

United States Census Bureau

October 6, 2017

Measuring America

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 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 with other industries?

Manufacturing is the Fourth-Largest Employee

(Millions of employees)

Health Care and Social Assistance	19.2 million
Retail Trade	15.7 million
Accommodation and Food Services	13.2 million
Manufacturing	11.6 million
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	11.1 million
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	8.8 million
Finance and Insurance	6.1 million
Wholesale Trade	6.1 million
Construction	6.0 million
Other Services (except Public Administration)	5.4 million
Transportation and Warehousing	4.6 million
Educational Services	3.6 million
Information	3.4 million
Management of Companies and Enterprises	3.3 million
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2.2 million
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2.1 million
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	0.7 million
Utilities	0.6 million
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0.2 million
Industries not classified	Z*

* Round 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

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
Manufacturing	\$56,591
Construction	\$56,000
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
Accommodation and Food Services	\$18,584

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

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

Where does manufacturing occur in the United States?

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

State	Category
Wisconsin	7.5 and above
Indiana	7.5 and above
Iowa	7.5 and above
Kansas	5.81 – 7.50
Ohio	5.81 – 7.50
Michigan	5.81 – 7.50
Minnesota	5.81 – 7.50
South Dakota	5.81 – 7.50
Kentucky	5.81 – 7.50
Arkansas	5.81 – 7.50
Nebraska	5.81 – 7.50
Alabama	5.81 – 7.50
New Hampshire	5.81 – 7.50
Tennessee	4.51 – 5.80
South Carolina	4.51 – 5.80
Mississippi	4.51 – 5.80
Connecticut	4.51 – 5.80
Illinois	4.51 – 5.80
Vermont	4.51 – 5.80
Missouri	4.51 – 5.80
Pennsylvania	4.51 – 5.80
North Carolina	4.51 – 5.80
Utah	4.51 – 5.80
Oregon	3.50 – 4.50
Washington	3.50 – 4.50
Georgia	3.50 – 4.50
Maine	3.50 – 4.50
Rhode Island	3.50 – 4.50
Idaho	3.50 – 4.50
Oklahoma	3.50 – 4.50
Massachusetts	3.50 – 4.50
North Dakota	3.50 – 4.50
California	3.50 – 4.50
Texas	3.50 – 4.50
Virginia	Less than 3.50
Delaware	Less than 3.50
Louisiana	Less than 3.50
New Jersey	Less than 3.50
West Virginia	Less than 3.50
Colorado	Less than 3.50
Arizona	Less than 3.50
New York	Less than 3.50

Alaska	Less than 3.50
Wyoming	Less than 3.50
Maryland	Less than 3.50
Montana	Less than 3.50
Nevada	Less than 3.50
Florida	Less than 3.50
New Mexico	Less than 3.50
Hawaii	Less than 3.50
District of Columbia	Less than 3.50

Source: 2015 Annual Survey of Manufactures and 2015 American Community Survey

¹Total 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/program-surveys/acs/.

In 2015, 27.6 of Manufacturing Employees 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher.

Source: 2015 Current Population Survey

In what subsectors do manufacturers work?

Top 10 Subsectors by Number of Employees

(Millions of employees)

Transportation equipment manufacturing	1.47 M
Food manufacturing	1.39 M
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1.37 M
Machinery manufacturing	1.04 M
Computer and electronic products manufacturing	0.77 M
Chemical manufacturing	0.75 M
Plastic and rubber products manufacturing	0.73 M
Miscellaneous manufacturing	0.52 M
Printing and related support activities	0.42 M
Primary metal manufacturing	0.38 M

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.

Source: 2015 Annual Survey of Manufactures

Which manufacturing subsectors have the largest value of shipments?

Top 10 Subsectors by Value of Shipments

(Billions of Dollars)

Transportation equipment manufacturing	\$948.2 B
Food manufacturing	\$775.6 B
Chemical manufacturing	\$751.6 B
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	\$507.9 B
Machinery manufacturing	\$384.6 B
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	\$350.0 B
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	\$300.5 B
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	\$236.4 B
Primary metal manufacturing	\$228.3 B
Paper manufacturing	\$185.5 B

The total value of shipments for 2015 was \$5.5 trillion.

Source: 2015 Annual Survey of Manufactures

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.

Source: 2015 Annual Survey of Manufactures

How does manufacturing contribute to exports?

Nearly 6 in 10 U.S. Exports Dollars came from Manufacturers¹ (Billions of Dollars)

\$797.9 B Manufacturers (59.8%)

\$296.5 B Wholesalers (22.2%)

\$240.6 Others and Unclassified (18.0%)

¹Graphics shows the known value of the portion of U.S. Exports that could be matched to specific companies.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, A Profile of U.S. Importing and Exporting Companies, 2014-2015

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U.S. Department of Commerce

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