

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 21, 2018

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**EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY CONTINUE GROWTH INTO 2019**

Libertyville, IL. According to the newly released 2018 edition of *Workforce Ratios & Forecasts* from Schonfeld & Associates, employment in 2019 will grow in most industries with productivity, as measured in sales per employee, also continuing to increase.

The largest U.S. based employer will be Wal-Mart Stores with over 2.4 million employees in 2019, up 1.4 percent. The largest non-U.S. based employer will be Volkswagen, with 681,000 employees, an increase of over 2 percent.

Commercial Banks will be the largest employer with over 4.2 million employees, up over 1 percent from last year. The Variety Store industry, which includes Wal-Mart and Target, will be the second largest industry with over 3.4 million employees, reflecting a modest 1.6 percent increase in number of employees as well as in sales.

The accelerating shift in shopping preference to buying online instead of in bricks and mortar stores is reflected in the single digit growth rates in employment in traditional retail stores as compared to Catalog and Mail Order Houses, led by Amazon, with an industry growth rate of over 18 percent in employment and 16 percent in sales.

As in the past, areas of computer software development continue to show robust workforce growth. The Prepackaged Software industry, growing at over 4 percent, includes over 130 companies employing over 850,000 workers. The Computer Programming industry, which provides services rather than a product for sale, will grow at 6.6 percent to employ over 1.8 million workers worldwide.

These predictions come from the 2018 edition of *Workforce Ratios & Forecasts* by Schonfeld & Associates. The study contains historical employment for 2017, an estimate for 2018, and a forecast of 2019 for over 6,100 individual companies and summaries for over 390 industries. Besides headcount, *Workforce Ratios & Forecasts* provides Sales Per Employee, Gross Margin Per Employee, and Sales Growth Rate for each company and industry.

In an era of downsizing, right-sizing, mergers and acquisitions, *Workforce Ratios & Forecasts* provides clear benchmarks for competitive planning and budgeting. It can also be used by executive search firms seeking clients and by outplacement firms identifying emerging areas of employment growth.

*Workforce Ratios & Forecasts* is 233 pages in either printed or PDF format. The information is also available for all companies and industries in Excel datafiles. Additional information is provided within the data to allow for analysis by corporate location or NAICS code. The 2018 edition of the report is \$ 395; the report along with Excel datafiles is \$ 495. Both are available from Schonfeld & Associates, Inc., 1931 Lynn Circle, Libertyville, Illinois 60048. Call for more information: 800-205-0030 or visit the company's web site at [www.saiBooks.com](http://www.saiBooks.com) under the Area of Expertise: Workforce Productivity.