

U.S. MARKET:

Gross Domestic Product	<p>The U.S. GDP increased at an annual rate of 2.1% in the fourth quarter of 2016 according to the third estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in late March. In the third quarter, real GDP increased 3.5%. The third GDP estimate is based on more complete source data than were available for the second estimate released in February. In the second estimate, the increase in real GDP was 1.9%. (Source: US BEA) The latest GDPNow model forecast for real GDP growth (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in the first quarter of 2017 is 0.5%. (Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta) <i>(The GDPNow forecast aggregates statistical model forecasts of 13 subcomponents that comprise GDP.)</i></p>
U.S. Trade Deficit	<p>The U.S. goods and services trade deficit decreased 9.54% in February to \$43.6 billion. Exports of goods increased 0.31% to \$128.5 billion and imports of goods decreased 2.12% to \$193.4 billion. (Source: US DOC & Census Bureau)</p>
Unemployment Rate	<p>The unemployment rate in America decreased to 4.5% in March 2017. The decrease is primarily due to the large decline in the number of individuals who met the criteria to be technically designated as unemployed. A preliminary 98,000 net new jobs were created in March 2017, the fewest since May 2016. In March, food services created the most net new jobs, followed by services to buildings and dwellings, health care, mining, manufacturing, and temporaries. The unemployment rate in Georgia was 5.3% in February 2017. (Source: US DOL)</p>
Workforce Participation Rate	<p>The workforce participation rate was 63.0 in March 2017, unchanged from the prior month. The all-time high level was 67.3 in January 2000. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics) <i>(The Workforce Participation Rate measures the share of Americans at least 16 years old who are either employed or actively looking for work)</i></p>
Leading Economic Index	<p>The Leading Economic Index for the U.S. increased 0.48% in March 2017, ending at a reading of 126.7. According to The Conference Board, the gains among the leading indicators were very widespread, with new orders in manufacturing and the interest rate spread more than offsetting declines in the labor market components in March. (Source: Conference Board) <i>(The LEI is a composite of 10 economic indicators that together create an analytic system designed to signal peaks and troughs in the business cycle. The LEI reveals patterns in economic data in a clearer and more convincing manner than any individual component alone.)</i></p>
Housing Starts	<p>In February, housing starts were an annualized 1,290,000 units, up 3.2% from the previous month and the second highest for any month since October 2007. Warm weather in February may have influenced the high number for the month, causing some starts to begin early. The index of pending home sales (sales that haven't closed yet but contracts have been signed) was 112.3 in February, up 5.5% from the previous month. The stock market's continued rise and steady hiring in most markets is spurring significant interest in buying, as well as the expectation from some households that delaying their home search may mean paying higher interest rates later this year, according to the National Association of Realtors. (Source: U.S. DOC, National Association of Realtors)</p>
Retail Sales	<p>Advanced estimates of retail and food service sales in March 2017 were \$470.8 billion, a decrease of 0.22% from the previous month, and up 5.36% from March 2016. Non-store retail sales were up 11.2% from the same month last year, and include internet-only sales outlets as well as other direct-to-customer channels. (Source: US Census)</p>
E-Commerce	<p>The estimate of U.S. retail e-commerce sales for the fourth quarter of 2016, adjusted for seasonal variation, was \$102.7 billion, an increase of 1.9% from the third quarter of 2016 and 14.3% higher than the fourth quarter of 2015. (Source: US Census)</p>
Consumer Confidence	<p>The Consumer Confidence Index increased to 125.6 in March, up 8.18% from February and the highest level since December 2000. According to The Conference Board, consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions improved considerably. Consumers also expressed greater optimism regarding the short-term outlook for business, jobs, and personal income prospects. According to this index, overall consumers expect the economy to continue expanding in the months ahead. (Source: The Conference Board) <i>(The consumer confidence index is based on a monthly survey of 5,000 U.S. household. It is designed to gauge the financial health, spending power, and confidence of the average U.S. consumer.)</i></p>
Personal Income	<p>Personal Income increased 0.35% to \$16.4 trillion in February. The increase in personal income in February primarily reflected increases in wages and salaries and rental income of persons. During Q4 2016, Personal Income in Georgia was estimated at \$433.8 billion, an increase of 1.0% from Q3. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis) <i>(Personal income is the income received by a person from all sources. It includes income from domestic sources as well as the rest of the world. It does not include realized or unrealized capital gains or losses).</i></p>
Consumer & Producer Price Index	<p>The consumer price index for all urban consumers was 243.7 in March, a decrease of 0.29% from the previous month. The March decline was the first 1-month decrease in the seasonally adjusted all-items index since February 2016. A decline in the gasoline index was the largest factor, with a decrease in the index for wireless telephone services also contributing. The producer price index for final demand was 112.1 in March, a decrease of 0.09% from the previous month. Over 75% of the decline in the final demand index is attributable to a decrease in prices for final demand services. (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)</p>

Industrial Production and Capacity Utilization

The Industrial Production Index was 104.1 in March 2017, **up 0.58%** from the previous month and **0.86% lower year-over-year**. Capacity utilization for the industrial sector **increased 0.6%** year-over-year to 76.1%. (Source: Federal Reserve) *(The industrial production and capacity utilization rates cover manufacturing, mining, and electric and gas utilities. The industrial detail provided by these measures helps illuminate structural developments in the economy)*

Manufacturing & Trade Sales

Total combined sales and manufacturing shipments totaled nearly **\$1.36 trillion** in February 2017, **up 0.21% from January 2017 and up 4.7% from February of the previous year**. (Source: US Census)

Manufacturing & Trade Inventory

Total value of inventory on-hand is estimated at **\$1.83 trillion** in February 2017, **up 0.31% from January 2017 and up 1.2% from February of the previous year**. (Source: US Census)

Purchasing Managers Index

The National PMI **decreased to 57.2%** in March 2017, a **decrease of 5 basis points** over the previous month and the first decline in seven months. New orders **decreased 6 basis point to 64.5%** and production **decreased 53 basis points to 57.6%**. While there were declines in March, 17 out of the 18 manufacturing industries tracked by the ISM reported growth during the month. (Source: Institute for Supply Management) *(The PMI combines data on new orders, inventory, production, supplier deliveries, and employment. A reading above 50 indicates that the manufacturing economy is generally expanding.)*

Purchasing Managers Index in Georgia

Georgia's PMI increased 93 basis points month-over-month, to 72.4% in March 2017. New orders in Georgia **increased to 88.2** and production **increased to 76.5**. Georgia's PMI is now **152 basis points above** the national PMI. (Source: Kennesaw State University) *(The PMI combines data on new orders, inventory, production, supplier deliveries, and employment. A reading above 50 indicates that the manufacturing economy is generally expanding.)*

MULTIMODAL:

Dow Jones Transportation Index

Dow Jones Transportation Index **decreased 3.22%** in March 2017 ending at a reading of 9,116. *(Stock performance of twenty large, well-known U.S. companies in the transportation industry, average of March 1st thru March 31st)*

NASDAQ Transportation Index

NASDAQ Transportation Index **decreased 4.04%** in March 2017, ending at a reading of 4,255. *(Averaged share weights of NASDAQ-listed companies classified as transportation companies, average of March 1st thru March 31st)*

DOT Freight Transportation Service Index

The USDOT's freight transportation services index was 126.4 in February 2017, an **increase of 1.53%** and the **all-time high level** since recordings began in 2000. The February increase in the Freight TSI was broad based, with growth in all freight transportation modes except pipeline. (Source: US DOT)

Cass Freight Index

The March shipments index **increased 0.47%** from the previous month to 1.080 and **increased 1.0%** year-over-year. The 1.0% YoY increase is a data point which suggests that the first positive indication back in October 2016 may have indeed been a change in trend. It now looks as if the October index, which broke a string of 20 months in negative territory, was one of the first indicators that a recovery in freight had begun in earnest. The March expenditures index **decreased 1.17%** from the previous month to 2.355, and **increased 3.1%** year-over-year. Although still below the levels achieved in March of 2013, 2014 and 2015, March 2017 did exceed March 2016 and displayed a more traditional seasonal pattern. (Source: Cass Information Systems | Cassinfo.com) *(Based upon transportation dollars and shipments of Cass clients comprised of over 400 shipping companies)*

Import Volumes

In February 2017, the U.S. **imported \$193.4 billion** of cargo, **decreasing 2.18%** from January. The February imports of foods, feeds, and beverages (\$11.5 billion) were the **highest on record**. The February imports of capital goods (\$51.2 billion) were the **highest since March 2015** (\$52.3 billion). (Source: US Census)

Export Volumes

In February 2017, the U.S. **exported \$128.5 billion** of cargo, **increasing 0.31%** from January. The February exports of automotive vehicles, parts, and engines (\$13.8 billion) were the **highest since July 2014** (\$14.5 billion). February exports of industrial supplies and materials (\$38.4 billion) were the **highest since December 2015** (\$39.5 billion). (Source: US Census)

Import & Export Price Index

U.S. import prices **decreased 0.16%** in March 2017. The March downturn was driven by lower fuel import prices which more than offset rising nonfuel prices. Prior to the March downturn, import prices trended up over most of the past 12 months. U.S. export prices **increased 0.25%** in March, and have not recorded a monthly decline since the index fell 0.8% in August 2016. In March, rising prices exports contributed to the overall advance. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Shippers Conditions Index

The Shippers Conditions Index for January 2017 **decreased to a reading of -3.6**, reflecting a more challenging market for shippers. According to FTR, solid economic growth forecasts for 2017 are expected to increase overall costs for shippers, especially rates, in 2017. (Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence | ftrintel.com) *(Figures below zero indicate a less-than-ideal environment for shippers)*

Multimodal News Clips:

- Swift Transportation and Knight Transportation, two of the largest U.S. over-the-road motor carriers announced earlier this month that they are combining in an all-stock deal worth as much as \$6 billion. The deal will further strengthen their positions as leading providers of intermodal services. The new company, Knight-Swift Transportations Inc. will operate 23,000 tractors, 77,000 trailers and have 28,000 employees across a combined network of 70 terminals from coast to coast. (Source: Railway Age)

RAIL:

U.S. Freight Rail Traffic	<p>Originations of carloads in March 2017 totaled 1,283,489, an increase of 22.93% from the previous month and an increase of 7.3% from March 2016. March was the fifth straight year-over-year carload increase and the biggest percentage carload increase in the past five months. (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Report includes rail car-loadings by 20 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)</i></p>
U.S. Intermodal Rail Traffic	<p>Intermodal rail traffic totaled 1,298,173 units in March 2017, an increase of 21.5% from the previous month and 3.78% higher than March 2016. In the first quarter of 2017, U.S. intermodal volume was 3,387,680 units, up 1.4% over the first three months of 2016, and making it the best first quarter for intermodal in history for U.S. railroads (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Report includes rail car-loadings by 19 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)</i></p>
Intermodal Competitive Index	<p>The Intermodal Competitive Index increased to a reading of 6.98 in December 2016. FTR expects the ICI to improve in the coming months with a more robust rate environment. However, according to FTR, there may be more downside risks for intermodal as the year progresses, dependent upon trade policy changes that may be enacted by Congress or the new administration. (Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence ftrintel.com) <i>(Index includes factors like relative rates vs. truck, industry capacity vs. demand, fuel prices, and intermodal service levels. Figures above 0 indicate favorable conditions for intermodal to compete with truck)</i></p>
Railroad Fuel Price Index	<p>The index of average railroad fuel prices in March 2017 was 320.5, down 3.96% from the previous month and 31.35% higher year-over-year. (Source: AAR.org) <i>(Average monthly price for gallons purchased by freight railroads; Includes federal excise taxes, transportation, and handling expenses)</i></p>
Class 1 Railroad Employment	<p>Railroad employment in February 2017 increased 0.28% from the previous month, to 148,843 employees total, the first month-to-month increase in six months. (Source: U.S. STB)</p>
Short Line Rail Traffic	<p>In February 2017, short line railroad shipments across North America increased 4.1% from the previous month and increased 3.5% year-over-year. A sampling of about 417 small railroads in the U.S. and Canada loaded 546,277 railcars and intermodal units during the month of February. (Source: RailConnect Index GE Transportation)</p>
Railroad News Clips:	<p>Siemens' U.S. unit has launched Digital Rail Services, a new business that will use intelligent sensors and advanced software platforms to put intelligence behind billions of data points created on the country's rail systems. The company said this insight will help railroad operators improve their operations and create an "Internet of Trains" to bring infrastructure and vehicles into the digital era. The program applies Siemens global digital analytics experience with its extensive rail industry knowledge via an existing rail footprint that spans manufacturing, automation technologies, power infrastructure equipment and service. Siemens will locate its Digital Services hub in Atlanta, which will be home to the Data Analytics and Applications Center on the campus of Georgia Tech. (Source: Railway Age)</p>

TRUCKING:

Truck Tonnage Index	<p>The ATA's seasonally adjusted For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index decreased by 0.94% to 137.5 in March 2017. Compared with March 2016, the SA index increased 0.7%. According to the ATA, March's truck tonnage was likely affected by later season winter storms. Despite the decrease, seasonally adjusted tonnage rose 1.2% during the first quarter from the previous quarter, and increased 0.2% from the same quarter last year. (Source: American Trucking Associations Trucking.org)</p>
Truckload Freight	<p>The spot market for truckload-freight available for pick-up in March increased 546 basis points compared to the previous month, and was 40 basis points higher year-over-year. The increase is mainly due to March signaling the end of Q1, when shippers are rushing to move freight before closing their books. Truck capacity increased 73 basis points for the month, and increased 36 basis points year-over-year. (Source: DAT Trendlines www.dat.com)</p>
Trucking Conditions Index	<p>The Trucking Conditions Index for February 2017 increased to a reading of 5.11. FTR expects the index to approach a double digit positive reading by year end due to the combination of freight growth and still-planned regulatory headwinds projected for implementation in 2017. (Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence ftrintel.com) <i>(Figures below zero indicate a less-than-ideal environment for trucking)</i></p>
Diesel Prices	<p>As of April 17, 2017 the U.S. average diesel price was \$2.59 per gallon. The U.S. average diesel price was \$0.43 higher than the same week last year. The average price of diesel in the Southeastern Atlantic states was \$2.52 per gallon, 2.70% less than the national average price. (Source: U.S. DOE) <i>(Reflects the costs and profits of the entire production and distribution chain.)</i></p>
Trucking Employment	<p>The trucking industry workforce increased by approximately 4,700 employees to 1,476,800 employees total in March 2017. The trucking industry workforce increased 0.32% over the previous month and increased 0.98% over March 2016. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)</p>

Trucking Earnings and Hours

The average earnings of truck transportation employees were \$21.21/hour in February 2017, **up 0.32%** from the previous month. The average weekly hours totaled 40.7 in February, **up 0.24%** from the previous month. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

U.S. Truck & Trailer Orders (Class 8)

Preliminary data for heavy-duty Class 8 trucks net orders in North America were **22,800 units** in March 2017, slightly above expectations with a slight **decrease of 0.44%** from the previous month. According to FTR, March orders are reflective of a more normal Class 8 market in a moderate, freight-driven upcycle and replacement cycles are now getting back into a more traditional pattern. Final March 2017 net trailer orders came in at **20,455 units, down 20.7%** from the previous month but **up 48%** from March 2016. According to FTR, the drop off from February is due to the start of a typical seasonal decline for trailer orders, and the strong year over year comparison reflects a positive trailer order environment. (Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence | ftrintel.com)

NAFTA Trade

Surface transport-related trade between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners, Canada and Mexico totaled \$88.0 billion in January 2017, **up 1.0%** from the previous month, **up 6.75%** year-over-year, **and the largest year-over-year increase since the September 2014**. January also marked the third straight month in which the year-over-year value of U.S. NAFTA freight increased from the same month of the previous year. (Source: US DOT)

Trucking News Clip

Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, Tweeted earlier this month “Tesla Semi truck unveil set for September. Team has done an amazing job. Seriously next level.” Musk announced his plans for a commercial vehicle last July on the Tesla website. Along with an electric, autonomous commercial vehicle dubbed the “Tesla Semi,” Musk also proposed a fully autonomous, electric compact bus for urban routes along with electric pickup truck and SUV models. The master plan, released as a blog post on Tesla’s site, lays out the company’s path beyond the Model 3, with plans for an electric cargo truck equipped with autonomous driving technology called Tesla Semi; a new-style electric bus, smaller than current models, capable of operating without a human driver; a pickup truck; a small SUV. At the time, Musk commented, “We believe the Tesla Semi will deliver a substantial reduction in the cost of cargo transport, while increasing safety and making it really fun to operate.” (Source: TruckingInfo.com) (NOTE: driverless trucks remain in testing stages and are not currently permitted for regular travel on U.S. roadways.)

AIR FREIGHT:

Air Cargo Traffic

Global air freight traffic in February 2017 **increased by 8.4% year-over-year**. However, the relativity of the data are affected by the fact that 2016 was a leap year. Adjusting for the one fewer day in February this year, IATA estimate that the ‘underlying’ FTK growth rate was even stronger at around 12% – almost four times its five-year average rate (3.0%). (Source: IATA.org,) (*Global air freight covers international and domestic scheduled air traffic.*)

Atlanta Air Cargo Traffic

In February 2017, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport transported **52,050 metric tons** of cargo, a **0.92% increase** from the previous month and a **9.46% increase** year-over-year. (Source: HJIA)

Air Freight Price Index

The latest Drewry East-West Airfreight Price Index **fell 6.9% to 92.6** in January 2017. The decrease was expected, as air freight rates tend to decline following the peak holiday shipping season. According to Drewry, the decrease was much smaller than anticipated, and they expect another modest drop in February. (Source: Drewry) (*The Drewry East-West Air Freight Price Index is based on the average of rates (\$US per kg) for air freight services on 21 major East-West routes.*)

Jet Fuel Prices

As of April 7, 2017 the global average jet fuel price was \$66.10 per barrel; **up 8.1%** from the previous month, and **43.7% higher** year-over-year. (Source: IATA.org, platts.com) (*The weekly index and price data shows the global average price paid at the refinery for aviation jet fuel*)

Air Freight News Clips:

Emirates SkyCargo, the freight division of Emirates, has launched a suite of solutions designed to maintain the freshness of perishables and consumables during transport. The suite includes three levels: Emirates SkyFresh, Emirates SkyFresh Breathe, and Emirates SkyFresh Active. Each solution provides varied levels of cool chain protection based on the kinds of perishables being shipped. Emirates SkyFresh Active offers the highest protection for perishables that require specialized temperature-controlled containers during transport. (Source: American Shipper)

OCEAN FREIGHT:

Import Volumes by Ocean

In February 2017, the latest month for which after-the-fact numbers are available, U.S. container ports handled 1.43 million TEUs, a **14.3% decrease** from January as many Asian factories paused operations for Lunar New Year, and **7.1% lower** from February 2016. Coming after the winter holidays and before retailers stock up for summer, February is historically the slowest month of the year for imports. (Source: NRF/Hackett Associates)

Shanghai Containerized Freight Index

The April 14th SCFI comprehensive reading was **\$810.17 per FEU**; up **6.4%** from last month. The **spot rate for shipments to the U.S. East Coast was \$2,360 per FEU, down 18.2%** from the previous month. (Source: Shanghai Shipping Exchange | www1.chineseshipping.com.cn/en, American Shipper) *(The Shanghai Containerized Freight Index is a weekly reported average export spot rate from Shanghai for 15 different trade lanes.)*

Baltic Dry Index

The Baltic Dry Index **increased 50.9%** in February 2017, ending at 859. Analysts have noted the index tends to see a seasonal boost following the Lunar New Year. However, economists at Panjiva Research argued that those effects had already dissipated by mid-February and that the move in rates may reflect a more fundamentally more accurate view of the market. (Source: www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND, www.marketwatch.com) *(The Baltic Dry Index is an index that tracks and averages worldwide international shipping prices of various dry bulk cargoes.)*

TSA Bunker Surcharges

Between April 1 and June 30, 2017, the bunker fuel surcharge will total **\$324 per FEU** for shipments to the West coast ocean ports and **\$621 per FEU** for shipments to the East coast and Gulf ports. (Source: Transpacific Stabilization Agreement) *(The Transpacific Stabilization Agreement is a research and discussion forum of major ocean container shipping lines that carry cargo from Asia to ports in the U.S.)*

Port of Savannah

The Port of Savannah moved **311,771 TEUs** in March 2017, a **5.6% decrease from the previous month, but 5.6% higher year-over-year and the busiest March in GPA history**. Strong demand from retail and manufacturing customers, both in the U.S. and abroad, is driving growth in Savannah and Brunswick. According to the Georgia Ports Authority, as existing port users expanded their trade through GPA terminals and new customers tap into Georgia's connectivity to major population centers across the Southeast, they expect to see additional job and economic development opportunities for the region. (Source: GPA)

Port of Brunswick

In March 2017, the Port of Brunswick achieved **growth of 22.5%** in roll-on/roll-off cargo, with Colonel's Island Terminal moving 56,580 units, up by 10,386 cars, trucks and tractors for the month. Breakbulk cargo also saw double-digit growth in March, reaching 232,601 tons, a 10.5% increase over March 2016. Strong categories included iron and steel, which grew 82%. Forest products exported via Mayor's Point Terminal in Brunswick more than doubled from 5,347 tons in March 2016 to 11,337 tons last month. (Source: Associated Press)

Ocean Freight Business News:

The Federal Maritime Commission has approved an agreement allowing the Georgia Ports Authority and the Virginia Port Authority to cooperate as an East Coast gateway for containerized cargo. The East Coast Gateway Terminal Agreement encourages the exchange of information and best practices in operational and supply chain efficiencies, safety, communications, and customer service. The agreement does not cover discussions regarding purchase or lease prices for containers or chassis. It also prohibits the ports from entering into agreements on rates, charges, terms or conditions on containers or chassis without filing an agreement with the FMC. (Source: GPA, Railway Age)

WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION:

Industrial Vacancy

The **nationwide vacancy rate was 5.7%** at the end of the fourth quarter in 2016, **the lowest level in nearly 17 years**. It is down from 5.8% in Q3 and 6.3% at the beginning of the year. The industrial vacancy rate in Savannah, GA was 2.43% in Q4 of 2016, compared to 3.04% at the end of 2015. (Source: NGKF, Colliers)

Warehouse Rent Rates

In Q4 2016, the average asking rent across the U.S. was **\$6.03/SF triple net, up 1.1%** from the prior quarter and up 5.8% from the beginning of the year. It was **the strongest annual rent gain** since at least 2000. The average asking rent in Atlanta was \$4.64/SF. (Source: NGKF)

Industrial Absorption

Net absorption in the US during Q4 2016 totaled 52.1 million square feet, **the ninth consecutive quarter above 5 million**. It pushed the total for 2016 to 261.7 million square feet, **the seventh consecutive annual increase and the third consecutive record-setting year**. Retailers, both e-commerce and traditional, signed the three largest industrial leases of the fourth quarter. Floor & Décor, a flooring and tile vendor, signed **the quarter's largest lease totaling 1.4 million square feet in Savannah, Georgia**. (Source: NGKF) *(Absorption is the net change in occupied space between two points in time. Positive absorption means that previously unoccupied space is being occupied.)*

Warehouse Employment

The nationwide warehousing industry workforce **decreased by 200 employees** to 945,200 employees total in March 2017. The warehouse industry workforce **decreased 0.02%** from the previous month and **increased 5.26%** year-over-year. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Warehouse Earnings and Hours

The average earnings of warehousing & storage employees across the U.S. were \$19.33/hour in February 2017, **down 1.58%** from the previous month. The average weekly hours totaled 41.2 in February, **down 0.72%** from the previous month. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

W&D Business News:

- Amazon was awarded a patent this month for an on-demand manufacturing system designed to quickly produce clothing and other products only after a customer order is placed. The computerized system would include textile printers, cutters and an assembly line, as well as cameras designed to snap images of garments that would provide feedback on alterations needed in subsequent items. In order to increase efficiency, the goods would be manufactured in batches based on factors such as the customer shipping address. Once various textile products are printed, cut and assembled according to the orders, they can be processed through a quality check, photographed for placement in an electronic commerce system, shipped to customers and/or stored in a materials handling facility for order fulfillment. According to the patent, by aggregating orders from various geographic locations and coordinating apparel assembly processes on a large scale, the embodiments provide new ways to increase efficiency in apparel manufacturing. (Source: Supply Chain 24/7)
- Star Snacks, Co. LLC, a leading manufacturer and distributor of high-quality branded nuts, trail mixes, and dried fruit, will create 115 jobs and invest more than \$18 million in a peanut roasting and packaging facility in Macon-Bibb County. Star Snacks will construct a 200,000-square-foot facility to source, roast and distribute peanuts grown in southwest Georgia. The newly created jobs will include positions in manufacturing and processing. (Source: Georgia.org)

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