

On Small Business

Main Street Morning: A dip in U.S. factory growth

By [Gene Marks](#) October 2

Welcome to Main Street Morning, The Washington Post's daily collection of news affecting entrepreneurs, start-ups and small businesses with a special focus on policy and government.

Here's what's affecting my small business, my clients and other entrepreneurs today.

Washington

- Small business owners take to Capitol Hill over [labor rules](#).
- The FAA [misses a deadline](#) to broadly legalize commercial drones.

The Economy

- U.S. factory activity [slows to its slowest pace](#) since 2013.
- But small businesses [hired at a faster pace](#) in September.
- Office [vacancies](#) declined in the third quarter.
- Atlanta's Fed slashes its [third quarter GDP](#) estimate by 50 percent.
- Construction [spending increased](#) in August.
- Small business [success and optimism](#) is up but the focus on growth has stalled, according to a new study from The Hartford.
- America's auto sales are at [their fastest pace](#) in a decade.

The Elections

- Why America [can't afford](#) massive tax cuts.

People

- A [new report](#) has uncovered some unconventional measures that companies are willing to

take to land and retain high performers.

- Taylor Swift [gives her back-up dancer \\$50,000](#) for his nephew's cancer treatment.

Management

- A benefits firm [shares some insights](#) about business learned at Salesforce's Dreamforce 2015 conference.
- This [paper trail](#) is causing a \$1 trillion drag on U.S. businesses.
- Big U.S. banks are [boosting their efforts](#) to recruit and retain female employees.
- Many executives agree that a long road remains to [gender equality](#) in business.
- A CEO shares what [he'd look for](#) in an ideal partner.

Entrepreneurs

- A [study done by](#) freelancing site Upwork and the Freelancers Union found that 54 million people did freelance work in the past year, driven first and foremost by the lure of a more flexible lifestyle.
- This guy makes \$1,000 a week just by [waiting in line](#) to get rich people their new iPhones.

Retail

- This is the trouble with those [20 percent off coupons](#) from Bed Bath & Beyond.
- Many retailers still [haven't met the deadline](#) for chip-card readers.
- Amazon will [stop selling](#) Google's Chromecast and Apple TV.

Restaurants

- Dunkin' Donuts plans to [shutter 100 U.S. stores](#).
- Affordable [Care Act issues](#) are affecting restaurants.

Sales & Marketing

- Mobile technology [marketing strategies](#) that matter in 2015.
- These are five essential [e-mail tips](#) your marketers can do today.
- Why life insurance is a [tough sell](#) for Millennials.

Travel

- American Airlines is now letting passengers [track their checked bags](#) in real time.

Cash Flow

- Why mobile payments [aren't gaining traction](#) with small businesses.

Start-ups

- A start-up [raises \\$7 million](#) to be the Shazam for machines.
- Five cities you [wouldn't expect](#) to have a thriving start-up scene.
- A CEO thinks you [might want](#) to try flipping a business rather than starting one.
- A drone start-up is [flying high](#) after a big win in DC.
- Denver's Start-up Week [hits a record](#) 10,000 attendees.

Technology

- Why the future will be [full of mushroom batteries](#).
- General Motors is testing an [Apple Watch app](#) to open car doors.
- IBM says its [carbon-nanotube-based chips](#) can break through the limits of Moore's law.
- A [bladeless razor](#) raises more than \$2 million on Kickstarter.
- The 3D [printing industry is forecasted](#) to reach \$12.5 billion by 2018.

Online

- Cortana in Windows 10 now [shows you contact information](#) from LinkedIn.

- If [you like that](#) email, then Microsoft will let you “like” it.

Social Media

- Jack Dorsey is officially [Twitter’s permanent CEO](#).

Around the Country

- The sale of [marijuana is now legal](#) in Oregon.
- Cameramen that were [showcasing how great](#) Houston is get robbed at gunpoint.
- A [potentially powerful](#) hurricane threatens the east coast.
- The [hidden inequality](#) of car accident deaths.
- How a venerable Washington developer [saved the biggest deal of his life](#).

Around the World

- Colombia is [close to a deal](#) to boost GDP “forever.”
- An economics blogger wonders if [austerity worked](#) in Portugal.
- Russia prepares for [wave of bankruptcy](#) filings under a new law.

Gene Marks owns the [Marks Group](#), a Bala Cynwyd PA consulting firm that helps clients with customer relationship management. Follow [Gene Marks](#) and [On Small Business](#) on Twitter.

News we should know about? Email us [here](#).

Gene Marks owns the Marks Group, a Bala Cynwyd, Pa.-based consulting firm that helps clients with customer relationship management. Marks is an author and a certified public accountant, and he writes regularly for The Post’s On Small Business blog.

Your Three. Videos curated for you.



Making family dinner tir 2:08

Dra

How to make Sean Broc 3:18

In s

A veteran finds healing 5:20

The