

U.S. MARKET:

Gross Domestic Product	The U.S. GDP increased at an annual rate of 1.9% in the fourth quarter of 2016 according to the second estimate released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in late February. In the third quarter, real GDP increased 3.5%. The second GDP estimate is based on more complete source data than were available for the advance estimate released in January. (Source: US BEA) The latest GDPNow model forecast for real GDP growth (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in the first quarter of 2017 is 1.3%. (Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta) <i>(The GDPNow forecast aggregates statistical model forecasts of 13 subcomponents that comprise GDP.)</i>
U.S. Trade Deficit	The U.S. goods and services trade deficit increased 9.48% in January to \$48.5 billion. Exports of goods increased 0.86% to \$128.0 billion and imports of goods increased 2.64% to \$197.6 billion. (Source: US DOC & Census Bureau)
Unemployment Rate	The unemployment rate in America decreased to 4.7% in February 2017. A preliminary 235,000 net new jobs were created in February 2017, led by construction, private educational services, manufacturing, health care, and mining. The unemployment rate in Georgia was 5.5% in January 2017. (Source: US DOL)
Workforce Participation Rate	The workforce participation rate increased 0.16% to 63.0 in February 2016, the third straight monthly increase. (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>
Leading Economic Index	The Leading Economic Index for the U.S. increased 0.64% in January 2017, ending at a reading of 125.5. According to The Conference Board, the increase points to a positive economic outlook in the first half of this year. The January gain was broad based among the leading indicators. If this trend continues, the U.S. economy may even accelerate in the near term. (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>
Housing Starts	In January, housing starts were an annualized 1,250,000 units, down 2.34% from the previous month but still the third highest for any month since October 2007 . The index of pending home sales (sales that haven't closed yet but contracts have been signed) was 106.4 in January, down 2.8% from the previous month. The significant shortage of listings last month along with higher home prices and mortgage rates kept many would-be buyers at bay, according to the National Association of Realtors. (Source: U.S. DOC, National Association of Realtors)
Retail Sales	Advanced estimates of retail and food service sales in February 2017 were \$474.0 billion, an increase of 0.08% from the previous month, and up 5.97% from February 2016. Non-store retail sales were up 13.0% from the same month last year, and include internet-only sales outlets as well as other direct-to-customer channels. (Source: US Census)
E-Commerce	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)
Consumer Confidence	The Consumer Confidence Index increased to 114.8 in February, up 2.87% from January and the highest level since July 2001 . According to The Conference Board, consumers rated current business and labor market conditions more favorably in February than in January. Expectations improved regarding the short-term outlook for business, and to a lesser degree jobs and 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>
Personal Income	Personal Income increased 0.39% to \$16.3 trillion in January. The increase in personal income in January primarily reflected increases in wages and salaries and personal current transfer receipts that were partially offset by an increase in contributions for government social insurance, a subtraction in the calculation of personal income. During Q3 2016, Personal Income in Georgia was estimated at \$432.1 billion, an increase of 1.0% from Q2. (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>
Consumer & Producer Price Index	The consumer price index for all urban consumers was 244.5 in February, an increase of 0.12% from the previous month. The February increase was the smallest 1-month rise in the seasonally adjusted all items index since July 2016. The gasoline index declined, partially offsetting increases in several indexes, including food, shelter, and recreation. The producer price index for final demand was 112.2 in February, an increase of 0.27% from the previous month. Over 80% of the advance in the final demand index is attributable to an increase in prices for final demand services. (Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics)
Industrial Production and Capacity Utilization	The Industrial Production Index was 104.7 in February 2017, unchanged from the previous month and 0.29% higher year-over-year . Capacity utilization for the industrial sector increased 0.6% year-over-year to 75.4%. (Source: Federal Reserve) <i>(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)</i>

Manufacturing & Trade Sales

Total combined sales and manufacturing shipments totaled nearly **\$1.36 trillion** in January 2017, **up .20% from December 2016 and up 4.8% from January of the previous year.** (Source: US Census)

Manufacturing & Trade Inventory

Total value of inventory on hand is estimated at **\$1.84 trillion** in January 2017, **up 0.29% from December 2016 and up 1.6% from January of the previous year.** (Source: US Census)

Purchasing Managers Index

The National PMI **increased to 57.7%** in February 2017, an **increase of 17 basis points** over the previous month and the **highest reading since August 2014.** February marks the sixth straight monthly increase in the PMI, something that hasn't happened since late 2011. New orders **increased 47 basis point** to 65.1% and production **increased 15 basis points** to 62.9%. (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 111 basis points** month-over-month, to 63.1% in February 2017. New orders in Georgia **increased to 71.9** and production **increased to 65.6.** Georgia's PMI is now **54 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 **increased 2.70%** in February 2017 ending at a reading of 9,419. *(Stock performance of twenty large, well-known U.S. companies in the transportation industry, average of Feb. 1st thru Feb. 28th)*

NASDAQ Transportation Index

NASDAQ Transportation Index **increased 3.09%** in February 2017, ending at a reading of 4,434. *(Averaged share weights of NASDAQ-listed companies classified as transportation companies, average of Feb. 1st thru Feb. 28th)*

DOT Freight Transportation Service Index

The USDOT's freight transportation services index **was unchanged** in January 2017, remaining at a reading of 123.2, 1.6% below the all-time high reading of 125.2 in July 2016. In January, there were increases in air freight, water, and rail carloads, while trucking, pipeline, and rail intermodal declined, resulting in no change in the TSI. (Source: US DOT)

Cass Freight Index

The January shipments index **decreased 6.4%** from the previous month to 1.005 and **increased 3.2%** year-over-year. The 3.2% increase is a data point which strongly 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 January expenditures index **decreased 0.26%** for the month to 2.268, and **increased 4.3%** year-over-year. (Source: Cass Information Systems | Cassinfo.com) *(Based upon transportation dollars and shipments of Cass clients comprised of over 400 shipping companies)*

Import Volumes

In January, the U.S. **imported \$197.6 billion** of cargo, **increasing 2.57%** from December 2016. The January imports of goods were the **highest on record since March 2015 (\$198.0 billion).** The January imports of automotive vehicles, parts, and engines (\$31.8 billion) were the **highest on record.** (Source: US Census)

Export Volumes

In January, the U.S. **exported \$128.0 billion** of cargo, **increasing 0.84%** from December 2016. The January exports of goods were the **highest since April 2015 (\$129.0 billion).** The January exports of advanced industrial supplies and materials (\$38.0 billion) were **the highest since December 2014 (\$39.5 billion).** (Source: US Census)

Import & Export Price Index

U.S. import prices **increased 0.25%** in February 2017. The advance was primarily driven by higher nonfuel import prices which more than offset lower fuel prices. U.S. export prices **increased 0.33%** in February, and have not recorded a monthly decline since the index fell 0.8% in August 2016. In February, rising prices for both agricultural and nonagricultural exports contributed to the overall advance. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Shippers Conditions Index

The Shippers Conditions Index for December **increased slightly to a reading of 1.9.** FTR expects that the current favorable environment may shift to rate and supply turbulence for shippers as 2017 progresses. Freight markets are currently operating at a relatively optimal level, with plenty of capacity to carry small increases in freight levels. This continues to give transportation managers the opportunity to focus on negotiating the best rates. However, the shipping environment is approaching a transitional time, with the potential for significant capacity shortages by the end of the year. (Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence | ftrintel.com) *(Figures below zero indicate a less-than-ideal environment for shippers)*

Multimodal News Clips:

- Enterprise software giant Infor reported that it has made a deal with Amazon that will allow the company to run its transportation and logistics on the GT Nexus platform. While the full extent of Amazon's plans are not public, reports began to emerge a year ago of its ambition to build a global shipping and logistics operation. This included "an aggressive global expansion of the company's Fulfillment By Amazon service, which provides storage, packing and shipping for independent merchants selling products on the company's website" according to the proposal. The GT Nexus platform, which is a leading player in the management of global trade logistics, already connects into an extensive global network of shipping and freight companies, factories, and logistics operators. (Source: diginomica.com)

- UPS is investing an additional \$90 million in vehicles that run on natural gas and the infrastructure to support them. The Atlanta-based company will build an additional six compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling stations and add 390 new CNG tractors and terminal trucks, along with 50 liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicles to its alternative fuel fleet. Last year, UPS invested \$100 million in CNG fueling stations and vehicles. The company used more than 61 million gallons of natural gas in their ground fleet, which included 4.6 million gallons of renewable natural gas. This helped them avoid the use of conventional gas and diesel, and decreased CO2 emissions by 100,000 metric tons. (Source: American Shipper)

RAIL:

U.S. Freight Rail Traffic

Originations of carloads in February 2017 totaled 1,044,040, an **increase of 4.76%** from the previous month and an **increase of 6.64%** from February 2016. February was the **fourth straight year-over-year carload increase and the biggest percentage carload increase since December 2014**. (Source: AAR.org) *(Report includes rail car-loadings by 20 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)*

U.S. Intermodal Rail Traffic

Intermodal rail traffic totaled 1,068,439 units in February 2017, an **increase of 4.64% from the previous month, a 1.84% increase over February 2016, and the highest February ever for U.S. intermodal volume**. (Source: AAR.org) *(Report includes rail car-loadings by 19 different major commodity categories as well as intermodal units)*

Intermodal Competitive Index

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) *(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)*

Railroad Fuel Price Index

The index of average railroad fuel prices in January was 333.3, **up 2.65%** from the previous month and **55.6% higher** year-over-year. (Source: AAR.org) *(Average monthly price for gallons purchased by freight railroads; Includes federal excise taxes, transportation, and handling expenses)*

Class 1 Railroad Employment

Railroad employment in January **decreased 1.19% from the previous month**, to 148,427 employees total, the biggest one-month decline in almost a year and the lowest employment total since February 2010. Train and engine employees made up the biggest decrease in total employment, falling by 1,438 employees. (Source: U.S. STB)

Short Line Rail Traffic

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)

Railroad News Clips:

- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced earlier this month that as of December 31, 2016, freight railroads had positive train control (PTC) active on 16% of tracks required to be equipped, up from 12% in the third-quarter of 2016. Based on railroad-submitted quarterly data, the latest report shows that freight railroads are continuing to make consistent progress, while the passenger-rail industry is progressing more slowly, according to an FRA press release. Congress requires Class I railroads, intercity passenger, and commuter railroads to implement PTC systems by December 31, 2018. (Source: Progressive Railroading)

TRUCKING:

Truck Tonnage Index

The ATA's seasonally adjusted For-Hire Truck Tonnage Index **increased by 2.8% to 138.8** in January 2017. Compared with January 2016, the SA index increased 2.6%. According to the ATA, January's truck tonnage numbers are a good indicator that the freight economy is improving, and they expect 2017 to have fewer large month-to-month swings compared to 2016. (Source: American Trucking Associations | Trucking.org)

Truckload Freight

The spot market for truckload-freight available for pick-up in February **decreased 92 basis points** compared to the previous month, and was **62 basis points lower** year-over-year. Truck capacity **decreased 5 basis points** for the month, and **decreased 73 basis points** year-over-year. (Source: DAT Trendlines | www.dat.com)

Trucking Conditions Index

The Trucking Conditions Index for January 2017 slightly **declined to a reading of 2.7**. FTR expects that January will be the low point for trucking conditions ahead of an expected bounce as 2017 progresses. (Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence | ftrintel.com) *(Figures below zero indicate a less-than-ideal environment for trucking)*

Diesel Prices

As of March 13, 2017 the U.S. average diesel price was **\$2.56 per gallon**. The U.S. average diesel price was **\$0.46 higher** than the same week last year. The average price of diesel in the Southeastern Atlantic states was **\$2.51 per gallon, 1.95% less than the national average price**. (Source: U.S. DOE) *(Reflects the costs and profits of the entire production and distribution chain.)*

Trucking Employment

The trucking industry workforce **increased by approximately 10,600 employees to 1,470,400 employees total** in February 2017. The trucking industry workforce **increased 0.73%** over the previous month and **increased 0.37%** over February 2016. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Trucking Earnings and Hours

The average earnings of truck transportation employees were \$22.91/hour in January 2017, **up 0.17%** from the previous month. The average weekly hours totaled 41.0 in January, **down 2.15%** 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 **22,900 units** in February 2017, exceeding expectations with an **increase of 6.02%** from the previous month. The steady order trend has now pushed backlogs to over 100,000 units for the first time since June 2016. According to FTR, this order cycle is much flatter and longer than usual, but is a healthy order total for February. Final January 2017 net trailer orders came in at **32,800 units, down 3.7%** from the previous month but **up 86%** from January 2016. According to FTR, the trailer order cycle has shifted back a few months this year, starting in November instead of September or October. This resulted in an unusually high number of orders in January. (Source: FTR Transportation Intelligence | ftrintel.com)

NAFTA Trade

Surface transport-related trade between the U.S. and its NAFTA partners, Canada and Mexico totaled \$87.1 billion in December 2016, **down 4.39%** from the previous month but **increasing 0.45%** year-over-year. The 0.45% increase was the third time in the last five months where 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

- The U.S. Department of Transportation released a study that has settled the rules governing truckers' hours-of-service. The new study confirms that truckers' 34-hour restarts will not require two 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. periods and will not be limited to once per week. Congress those requirements in December 2014, pending the issuance of the study. The study found that truckers following the regulations requiring the early morning periods to be included in the restart operated no more safely than truckers not abiding by the rules. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will likely need to issue a formal notice to remove the rules permanently, but the regulations have been suspended since a December 2014 notice. The report does not change the rules truckers' currently operate under. (Source: TruckersNews.com)

AIR FREIGHT:

Air Cargo Traffic

Global air freight traffic in January 2017 **decreased 29 basis points** from the previous month but **increased 42 basis points** year-over-year. According to the IATA, the timing of the Chinese New Year can complicate year-over-year comparisons at this time of year, however the January data suggests that the upward momentum trend has carried into 2017. (Source: IATA.org,) *(Global air freight covers international and domestic scheduled air traffic.)*

Atlanta Air Cargo Traffic

In January 2017, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport transported **51,576 metric tons** of cargo, a **17.7% decrease** from the previous month and a **3.57% increase** year-over-year. (Source: HJAIA)

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 March 10, 2017 the global average jet fuel price was \$67.10 per barrel; **down 9.3%** from the previous month, and **35.1% 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:

- The International Air Cargo Association's (TIACA) Shipper's Advisory Committee (SAC) said in a new position paper that change is needed and all sectors of the air cargo supply chain industry must collaborate to drive the adoption of new technology and greater transparency. Currently, "the air cargo supply chain requires 21 documents to be sent 40 times, in 20 steps...a decentralized open platform with a shared collaborative environment would enable seamless integration and real-time visibility over freight" according to the paper. The SAC will discuss the paper and the next steps during their Executive Summit in October. (Source: American Shipper)

- Amazon announced that it is planning to offer its sellers in China the ability to fly their goods internationally as air cargo. The move is an expansion of Amazon's growing business as a global freight forwarder and third-party logistics company. In recent months, Amazon began handling the shipment of goods by ocean to its U.S. warehouses from Chinese merchants selling on its site, taking on a role it had previously left to global freight transportation companies. Many traditional freight forwarders still conduct their business via phone, email or even fax machine, but Amazon's entrance into the sector could drive shippers away from that method in favor of a user-friendly technology platform (Source: MarketWatch.com)

OCEAN FREIGHT:

Import Volumes by Ocean

In January 2017, the latest month for which after-the-fact numbers are available, U.S. container ports handled an unusually high 1.67 million TEUs, a **5.7% increase** from December 2016 and **11.3% higher** from January 2016. The large volume came as factories in Asia shipped a surge of products ahead of Lunar New Year shutdowns. (Source: NRF/Hackett Associates)

Shanghai Containerized Freight Index

The March 10th SCFI comprehensive reading was **\$761.15 per FEU**; **down 14.1%** from last month. The spot rate for shipments to the U.S. East Coast was **\$2,887 per FEU**, **down 16.4%** 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 7.38%** in February 2017, ending at 859. (Source: www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND) *(The Baltic Dry Index is an index that tracks and averages worldwide international shipping prices of various dry bulk cargoes.)*

TSA Bunker Surcharges

Between January 1 and March 31 2017, the bunker fuel surcharge will total **\$288 per FEU** for shipments to the West coast ocean ports and **\$549 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 **330,539 TEUs** in February 2017, a **0.28% decrease from the previous month, but 7.65% higher year-over-year, the busiest February in GPA history, and the sixth-best monthly total ever**. Ocean Terminal also achieved significant growth in February, with a **9.2% increase in breakbulk cargo** for the month, led by linerboard, iron and steel, and autos. Such growth may continue with the coming realignment of the shipping alliances in April, since Savannah will offer more container services than any other East Coast or Gulf port, at 35 weekly vessel calls. (Source: GPA)

Port of Brunswick

A reduction in bulk goods such as rubber, lumber, and automobiles led to a 9.5% monthly decline for February 2017, and a 3.9% decline year-to-date at the Port of Brunswick. According to Port officials, bulk shipping volumes have seen a short-term decrease because of lower rates of shipping the same commodities via containers. The price difference is so drastic that containers are now being used to ship goods such as logs and grain that are normally shipped in bulk. Eventually, prices for containers are expected to level off compared with bulk shipping. (Source: Associated Press)

Ocean Freight Business News:

- The Panama Canal will be launching a new vessel scheduling and maritime resource management system, according to a release issued earlier this month by the Panama Canal Authority (ACP). The system will transform how the canal schedules transit operations by formulating an integrated operations plan for all of its critical resources including tugboats, pilots, and line handlers. Additionally, the system will help reduce costs by optimizing resource allocation. According to the ACP, by implementing the new system, shippers should be able to experience increased reliability and shortened vessel waiting times, which have increased since the completion of the canal expansion in June 2016. The new system will be fully integrated into canal operations over the next two years, with vessel scheduling capabilities expected to be operational by the end of September 2017. (Source: American Shipper)

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 warehousing industry workforce **decreased by 1,500 employees** to 948,600 employees total in February 2017. The warehouse industry workforce **decreased 0.16%** from the previous month and **increased 6.33%** year-over-year. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Warehouse Earnings and Hours

The average earnings of warehousing & storage employees were \$19.62/hour in January 2017, **up 2.13%** from the previous month. The average weekly hours totaled 41.6 in January, **down 4.3%** from the previous month. (Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

W&D Business News:

- The growth in e-commerce is driving changes in how racks and shelving are utilized in warehouses and DCs. According to Ridg-U-Rak, one of the largest pallet rack storage manufacturers in North America, more manufacturers and retailers are updating their DCs and incorporating new technologies, automation, and pick modules that support rapid-order fulfillment. Consumers are accustomed to receiving orders in 2-3 days, pushing companies to change their order fulfillment processes. As part of that charge, companies are looking carefully at the rack and shelving that supports those operations. The selective static storage racks that have a place in most modern-day DCs are giving way to more multi-level picking operations that can accommodate faster picking and picking of multi-item orders (versus just palletized goods). (Source: Logistics Management)
- Luxottica Group, a leading eyewear designer, manufacturer, and distributor, will create 1,000 jobs with the expansion of its North American distribution facility in Henry County, GA by the end of 2017. The expansion will use the company's new lens service model in which both frames and lenses are assembled and distributed from a single location. (Source: Georgia.org)

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