How does manufacturing compare to other industries?

Which manufacturing subsectors have the largest number of employees?

Which manufacturing subsectors have the largest value of shipments?

How does manufacturing contribute to exports?

**Manufacturing Is the Fifth-Largest Employer**

Manufacturing plays a major role in our economy, with 12.0 million employees producing goods that we consume domestically or export abroad. In recognition of the nation's manufacturing strength, the Census Bureau celebrates the importance of the manufacturing sector to the nation's economy each year on October 7, 2022, the eleventh annual Manufacturing Day. In honor of Manufacturing Day, this month's Manufacturing in America feature highlights some of the most recent data on manufacturing, including key figures from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Annual Survey of Manufactures, 2020 County Business Patterns, and 2019–2020 Profile of U.S. Importing and Exporting Companies. These programs are highlighted below.

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The nation relies on several key Census Bureau programs to track America's manufacturing industries, and the most recent data from some of these programs is highlighted below.

**Average Annual Payroll Per Employee by Industry**

Average annual payroll per employee is highest in Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction ($61,520). Defense and space activities ($56,385), and Health Care and Social Assistance ($51,812). Average annual payroll per employee is lowest in Wholesale Trade ($22,679), Transportation and Warehousing ($31,889), and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing ($34,043).

**Top 10 Subsectors by Number of Employees: 2020** (Millions of employees)

Top 10 subsectors include Food ($235.4 billion), Transportation Equipment ($211.4 billion), Chemical ($133.0 billion), and Computer and Electronic Products ($121.4 billion). Healthcare and Social Assistance ($211.2 billion) ranks 11th. These subsectors account for about 42.0 percent of the total employees working in manufacturing and 28.3 percent of the total value of shipments.

**Top 10 Subsectors by Value of Shipments: 2020** (Billions of dollars)

Top 10 subsectors include Food ($47,864), Transportation Equipment ($44,898), Chemical ($34,043), and Computer and Electronic Products ($31,889). Healthcare and Social Assistance ($30,403) ranks 11th. These subsectors account for about 42.0 percent of the total value of shipments in manufacturing.

**U.S. Exports by Company Type: 2020**

Companies that export include Wholesalers (57.2%), Manufacturing (25.2%), and Retail Trade (25.2%). These three export sectors account for about 97.6 percent of the total value of shipments.

**Manufacturing in America**

Manufacturing employment was estimated at 12.0 million workers in 2020. This annual average payroll was $56,385 per employee. Manufacturing provides a major component to the U.S. economy, and the nation's manufacturing industries are key contributors to exports. For more information on manufacturing, visit <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/asm.html>.

Note: These statistics are estimated from a sample survey and are subject to sampling variability, as well as nonsampling error.

1 The difference between the value of shipments estimate for food manufacturing and transportation equipment manufacturing is not statistically significant at the 90 percent level.

2 The difference between the number of employees estimate for plastics and rubber products manufacturing and chemical manufacturing classification is unknown.

3 The difference between the number of employees estimate for plastics and rubber products manufacturing and chemical manufacturing is not statistically significant at the 90 percent level.