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WASHINGTON WATCH



February 2020

U.S. Productivity Up 1.7 Percent in 2019, Best Gain in Nine Years

U.S. productivity rebounded in the final three months of last year, boosting productivity growth for the year to the best showing in nearly a decade.

Read more [here](#).



Charting the Global Economic Impact of the Coronavirus

As China struggles to contain the deadly new coronavirus, it's becoming increasingly evident that the disruption to its economy will spill over to the rest of the world.

Read more [here](#).



China Cuts Tariffs on \$75 Billion of U.S. Imports in Trade Truce

China has cut tariffs on \$75 billion of U.S. imports including soybeans, pork and auto parts in a trade truce with Washington.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Trade Deficit Drops 1.7 Percent in 2019

The U.S. trade deficit fell for the first time in six years in 2019, but mainstream economists argue that changes in trade policy are not responsible for the decline.

Read more [here](#).



House Passes Bill Easing Bids by Workers to Form Unions

The House of Representatives has approved a bill that would make it easier for workers to form unions.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Factories Expand for First Time Since July

The Institute for Supply Management said that its manufacturing index rose to 50.9 in January from 47.8 in December.

Read more [here](#).



White House Seeking to Cut Out Huawei on 5G

The White House is working with U.S. tech companies to develop advanced software for next-generation networks.

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Border Apprehensions Drop Eight Straight Months

The number of border apprehensions has dropped for the eighth straight month, following crackdowns by the Trump administration.

Read more [here](#).



Democrats to Unveil Infrastructure Plan with Eye on 2020 Elections

House Democrats plan to unveil a framework for infrastructure legislation with a desire to work with the White House.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Officials Warn Chinese Espionage an 'Existential Threat'

The number of FBI arrests in cases related to Chinese espionage has risen sharply in the last five years.

Read more [here](#).



North America to Dominate Non-OPEC Oil Output Growth

North America oil supplies will continue to drive non-OPEC production growth for decades to come, forecasts suggest.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Economy Adds 225,000 Jobs in January

The U.S. economy added a better than expected 225,000 jobs in January.

Read more [here](#).



Factory Orders Surged 1.8 Percent in December; Largest Gain Since August 2018

New orders for U.S.-made goods increased the most in nearly 1.5 years in December, but business spending remained weak.

Read more [here](#).





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