

Workforce Specialists Analytics Newsletter

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Workforce

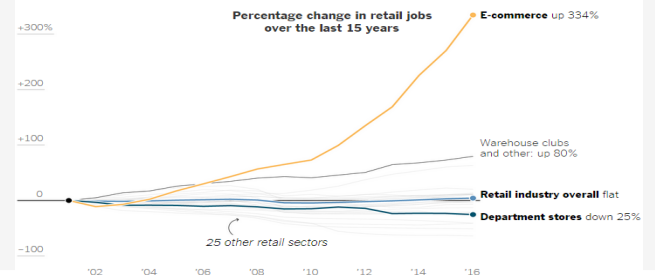
- [Off the sidelines](#) and back in the game. The labor participation rate is holding and actually increasing, reversing some long term trends. Good for filling jobs, but might have a dampening effect on wage growth, too.
- But the majority of workers don't worry about technology affecting their job. Their [top worry](#): loss of benefits.
- Here is an argument that seems to make sense. [When wages go up, automation becomes a more attractive option](#) for employers, especially when they go up significantly (like to \$15/hr. minimum wage).

- What kind of holiday season should we expect? Containerized import totals set to break all time record in August reports National Retail Federation and others.
- Why? Hyper ecommerce growth is one reason (see chart on right)
- Combination of above with historic lows in unemployment will create a very challenging workforce shortage this peak season.

Logistics

E-commerce jobs are growing fast ...

Employment attributed to electronic shopping firms has doubled in the last five years, outpacing other types of retail.



Manufacturing

ADDRESSING THE WORKFORCE SKILLS GAP



49%
claim addressing workforce challenges was top priority



69%
plan an increase in workforce in the next 12 months

- Key sector metrics still positive in July [reports the Institute for Supply Management](#). Three main gauges - factory index, employment and new orders - stay **strong**.
- Workforce challenges are top priority in sector (see graphic on left), and over 2/3 of manufacturers plan to add headcount (*Sikich 2017 Manufacturing Report*).
- One reason for this optimism: [weakening US dollar](#) which makes manufacturers' exports more competitive in foreign markets. YTD: dollar down 8%, exports up 7%.