

BIZfact

\$32,090

Median annual wage of Long Island's 200 locker room, coatroom and dressing room attendants

Source: State Labor Department

CHINA FACTORY SECTOR DECLINES

BEIJING — China's factory activity shrank in December for the first time in more than two years, an official survey showed this week, intensifying pressure on Beijing to reverse an economic slowdown as it enters trade talks with the Trump administration.

The purchasing managers' index of the National Bureau of Statistics and an industry group, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing, fell to 49.4 from November's 50.0 on a 100-point scale. Any reading below 50 shows that activity is contracting. The December figure was the lowest since February 2016 and the first drop since July 2016.

Forecasters expect annual growth of about 6.5 percent, down slightly from 2017's 6.7 percent. But some industry segments, including auto and real estate sales, have suffered more serious declines.

"Downward pressure on the economy is still large," economist Zhang Liqun said in a statement issued with the PMI.

Exports to the United States kept growing at double-digit rates through late 2018 despite President Donald Trump's punitive tariffs. But growth in exports to the rest of the world fell sharply in November and forecasters expect American demand to weaken in early 2019.

Chinese and U.S. envoys are due to meet this month for negotiations that are intended to resolve their economically threatening trade war. — AP

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Airbnb's LI imprint

Home-share service: 140G guests, \$47M in LI host fees in '18

BY KEN SCHACHTER
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Airbnb Inc. hosts on Long Island boarded almost 140,000 guests in 2018, earning almost \$50 million, the home-sharing service said.

Suffolk had 114,200 guest arrivals in 2018, providing \$42.1 million in income to that county's hosts, according to the embargoed report released Monday.

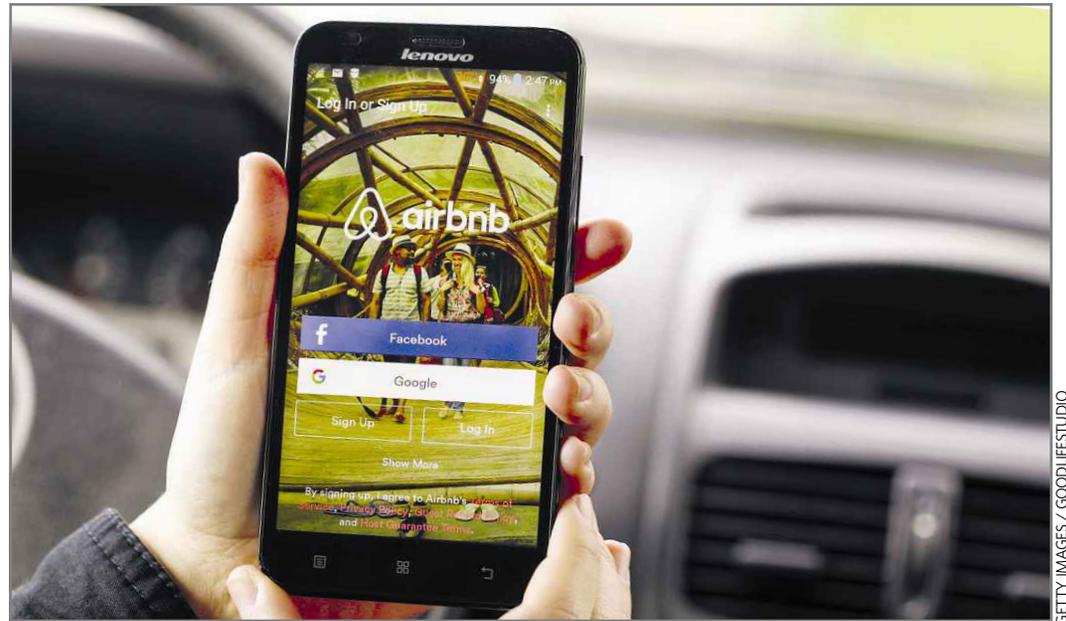
Nassau's 25,000 guest arrivals translated to host income of \$5.3 million.

Airbnb reported that Suffolk County now has approximately 3,600 hosts while Nassau has about 560.

"We've seen on Long Island and all over New York more families are taking advantage of home sharing," said Liz DeBold Fusco, Northeast press secretary for closely held Airbnb.

Most guests are using the service on Long Island during the summer months, according to previously released Airbnb data.

Long Island had 81,700 guest



Nassau reported 25,000 Airbnb guests in 2018; Suffolk 114,200. Most LI bookings were in the summer.

arrivals from May 25 through Sept. 3, a 38 percent increase compared with the same period in 2017.

The San Francisco-based company did not provide comparative data for all of 2017.

Fusco said the company has reached room occupancy and hotel tax collection agreements with 28 New York State counties. The state has 62 counties, but not all of them have hotel taxes.

She said that talks continue with Nassau and Suffolk on collection of those taxes, which go to promote tourism.

The company, founded in 2008, began rolling out a program called Airbnb Plus in 2018 and Fusco said that in 2019 it would be introduced in the Hamptons.

Hosts apply for listings on Airbnb Plus and their accommodations are inspected for comfort, design and cleanli-

ness, she said.

Fusco said there is no price premium associated with the program.

Airbnb chief executive Brian Chesky has been quoted as saying the company "will be ready" for an initial public offering in 2019. But he has not committed to go forward and the company has not filed papers with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Bohemia firm lands \$82M defense contract

BY KEN SCHACHTER
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A Bohemia engineering company has won an \$82.6 million Defense Department contract to provide temporary mobile command units and other services.

The contract, announced last week, calls for Dayton T. Brown Inc. to continue development of the 53-foot "secret compartmentalized information facilities" and to provide additional prototyping, maintenance, repair, logistics and procurement services.

About 9 percent of the work, worth roughly \$7 million, will be done in its Bohemia headquarters, with the remainder performed at the company's Patuxent River, Maryland, unit.

The Bohemia facility, with about 175 of the company's



Workers at Dayton T. Brown's Bohemia headquarters will handle most of the engineering and design of the mobile command units.

roughly 220 employees, will do most of the engineering and design work, Stephen J. Marini, senior vice president and chief financial officer, said Monday.

The Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division, also in Patuxent River, awarded the indefinite delivery and indefinite quantity contract.

Marini said the contract is an extension of a 2012 award

for the mobile command units.

The company has tested the units' electromagnetic interference shielding and integrated power and heating and cooling systems as part of the development work.

Work is expected to be completed on the latest contract by December 2025.

Funds will be earmarked for the project as delivery or-

ders are issued, according to the Defense Department announcement.

Marini said Dayton T. Brown's contract had been unaffected so far by the federal government's partial shutdown that began in December.

"We'd been finalizing this with [defense officials] last week," he said. "It came during the shutdown."

Dayton T. Brown received \$1.7 million in initial funding for the latest contract on Friday, Marini said.

Before the government shutdown that began Dec. 22, Congress passed appropriations bills for several government departments, including Defense.

At the dawn of 2019, President Donald Trump and Congress remained at loggerheads over his demand for at least \$5 billion to fund a border wall.