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**Ginger Chinn Named GOED
Managing Director**



Ginger Chinn

Val Hale, executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), has appointed Ginger Chinn as managing director for urban and rural business services.

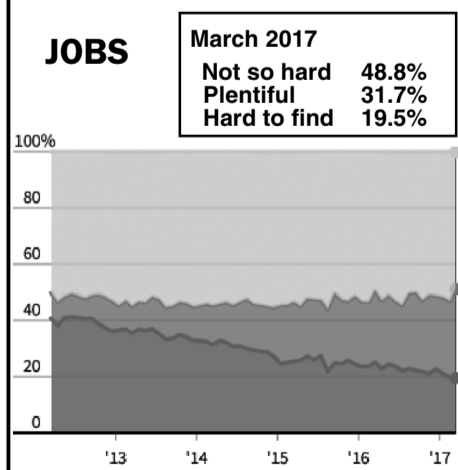
"Ginger is a leader with a proven record of creating meaningful public-private partnerships," Hale said.

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U.S. consumers most confident since 2000 – U.S. consumers' confidence in the economy rose in March to its highest level since December 2000, a survey showed on Tuesday, led by optimism for finding work and a brighter assessment of business conditions.

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U.S. consumer confidence



RONNELL ANDERSEN JONES / CLE SEMINAR

Freedom of the press in America is like a 'mishmash of disparate components of parts'

The pillars of press freedom are varied, but in combination, they form a structure in which a vibrant press has thrived.

Sona Schmidt-Harris
The Intermountain Commercial Record/Salt Lake Times

Ronnell Andersen Jones, the Lee E. Teitelbaum Endowed Chair of Law at the University of Utah, recently presented a CLE seminar on Freedom of the Press at Jones Waldo law firm

Jones said, "We'll begin with the elephant in the room. There is a reason why so many people are talking about freedom of the press these days. There is a widespread perception that our new president may pose a threat to it."

"In truth, we're going to see that freedom of the press in America is not a single, clear cut, constitutional freedom, but instead it's something like a mishmash of disparate components of parts." Jones referred to these parts as "pillars," which include: the media's financial strength; it's goodwill with the public; a codependent relationship with government officials; protections from the courts, and political norms and traditions. The pillars of press freedom are varied, but in combination, they form a structure in which a vibrant press has thrived.

Each pillar is now significantly weakened. For instance, Jones stated that the newspaper business used to be one of the best places to be during tough economic times. This provided the media the financial backing to litigate freedom of the press issues. However, according to Jones, newspapers are now experiencing diminished financial resources and unable to assert themselves in court as they once did.

Public goodwill is also diminished. Jones cited that in the 1970s, ¾ of Americans had a favorable attitude toward the press (this due in part to the Walter Cronkite years and the Press's investigation of Watergate).

Government's codependence with the press is strained. Jones noted that in the past, former presidents relied on the press as an intermediary with the public. Even President Nixon, who did not like the press, saw it as a necessary evil. President Trump attempts to bypass using the press as an intermediary by using Twitter to reach numerous followers on his own (some of the tweets, angry tweets about the press), Jones said.

Protection from the courts has lessened. The Supreme Court's characterizations of the

press are far less favorable than they used to be. Jones provided this decades-old quote from The Supreme Court:

"[This] free society, dependent as it is for its survival upon a vigorous free press, has tolerated some abuse." *Rosenbloom v. Metromedia*, 19 S.Ct. 1811, 1823 (1971) Justice Brennan, plurality opinion.

Jones provided more recent quotes from The Supreme Court regarding the press that are not as flattering. Referring to the landmark case, *Citizens United v. Federal Election*

Commission, 130 S.Ct. 876 (2010), Jones said a sub-debate about freedom of the press resulted in the majority of justices seeing a press corporation merely like every other corporation, deserving no special consideration. Jones believes that this may have been a turning point in the way The Supreme Court rules regarding freedom of speech issues.

President Trump is breaking tradition by not allowing the press to travel with him on Air Force One, and does not like to inform the

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Ronnell Andersen Jones, the Lee E. Teitelbaum Endowed Chair of Law at the University of Utah speaks at a CLE seminar on Freedom of the Press.

Freedom of the press in America is like a 'mishmash of disparate components of parts'

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press when he is going out in public. These allowances have simply been norms, courtesies, and traditions, Jones asserted.

In truth, she said, journalists have few statutory rights defending them.

Like so much of our democracy, the freedom of the press is only as strong as we the public demand it to be, Jones said.

A member of the audience asked, "So what can be done?"

Jones suggested that we support organizations that are involved in the important work of checking government. She also suggested that paid subscriptions to quality news organizations may help. Another suggestion was that we expose ourselves to news we are not

inclined to read. We can make it clear to government leaders that the issue of freedom of the press is important to us.

Jones said that Facebook could be a bit at fault for the decline of the press. Data show that 60% of people now receive their news exclusively through Facebook. She acknowledged, however, that Facebook is showing

some interest in tackling the problem.

Jones finished by saying when one first amendment freedom, such as freedom of the press is infringed upon, it infringes on all other first amendment freedoms.

U.S. consumer confidence hits 16-year high; house prices rise

By Lucia Mutikani

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. consumer confidence surged to a more than 16-year high in March amid growing labor market optimism while the goods trade deficit narrowed sharply in February, suggesting the economy was regaining momentum after faltering at the start of the year.

The economy's strengthening fundamentals were underscored by other data on Tuesday showing further gains in house prices in January. Robust consumer confidence and rising household wealth from the home price gains suggest the recent slowdown in consumer spending, which has held back economic growth, is likely temporary.

"With confidence upbeat and several other signals related to consumer spending in fairly good shape, we think that real consumption will firm moving forward," said Daniel Silver, an economist at JP Morgan in New York.

"It looks likely that the recent spending data were held down by some temporary factors related to unusually mild weather and a delay in tax refund issuance."

The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index jumped 9.5 points to 125.6 this month, the highest reading since December 2000. Consumers' assessment of both current business and labor market conditions improved sharply in March.

The survey's so-called labor market differ-

ential, derived from data about respondents who think jobs are hard to get and those who think jobs are plentiful, was the strongest since 2001.

This measure closely correlates to the unemployment rate in the Labor Department's employment report and is consistent with continued reduction in labor market slack. The labor market is near full employment.

The dollar was trading marginally higher against a basket of currencies, while prices for U.S. government bonds fell slightly. Stocks on Wall Street rose.

GOODS TRADE DEFICIT FALLS

Both consumer and business confidence have surged in the wake of Donald Trump's victory in last November's presidential election. The Trump administration has pledged to pursue business friendly policies, including tax cuts and deregulation.

The Conference Board's survey was conducted before last week's failed effort by Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives to repeal former Democratic President Barack Obama's 2010 Affordable Care Act, which dealt a setback to Trump.

"The question then is whether or not consumers will remain upbeat if legislation stalls," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer for Plante Moran Financial Advisors in Kalamazoo, Michigan. "At some point, those hopes for a

stronger economy will fade if legislative victories remain elusive."

For now, the economy's prospects are brightening. Separately on Tuesday, the Commerce Department said in its advance economic indicators report the goods deficit fell 5.9 percent to \$64.8 billion last month as a decline in imports outpaced a dip in exports.

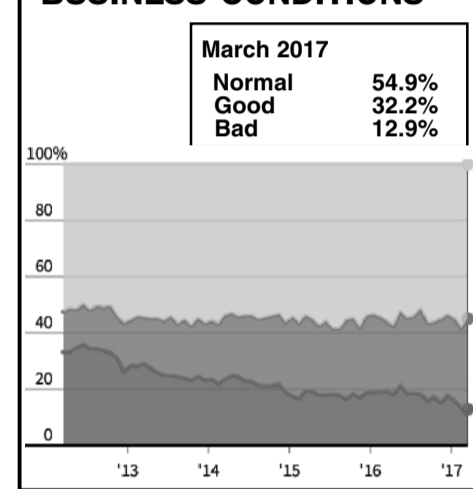
The \$4.2 billion decrease in imports is in line with the recent cooling in consumer spending. The government also said inventories at retailers and wholesalers both rose 0.4 percent last month.

The data prompted economists at Barclays to raise their first-quarter gross domestic product estimate by four-tenths of a percentage point to a 1.6 percent annualized rate. Morgan Stanley lifted its forecast to a 1.5 percent pace from a 1.0 percent rate.

"The recent widening, in our view, reflected the stabilization and rise in energy prices, as some of the improvement in nominal goods imports reflects petroleum," said Michael Gapen, chief economist at Barclays in New York. "In addition, we think the widening in the trade deficit reflected the end of the multi-year industrial recession in the U.S."

A third report showed the S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller composite index of 20 metropolitan areas rose 5.7 percent in January on a year-over-year basis after increasing 5.5 percent in December.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS



David M. Blitzer, managing director and chairman of the index committee at S&P Dow Jones Indices, said recent rate increases by the U.S. Federal Reserve are not lifting mortgage rates dramatically and so should not present a significant headwind to further price gains.

The Fed raised rates a quarter percentage point at two of its last three meetings, most recently earlier in March. If the pace of Fed increases accelerates, however, "rising mortgage rates could become a concern," he said.

Ginger Chinn Named GOED Managing Director

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"Her extensive experience and previous collaboration with GOED programs makes her an invaluable member of the GOED team. We look forward to working with her as she takes the state's business services and workforce initiatives to new heights."

As managing director, Chinn will direct a strategic growth plan for Utah's industry cluster program and manage GOED's rural programs and workforce development initiatives.

Additionally, Chinn will oversee GOED's business services including Utah's Business Resource Centers and the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTAC).

Chinn was previously the vice president of external engagement and economic development at the Davis Applied Technology College (DATC). In this role, she directed several areas including Employer and Continuing Education, Math, Academic Development, Catering and

the Cosmetology Salon. She also oversaw operations at the Davis and Morgan County Business Resource Centers.

While at DATC, Chinn played a key role in the development of the Utah Aerospace Pathways program. She worked with various groups and agencies to ensure the development of new training opportunities. Prior to her role at DATC, she worked at Management & Training Corporation in Centerville and WorkSOURCE

Private Industry Council in Boise, Idaho.

Chinn serves on many organizational boards including the Salt Lake Chamber Women's Business Center, Utah Advanced Materials Manufacturing Initiative (UAMMI), and the Society of Applied Manufacturers & Engineers (SAMPE). She currently serves as chair of the Davis Chamber of Commerce.

Chinn will assume her new position April 17.

U.S. consumers most confident since 2000

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The Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index rose to a reading of 125.6 in March from an upwardly revised 116.1 in February. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast a reading of 114.0.

"Consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions improved considerably," said Lynn Franco, Director of

Economic Indicators at The Conference Board. "Consumers also expressed much greater optimism regarding the short-term outlook for business, jobs and personal income prospects."

(Reporting By Dan Burns; Editing by Marguerita Choy)

Wells Fargo failed test of community lending, bank says

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A U.S. bank regulator has flunked Wells Fargo on a national scorecard for community lending, the lender said on Tuesday as it tries to repair its reputation after a phony-accounts scandal.

Wells Fargo was deemed a bank that "needs to improve" under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), a law meant to promote lending to poor neighborhoods.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the leading regulator for national banks,

scores banks on CRA ratings.

Wells Fargo has a track record of serving needy communities but the lender has yet to see its way through scandals, said Tim Sloan, the chief executive officer.

"We are committed to addressing the OCC's concerns because restoring trust in Wells Fargo and building a better bank... is our top priority," Sloan said in a statement.

(Reporting By Patrick Rucker; Editing by Chizu Nomiyama)