Manufacturing in America

Manufacturing plays a major role in our economy, with 11.6 million employees producing goods that we consume domestically or export abroad. In recognition of the sixth annual Manufacturing Day on October 6, 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau joins a group of public and private organizations in celebrating the importance of the manufacturing sector to the nation’s economy. The nation relies on several key Census Bureau programs to track America's manufacturing industries, and the most recent year's data from some of these programs are highlighted below.
How does manufacturing compare to other industries?

Manufacturing Is the Fourth-Largest Employer (Millions of employees)

- Health care and social assistance: 19.2
- Retail trade: 15.7
- Accommodation and food services: 13.2
- Manufacturing: 11.6
- Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services: 11.1
- Professional, scientific, and technical services: 8.8
- Finance and insurance: 6.1
- Wholesale trade: 6.1
- Construction: 6.0
- Other services (except public administration): 5.4
- Transportation and warehousing: 4.6
- Educational services: 3.6
- Information: 3.4
- Management of companies and enterprises: 3.3
- Arts, entertainment, and recreation: 2.2
- Real estate and rental and leasing: 2.1
- Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction: 0.7
- Utilities: 0.6
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting: 0.2
- Industries not classified: Z*

*Rounds to zero.
Note: Rankings may vary slightly due to nonsampling error and disclosure methods used to protect the confidentiality of the data.
Source: 2015 County Business Patterns.
How does manufacturing compare to other industries?

Average Annual Payroll Per Employee by Sector

- Management of companies and enterprises: $110,930
- Utilities: $100,425
- Finance and insurance: $97,095
- Information: $91,131
- Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction: $82,900
- Professional, scientific, and technical services: $80,060
- Wholesale trade: $69,639
- Construction: $58,020
- Manufacturing: $56,591
- Real estate and rental and leasing: $51,476
- Transportation and warehousing: $48,092
- Health care and social assistance: $47,102
- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting: $40,782
- Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services: $38,533
- Educational services: $36,971
- Arts, entertainment, and recreation: $34,427
- Other services (except public administration): $31,238
- Retail trade: $27,268
- Industries not classified: $21,527
- Accommodation and food services: $18,584

Average annual payroll for all sectors: $50,396

Manufacturing employed 11.6 million workers in 2015. The annual payroll was $656.8 billion.

Source: 2015 County Business Patterns.

Note: Rankings may vary slightly due to nonsampling error and disclosure methods used to protect the confidentiality of the data. Source: 2015 County Business Patterns.
Where does manufacturing occur in the United States?

Manufacturing Employment as a Percentage of Total Working-Age Population by State¹

In 2015, 27.6 percent of manufacturing employees aged 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher.


¹ Total working-age population represents the total state population aged 16 and over in 2015, according to the 2015 American Community Survey. Source: 2015 Annual Survey of Manufactures and 2015 American Community Survey. For more information on the 2015 American Community Survey methodology see <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>.
In what subsectors do manufacturers work?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsector</th>
<th>Employees (Millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation equipment manufacturing</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food manufacturing</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabricated metal product manufacturing</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery manufacturing</td>
<td>1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and electronic products</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical manufacturing</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics and rubber products manufacturing</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous manufacturing</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and related support activities</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary metal manufacturing</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: These statistics are estimated from a sample survey and are subject to sampling variability, as well as nonsampling error. The difference between these estimates, within each pair of subsectors, is statistically significant at the 90 percent level.

Which manufacturing subsectors have the largest value of shipments?

Top 10 Subsectors by Value of Shipments
(Billions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subsector</th>
<th>Value of Shipments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation equipment manufacturing</td>
<td>$948.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food manufacturing</td>
<td>$775.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical manufacturing</td>
<td>$751.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum and coal products manufacturing</td>
<td>$507.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinery manufacturing</td>
<td>$384.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabricated metal product manufacturing</td>
<td>$350.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and electronic products manufacturing</td>
<td>$300.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastics and rubber products manufacturing</td>
<td>$236.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary metal manufacturing</td>
<td>$228.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper manufacturing</td>
<td>$185.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: These statistics are estimated from a sample survey and are subject to sampling variability, as well as nonsampling error. The difference between these estimates, within each pair of subsectors, is statistically significant at the 90 percent level.

How does manufacturing contribute to exports?

Nearly 6 in 10 U.S. Export Dollars Come From Manufacturers¹
(Billions of dollars)

$797.9 Manufacturers (59.8%)  
$296.5 Wholesalers (22.2%)  
$240.6 Others and unclassified (18.0%)

¹ Note: Graphic shows the known value of the portion of U.S. exports that could be matched to specific companies. 