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WASHINGTON WATCH



January 2019

U.S.-China Trade Hopes Lift World Stocks, Oil Soars

World stocks extended their gains to a near four-week high and oil prices rose on optimism the U.S. and China may be inching toward a trade deal.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Pleads on TV for Wall Money: Dems Say He Stokes 'Fear'

President Trump urged congressional Democrats to fund his long-promised border wall, but offered little to break the government shutdown impasse.

Read more [here](#).



Democrats Play Hardball in Senate over Shutdown Fight

Senate Democrats are playing hardball as they try to strong-arm Republicans to buck President Trump and end the partial government shutdown.

Read more [here](#).



More U.S. Regions See Job Openings Outnumbering Jobless

Job openings are outnumbering unemployed workers across wide swaths of the U.S., forcing businesses to rethink how they find workers.

Read more [here](#).



White House Planning Legislation To Expand Trump's Tariff Powers

President Trump is expected to urge Congress to pass new legislation to expand his powers to break down non-tariff barriers to American exports.

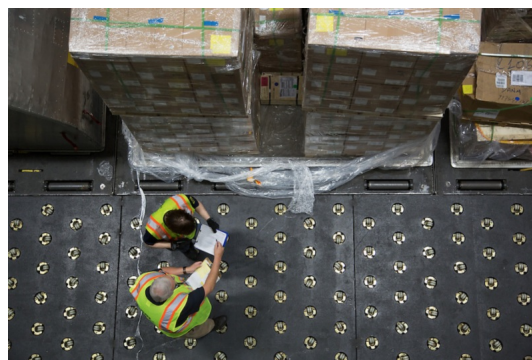
Read more [here](#).



NAM Survey: 2018 Marks Highest Year of Manufacturer Optimism

NAM has released the results of the Manufacturers' Outlook Survey for the fourth quarter of 2018, which shows manufacturers' optimism reached the highest level on record.

Read more [here](#).



Trump Signs Justice Reform Bill After House Passage

President Trump recently signed "a wide-ranging criminal justice bill that will reduce some of the harshest sentences for federal drug offenders and boost prison rehabilitation programs."

Read more [here](#).



Congress Passes Bill Requiring Easy Access to Public Government Data

While all eyes were on the shutdown, Congress passed an evidence-based, policy-making bill, setting up an historic win for open government data.

Read more [here](#).



SBA Office of Advocacy Publishes Progress Report on Regional Regulatory Reform Roundtable Initiative

An initiative by the SBA Office of Advocacy is bringing small businesses' concerns with federal regulations back to the rule makers in federal agencies.

Read more [here](#).



Analysts Bet on Oil Price Recovery in 2019

Analysts polled by Bloomberg expect prices to average \$70 per barrel in 2019, while West Texas Intermediate should average \$61.13 thanks to the recent production cut announced by OPEC.

Read more [here](#).



The Most Significant Benefits Tax Reform Produced In 2018

The United States Senate Committee on Finance said that since tax reform "was enacted, economic indicators around the country have shown that this legislation is a proven success."

Read more [here](#).



World Bank Report: Chinese Growth Expected To Slow

The World Bank released a report recently that "said China's economic growth is likely to slow to 6.2 percent in 2019."

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Auto Manufacturers Praise China's Decision Lifting Retaliatory Tariffs

Bloomberg News reports that China suspending its "retaliatory levy slapped on American-made cars is a rare piece of good news out of the world's biggest car market."

Read more [here](#).



As Buying Power in Developing Markets Drops, Global Economy Decelerates

The New York Times reports that the strain of higher prices on staple goods in India “reflects a global change in sentiment” as the Fed “steadily lifts interest rates.”

Read more [here](#).



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