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April 2019

## U.S Unemployment Insurance Claims Fall to 50-Year Low

The number of Americans filing applications for unemployment benefits recently dropped to a more than 49-year low, pointing to sustained labor market strength despite slowing economic growth.

Read more [here](#).



## Arkansas Energy Workforce Consortium Breaks Ground on Training Yard

The Arkansas Energy Workforce Consortium recently broke ground on a line worker training pole yard next to the UA–Pulaski Tech Business and Industry Center.

Read more [here](#).



## Trump Signs Executive Orders To Facilitate Pipeline Projects

President Trump recently signed two executive orders designed to speed up oil and gas pipeline projects at the urging of business groups.

Read more [here](#).



## Manufacturing Sector Economic Activity Expands in March

Economic activity in the manufacturing sector

expanded in March, and the overall economy grew for the 119<sup>th</sup> consecutive month, according to the latest Manufacturing ISM Report on Business.

Read more [here](#).



## U.S., China Agree on Trade Deal Enforcement Mechanism, Mnuchin Says

A mechanism to enforce compliance between the U.S. and China on various aspects of a trade deal have been “pretty much agreed on,” according to Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin.

Read more [here](#).



## NAM Says Manufacturers Continued Solid Growth in First Quarter

Manufacturers continued to report solid growth in activity during the first quarter of 2019, with the sector remaining one of the brightest spots in the economy.

Read more [here](#).



## Inflation Remains Stable with Overall Rate of 2.2 Percent

Inflation remains stable, about 2.1 percent for the core rate, which is everything except food and energy and 2.2 percent overall when food and energy prices are figured in.

Read more [here](#).



## Delays at U.S.-Mexico Border Crossing Impacting Deliveries of Goods

Long delays at the U.S.-Mexico border crossing for goods destined for American plants and consumers are causing gridlock.

Read more [here](#).



## IEA: Oil Markets Tightening Amid 'Increasing Effectiveness' of U.S. Sanctions

The International Energy Agency reported that oil markets are tightening, helped by the implementation of a new OPEC agreement and U.S. sanctions on Venezuela and Iran.

Read more [here](#).



## NFIB Report Shows Slight Improvement in Small Business Optimism Index

The Small Business Optimism Index improved slightly, according to a recent report issued by the National Federation of Independent Business.

Read more [here](#).



## Manufacturers in Early Stages of Adopting Artificial Intelligence

Manufacturing companies are in the early stages of adoption of artificial intelligence, though many expect to invest further in the technologies in coming years.

Read more [here](#).



## U.S. Crude Oil Production Grew 17 Percent in 2018, Surpassing Previous Record

Annual U.S. crude oil production reached a record level of 10.96 million barrels per day in 2018, 1.6 million barrels per day higher than 2017 levels.

Read more [here](#).



## Chevron Corp. To Acquire Anadarko Petroleum Corp. in \$33 Billion Deal

Chevron Corp. has agreed to acquire Anadarko Petroleum Corp. in a \$33 billion deal that will place it in the top ranks of the world's largest energy companies.

Read more [here](#).



## Democratic Leaders Seek Up to \$2 Trillion for Infrastructure

## Investment

Democratic leaders said recently they would seek President Trump's support for legislation to invest up to \$2 trillion to rebuild U.S. infrastructure, including roads, bridges and schools.

Read more [here](#).



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