

## Workforce Specialists Analytics Briefing

Volume 12

March 2018

### Workforce



- Wages are up, but still not as quickly as would be expected in this positive economic climate. And real wages (when adjusted for cost of living) just keeping ahead of inflation.
- 2.5% unemployment by next summer? Moody's Analytics thinks it is possible if trends continue. Employee retention and engagement become even more critical.
- One road to retention and engagement is training. But it is not common and nearly half who do get it view it as ineffective.

### Manufacturing

- In addition to the strong February BLS numbers other metrics are equally positive, including exports.
- But they come with a price – order backlogs are increasing (see chart below)
- **Biggest sector gainers:**
  - Transportation Equipment
  - Primary Metals
  - Machinery



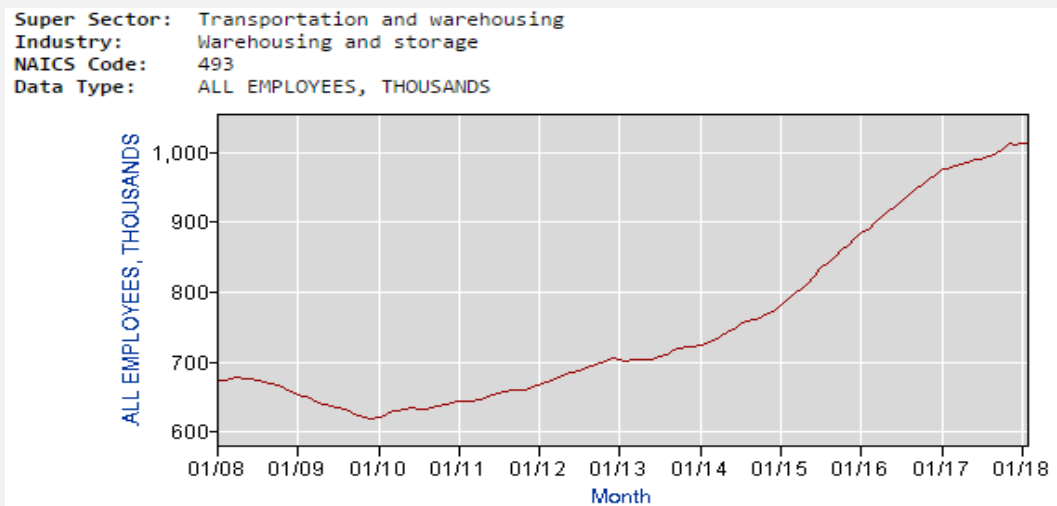
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### Logistics

- Warehousing & Storage jobs are flat month over month, and still below November season highs. A four-month flat trend is worth monitoring (see chart below)



- In meantime, ecommerce part of the sector continues to [add smaller facilities](#) closer to end users.
- [WERC conducts its own annual survey](#) and the latest numbers include pay rate shift differentials, sector usage of staffing industry (81.6% of companies) and turnover (up)