

# 6 New Jersey Manufacturing MYTHS vs. FACTS



**MYTH** Manufacturing is "dirty, dull and dangerous."



**FACT** Modern manufacturing is "smart, safe and sustainable."

Improvements in technology have revolutionized the manufacturing sector. Today, employers in manufacturing facilities oversee the work of computer automated machines that require attention to detail and the ability to solve complex problems. Manufacturers create new inventions, redesign products and look for new ways to improve processes, in a safe and clean work environment. Manufacturing plants follow the guidelines set by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), with safety being of upmost concern. Whether developing new chemical compounds or suits for firefighters, the men and women who work in the industry are safe and highly skilled employees.



**MYTH** Manufacturing in New Jersey is not a viable industry.



**FACT** Manufacturing in New Jersey has improved in recent years.

There are nearly 10,000 manufacturers located in the state that employ almost 250,000 people. In New Jersey, manufacturing is a \$38 billion industry and the state is a leader in manufacturing electronics, chemicals and foods.<sup>1</sup> New Jersey manufacturing productivity has grown about 3.8% each year, 2.6 percentage points higher than non-manufacturing annual growth. Although employment in New Jersey's manufacturing sector is not as high as it was 30 years ago, it currently supports over 6% of the jobs in New Jersey.<sup>2</sup> In fact, according to the New Jersey Business & Industry Association's manufacturing survey, over 70% of manufacturers said they are hiring new employees.<sup>3</sup>

## EMPLOYMENT

Nearly **10,000** manufacturers in the state employ almost **250,000** people.

Employment in New Jersey's manufacturing sector currently supports over **6%** of the jobs in New Jersey.

**70%** of manufacturers said they are hiring new employees.

Manufacturing in New Jersey, is a **\$38 billion** industry.

New Jersey is a leader in manufacturing **electronics, chemicals and foods**

## PRODUCTIVITY

New Jersey Annual Manufacturing Productivity Growth **3.8%**

Non-Manufacturing Annual Growth **1.2%**



  
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**MYTH** Manufacturing wages are falling and are no longer a ticket to the middle class.

Many manufacturing jobs are among the highest paid jobs in New Jersey, averaging over \$80,000 a year. In fact, New Jersey manufacturing wages are 18% higher than wages paid to employees in the finance, insurance, and real estate fields and 24% higher than the average national manufacturing wage.<sup>4</sup>

**Manufacturing professionals in New Jersey<sup>5</sup>:**

Machinists average \$46,000/yr

Supervisors average \$62,000/yr

Engineers average \$85,000/yr

Managers average \$118,000/yr

**Manufacturing Industries in New Jersey<sup>6</sup>:**

Machinery Manufacturers average \$67,200/yr

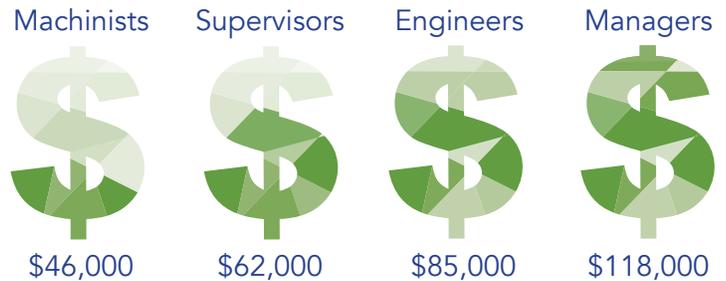
Computer and Electronic Manufacturers average \$85,100/yr

Chemical Manufacturers average \$120,400/yr

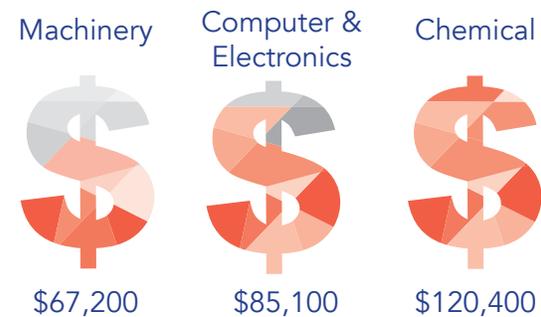


**FACT** New Jersey manufacturing wages are 35% higher than New Jersey non-manufacturing wages.

**Average Yearly Salaries of Manufacturing Professionals in New Jersey**



**Average Yearly Salary within a Given Industry in New Jersey**

**4**

**MYTH** Manufacturing jobs are only for men.



**FACT** Women enjoy manufacturing as a career choice.

When surveyed, women were pleased with their experience in the manufacturing sector; over 75% of women agreed that manufacturing was interesting and rewarding. Participants highlighted their compensation and opportunities for challenging assignments as the top reasons to stay in the industry. Although about 24% of the manufacturing labor force are women, the career path offers women the opportunity to make a higher income than their male counterparts.<sup>7</sup>

Given the compensation and opportunities for challenging assignments, **over 75% of women** agreed that manufacturing was interesting and rewarding.





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**MYTH** A college degree is a job requirement in manufacturing and there is little room for career advancement in the industry.



**FACT** While postsecondary education is beneficial, a four-year degree is not required and there are numerous opportunities in manufacturing.

## EDUCATION

50% of the manufacturing workforce has a high school education or less.

Manufacturers partner with county **vocational-technical schools** and **community colleges** to support employees who have a desire to learn.

The manufacturing jobs of today are sophisticated, but do not necessarily require a post-secondary degree. According to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 50% of the manufacturing workforce has a high school education or less. Yet manufacturers are willing to support employees who have a desire to learn. Many manufacturers partner with county vocational-technical schools and community colleges to offer apprenticeships, certifications and associate's degree programs to help employees advance in their career field.<sup>8</sup>



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**MYTH** The government is not supporting manufacturing jobs in New Jersey.



**FACT** There are several initiatives in New Jersey that support manufacturing.

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce

Development (NJDLWD) created the "Advanced Manufacturing Talent Network" to support the industry by nurturing a highly trained manufacturing workforce. The program includes job postings and a Manufacturing Training Program that offers manufacturing certifications with the help of the **Community College Consortium**. The **New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP)** is a nonprofit designed to provide on-site technical assistance to help manufacturers become more efficient, profitable and globally competitive, while the **New Jersey Industries of the Future (NJIOF)** works to find energy efficiency solutions for participating businesses. Also, New Jersey is part of the national **Dream It. Do It.** network to help promote manufacturing as a top tier career choice for middle and high school students.



# NJBIA New Jersey Business & Industry Association

[www.njbia.org](http://www.njbia.org)

Sources:

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