily suspend additional 25 percent tariffs on U.S.-made vehicles and auto parts starting Jan. 1, 2019.”

Read more [here](#).



Commerce Department: Consumer Spending Increased in November

The Commerce Department announced that “U.S. consumer spending gathered momentum in November as households bought furniture, electronics and a range of other goods.”

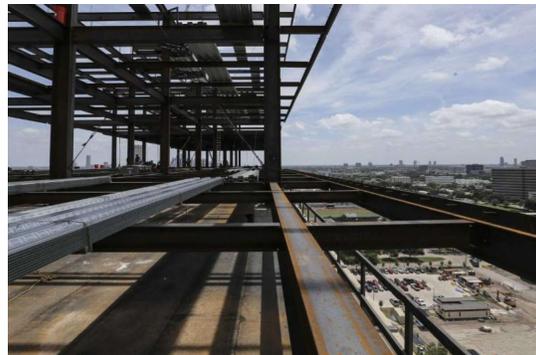
Read more [here](#).



Private Sector Wages Rising in Tight Labor Market

Average hourly compensation of private-sector workers, including both pay and benefits, rose by 2.9 percent in the third quarter over 2017.

Read more [here](#).



Three Major Stock Market Indexes Are in Correction Territory

The New York Times reported “investors were confronted with more evidence that the trade war between the United States and China is weighing on economic growth, and stocks fell to their deepest decline recently.”

Read more [here](#).



China Cannot Outrun the Dismal History of Planned Economies

Despite the seeming prowess of China and its rise, economic mass and success in trade and development, its position remains fragile.

Read more [here](#).



Fed's Bullard: 'Cracks' in Growth May Shape Fed 2019 Debate

Possible "cracks" in the U.S. recovery may shape the Federal Reserve's debate in a rate-rise cycle that began in December 2015, and how much further it should go.

Read more [here](#).



Jobless Benefits Filings at 49-Year Low

"The number of Americans filing applications for jobless benefits tumbled to near a 49-year low, which could ease concerns about a slowdown in the labor market and economy."

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Posts Record November Budget Deficit Amid Doubled Spending

The U.S. "posted the widest November budget deficit on record as spending doubled revenue," with outlays jumping 18 percent and receipts "little changed at \$206 billion."

Read more [here](#).



Economists Expect Rate Increase, More Dovish Future

According to a new Bloomberg survey of economists, "Federal Reserve officials will pull the trigger on another interest-rate increase before slowing the pace of hikes in 2019 as risks to the U.S. economy mount."

Read more [here](#).



Latest Labor Department Data Serious Warning Sign for Manufacturers

The recent Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) revealed that job openings in the manufacturing sector jumped in October to a record-high 522,000, and it's only going to get worse.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Signs Executive Order Promoting "Opportunity Zones"

President Trump has signed an executive order "to create a new White House council for promoting private investment in 'opportunity zones' in more than 8,700 distressed communities" across the U.S.

Read more [here](#).



Net Neutrality Proponents Have Until End of Year for Vote

Proponents of net neutrality must convince 38 House lawmakers to back a move to overturn the FCC's net neutrality repeal by Dec. 21.

Read more [here](#).



Job Openings at U.S. Factories Surge to All-Time High

Job openings "have surged at U.S. manufacturers of durable goods from machinery to cars in recent months, suggesting factories have plenty of demand despite recent tariff obstacles."

Read more [here](#).



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