

United States Census Bureau

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Measuring America

The Top Ten Manufacturing Subsectors of the Economy: A Five-Year Comparison

The Economic Census provides consistent, comparable, and comprehensive business statistics that are essential to understanding the U.S. economy. This graph, which is part of a series from the Economic Census, focuses specifically on the Manufacturing Sector.

According to the 2012 Economic Census, U.S. manufacturing establishments had a total value of shipments of \$5.7 trillion, a 7.1 percent increase from the 2007 Economic Census when the value of shipments was \$5.3 trillion. The manufacturing sector consists of 21 subsectors, the top 10 of which all had a value of shipments above \$150 billion in 2007 and 2012. The value of shipments estimates for years between the Economic Census are not reflected on this graph, but are available from the Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM). For information on the ASM, please see www.census.gov/manufacturing/asm/index.html.

Value of Shipments from 2007 to 2012 (Linechart)

Manufacturing Subsector	2007	2012
Transportation equipment manufacturing	\$745.9 B	\$792.9 B
Chemical Manufacturing	\$716.2 B	\$802.9 B
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	\$615.5 B	\$844.0 B
Food manufacturing	\$589.7 B	\$747.6 B
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	\$395.7 B	\$337.4
Machinery manufacturing	\$350.5 B	\$407.7 B
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	\$345.2 B	\$340.4 B
Primary metal manufacturing	\$256.9 B	\$270.9 B
Plastic and rubber products manufacturing	\$209.3 B	\$218.5 B
Paper Manufacturing	\$176.7	\$181.7 B

The value of shipments for petroleum and coal products manufacturing increased 38.3 percent, from \$615.5 billion in 2007 to \$851.1 billion in 2012. This was the largest percent increase of any manufacturing subsector.

Food manufacturing had the second largest percent increase within manufacturing, from \$589.7 billion in 2007 to \$739.3 billion in 2012 (up 25.4 percent).

Machinery manufacturing now ranks fifth among all manufacturing subsectors, having gone from \$350.5 billion in 2007 to \$402.2 billion in 2012 (up 14.7 percent).

Computer and electronic product manufacturing had the largest percent decrease in the value of shipments, going from \$395.7 billion in 2007 to \$313.6 billion in 2012 (down 20.8 percent).

The remaining 11 manufacturing subsectors all had total value of shipments below \$150 billion in 2007 and 2012. These subsectors ranged from \$5.0 billion in value of shipments for leather and allied product manufacturing to \$149.2 billion for miscellaneous manufacturing in 2012. Other manufacturing subsectors include beverage and tobacco products; electrical equipment, appliance, and component manufacturing; nonmetallic mineral products; printing and related support activities; wood products; furniture and related products; textile mills; textile product mills; and apparel manufacturing.

Source: 2007 and 2012 Economic Census, Manufacturing, Summary Series, General Summary

Data in this Infographic include only establishments with paid employees. All figures are in current dollars for the period shown, are not adjusted for inflation, and do not reflect changes in prices. For information on how the Economic Census is conducted, see the Survey Methodology (www.census.gov/econ/census/help/methodology_disclosure/). For other information on the Economic Census reports (including a Release Schedule and information on comparability), see business.census.gov (www.census.gov/econ/census/).

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