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October 2020

U.S. Industrial Output Declines Unexpectedly

Industrial production fell for the first time in five months in September, surprising economists who had expected more steady growth from the factory sector.

Read more [here](#).



Fed's Bostic: Significant Portions of U.S. Recovery Weak or Nonexistent

It will be a while before the U.S. economy is fully recovered and before the Federal Reserve raises interest rates or removes the support it is providing financial markets, according to Atlanta Federal Reserve President Raphael Bostic.

Read more [here](#).



Sharp Increase Reported in New Business Applications

Despite the pandemic, business-formation applications reported by the Census Bureau jumped almost 90 percent from year-earlier levels.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Retail Sales Grow for Fifth Month in Row

Retail sales rose strongly in September, the fifth straight month of growth, as Americans spent more on clothing, cars and sporting goods.

Read more [here](#).



Jobless Claims Drop, But Layoffs Remain High

The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last to 787,000 in the most recent reporting period.

Read more [here](#).



Coal Has A 'Very Bright Future' Despite Rise of Fracking, Energy Secretary Brouillette Says

Coal still has a bright future in an American energy industry that is transitioning to natural gas, according to Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette.

Read more [here](#).



Judge Tosses BLM Land Management Plans After Ousting Acting Director

A federal judge threw out land management plans in Montana, unraveling the work of former Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acting Director William Pendley, which could jeopardize the agency's work elsewhere across the country.

Read more [here](#).



Business Groups, Universities File Lawsuit Over New H-1B Visa Rules

Several business groups and universities teamed up to file a lawsuit against the Trump administration over additional rules for skilled foreign workers to acquire visas.

Read more [here](#).



Consumer Confidence Index Surged in September

Consumer confidence surged in September, a sign that Americans are feeling better about the general economic outlook for the country even as the pandemic drags on.

Read more [here](#).



Pandemic Could Widen Divides Between Local Economies

Inequality between wealthy and “distressed” communities has increased in the past two decades, and the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to widen that divide.

Read more [here](#).



Halliburton: North American Shale Recovering from Rout

The North American shale industry continues to improve its structure and will emerge stronger, albeit smaller, from the current crisis, according to Halliburton CEO Jeff Miller.

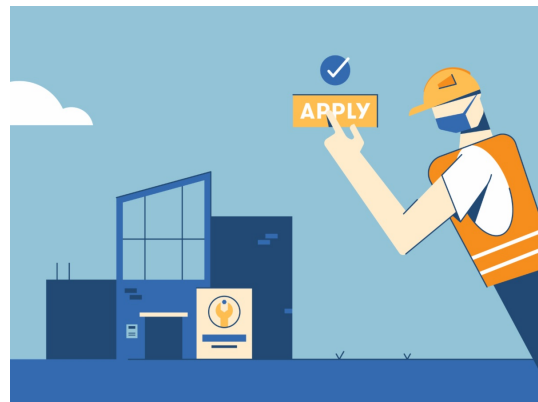
Read more [here](#).



Survey: Trade School Perception Improves During Pandemic

Trade school has long struggled to gain recognition as a worthy alternative to four-year college, but the pandemic is changing perceptions, according to a survey done by Big Rentz.

Read more [here](#).



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