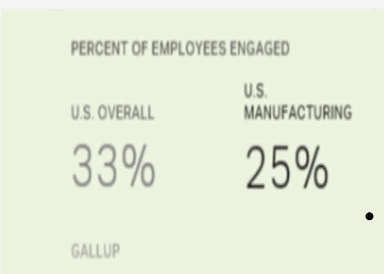
Workforce Specialists Analytics Newsletter

Volume 6
September 2017

- Strong manufacturing job numbers
- Peak season still looks like a strong one
- (Very) modest string of monthly wage increases continues
- Unemployment forecasts largely unchanged: “full” employment
- Labor force participation rate is stubbornly fixed: unchanged in past three years



- Maybe there are not as many job openings as the record high numbers being reported indicate. Since it is so easy and inexpensive to post openings, it encourages posting openings that are not really urgent or critical. The fact that the pace of job growth has eased each year since 2014 would support that theory.
- Another non-conventional perspective:
  Opioid use may explain 20% drop in US men’s labor force participation.
- Manufacturing employee engagement numbers are below average

- US manufacturing activity at six-year high. Hiring up, sales up, growth accelerating.
- Harvey and Irma will certainly disrupt the supply chain to manufacturers. Particularly Harvey and petrochemicals. U.S. Gulf Coast is home to about 90 percent of the nation's capacity to turn out base plastics, the building blocks for a wide range of consumer and industrial goods.

- While some point to long term uncertainty in the transportation sector, the next few years look good: this year up 5% and growth forecast in 2018 and 2019, too.
- Latest retail sales forecasts are still pointing to a strong holiday/peak season.
- And hiring trends support the positive outlook

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