

## Customer & Workforce Insights

Volume 23

February 2019

### Overview

All major economic sectors added jobs month over month in January.



Ecommerce growth continues to have significant impacts on Transportation & Warehousing sector dynamics.

Consensus across supply chain sectors: 2019 will be a year of stable, modest growth.

And just when you think the labor market could not get tighter, the newest numbers show it even tighter.

### Manufacturing

[Mixed signals about manufacturing's 2019 start](#), but there appears to be some softening demand in - at least – motor vehicles and parts sector.

There are early signs that the power of social media and [marketing can positively impact manufacturing workforce development](#).

A [flexibility gap](#)? Over half of manufacturing workers want more flexible work options. Only 9% of manufacturers have any options at all.



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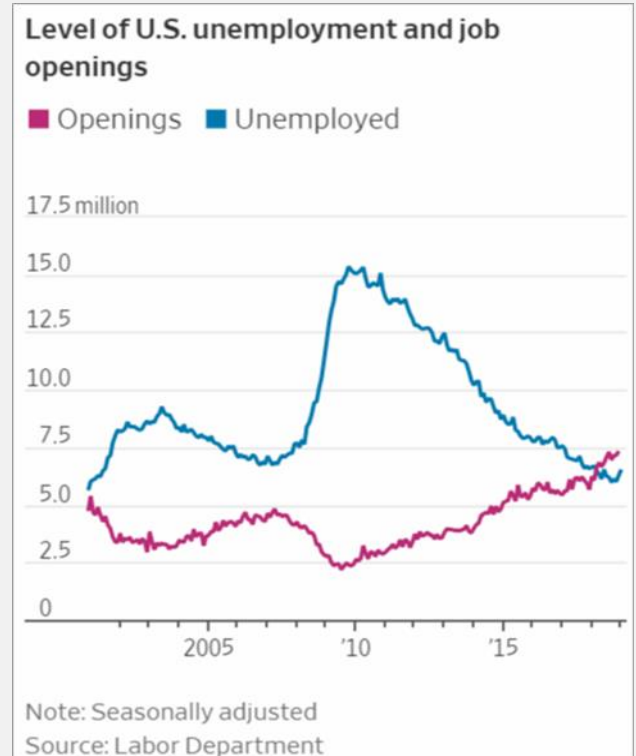
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### Workforce

Even tighter labor market with job openings continuing to exceed number of unemployed, now by over 1 million to end 2018 (see chart).

Some are projecting job growth rate deceleration later this year, but no major disruptions to long term labor market trends.

The case is being made that automation, while increasing productivity, is actually having a negative impact on wages, particularly at the lower income levels.



### Logistics

[Warehousing & Storage jobs are actually up in January](#), as the growth of ecommerce and reverse logistics change the rules of logistics seasonality.

3PL industry growth seems to be as sure a bet as there is: steady and stable. With multiple sources forecasting more of the same.

How is this for irony? Growth of ecommerce is straining [availability of warehouse space, so former retail buildings are being converted to warehouses.](#)