

# Workforce Specialists Analytics Briefing

Volume 11

February 2018

## Workforce

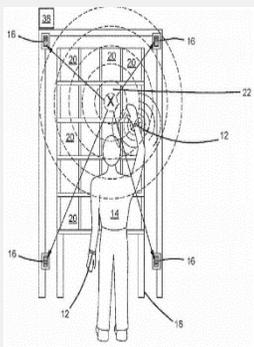
**ICE arrests up 30% in 2017**, after a years-long downward trend (See chart to right for Top 10 Metro Areas Affected). Meanwhile, a bill (Legal Workforce Act) introduced in Congress mandating E-Verify nationally is given a 24% chance of passing (*Govtrack.us*).

**Workers' wages grew in the past year at the fastest rate since the recession**. Average for private sector: up 2.9%. *Manufacturing*: up 1.9%. *Transportation & Warehousing*: up 3.2%, fourth highest of 13 sectors reporting.

Another trend resulting - in large part - to the ongoing tight labor market: **employer demand for background checks is decreasing**. Biggest decrease: lower skill jobs.



## Logistics



- Another strong year of **retail sales growth is forecast** for 2018 (up 3.8-4.4%), which should help drive *Transportation & Warehousing* sector again. On-line sales projections? Up 10-12%.
- And one data point to validate this forecast: logistics hiring is fast out of the gate in 2018, **adding 5,300 jobs** in January in warehousing and storage companies alone.
- An inevitable evolution of technology and workforce - and of course - led by Amazon: **wireless wristbands** to track warehouse workers.

## Workforce Specialists Analytics Briefing

Volume 11

February 2018

### Manufacturing

- Five manufacturing sectors with the most job growth over the past five years. In order of number of jobs added:
  - Transportation Equipment (to include auto sector)
  - Fabricated Metal Products
  - Food Products
  - Plastic & Rubber Products
  - Beverages
- See the rest of the list [here](#).
- A strong economy drives demand for products, upward pressure on wages (however modest) and [increasing material costs](#). Manufacturers are feeling the squeeze and either have to raise prices or live with lower profit margins.
  - 2017 fourth quarter numbers: manufacturing labor productivity rose 5.7%, output up 7.3%, hours worked up only 1.5%. More technology and automation is a probable driver of these trends. These numbers are [even more impressive](#) compared to economy as a whole.

