

**COBA Research Day 2018 – March 20th -Torian Auditorium from 11am-1pm
NASBITE 2018 International Student Case Competition -March 21th-23rd
Baltimore Maryland**

• **[Trucking rates come down a bit but problems persist for shippers](#)**

The climb in trucking prices looks like it's leveled off, but shippers and carriers alike say it's only a pause on the way to higher freight rates this year. The strong U.S. economy is still boosting freight demand and the spring push by produce growers from Mexico and Southern states to get goods to market is picking up, WSJ Logistics Report's Jennifer Smith writes, leaving many companies to push business to rail while bracing for higher prices in new shipping contracts.

Source: The Wall Street Journal/ Logistics News Feb 15, 2018

• **[What stores do with \\$90 billion in merchandise returns](#)**

The holiday season is in full swing at logistics operations handling returns, and it's busier than ever. The secondary retail market is seeing a surge in volume this year, WSJ Logistics Report's Erica E. Phillips writes, a result of the strongest growth in holiday sales in several years and the big gains in the online shopping that often result in returns.

Source: The Wall Street Journal/ Logistics News Feb 16, 2018

• **[Tax law forces revamps for agriculture firms](#)**

The new U.S. tax law is triggering changes in the supply side of the country's agriculture supply chains. Some agricultural companies are revamping operations to avoid being stung by the law, the WSJ's Jacob Bunge and Richard Rubin report, and sidestep problems that could hit crop production as soon as this year.

Source: The Wall Street Journal/ Logistics News Feb 15, 2018

• **[Kraft Heinz has efficiently changed](#)**

For decades, Kraft Foods Group produced Oscar Mayer cold cuts out of a six-story, former slaughterhouse built in 1872. The systems seemed out of another era. Workers drove forklifts loaded with giant vats of ham, turkey and chicken parts on and off freight elevators to different processing points. A typical turkey breast required four rides between floors to get from raw meat to packaged slices. Breakdowns could slow production to a crawl.

Source: The Wall Street Journal / Logistics Reports Feb 12, 2018

• **[U.S. weighs tariffs, quotas on metals imports](#)**

The Trump administration said it is considering sweeping new limits on imports of steel and aluminum as the next phase of its "America First" economic policies, playing down warnings from economists and allies about the risks of higher prices and trade wars.

Source: The Wall Street Journal / Logistics Reports Feb 16, 2018

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