

Workforce and Logistics Analytics Newsletter

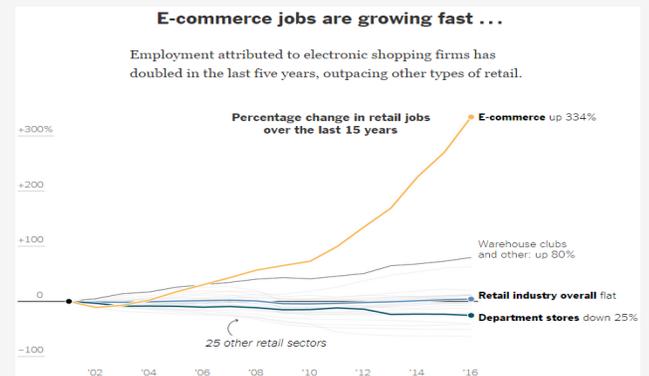
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- **Off the sidelines** and back in the game. The labor participation rate is holding and actually increasing, reversing some long term trends. Good for filling jobs, but might have a dampening effect on wage growth, too.
- But the majority of workers don't worry about technology affecting their job. Their **top worry**: loss of benefits.
- Here is an argument that seems to make sense. **When wages go up, automation becomes a more attractive option** for employers, especially when they go up significantly (like to \$15/hr. minimum wage).

- What kind of holiday season should we expect? Containerized import totals set to break all time record in August reports National Retail Federation and others.
- Why? Hyper ecommerce growth is one reason (see chart on right)
- Combination of above with historic lows in unemployment will create a very challenging workforce shortage this peak season.



- As **consumer sentiment strengthens** and the peak season approaches, this quote pretty much sums things up.

"All of us are trying to move at the speed of our customer. The supply chain, the delivery cycles, all of those have to move faster." *Foot Locker Chief Executive Richard Johnson*



- **Augmented Reality Vision Picking smart glasses**: "A new standard in order picking for the industry" states DHL Logistics. Trials and pilots are complete. Accuracy up, productivity up 15%, onboarding and training halved. Even if the reality is less than that, the prospects seem bright.