The Top Manufacturing Facts

1. Manufacturers contributed $2.38 trillion to the U.S. economy.

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   For every $1.00 spent in manufacturing, another $1.82 is added to the economy. That is the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector.

   In addition, for every one worker in manufacturing, there are another four employees hired elsewhere.

   (Source: NAM calculations using IMPLAN)

3. The majority of manufacturing firms in the United States are quite small.

4. There are 12.82 million manufacturing workers in the United States.

5. Manufacturing workers in the United States earned $84,832 annually.

6. 92 percent of manufacturing employees were eligible for health insurance.

7. Manufacturers have experienced tremendous growth.

8. Over the next decade, 4.6 million manufacturing jobs will likely be needed.

9. Over the past 28 years, U.S.-manufactured goods exports have quadrupled.

10. Manufactured goods exports have grown substantially.


12. World trade in manufactured goods has more than doubled.

13. Manufacturing in the US would be the eighth-largest economy in the world.

14. Foreign direct investment in U.S. manufacturing exceeded $1.6 trillion.

15. Affiliates of foreign multinational enterprises employed nearly 2.5 million.

16. Manufacturers perform 64 percent of all private-sector R&D.

17. Manufacturers consume more than 30 percent of the nation’s energy.

18. The cost of federal regulations falls on manufacturers.
What are the myths surrounding women’s lack of participation in the manufacturing sector?

1. The perception that manufacturing is a dying sector. Not true. While some areas of manufacturing have moved off shore, many are returning. The rise of advanced manufacturing has infused new energy in the manufacturing sector, and headlines in the press are declaring a manufacturing renaissance happening in the U.S. Bottom line: Manufacturing still accounts for 1/8 of our economy.

2. Manufacturing is a dirty job that requires a high degree of physical labor. This is mostly an image conjured from the past, focus on Tesla Motors and SpaceX highlights this fact brilliantly. Manufacturing is clean, modern, and brimming with technology and innovation. Manufacturing today is now about brains versus brawn. But only 56 percent of Americans believe that manufacturing jobs are clean and safe. Bottom line: The sector demand is for specialized technical skills.

3. Parental perception has dried up the pipeline. Only 35 percent of Americans would encourage their children to pursue a manufacturing career.

We need an engagement level that gets us to parity within the overall workforce. As the song goes “it’s a man’s world” and most women state the number one deterrent is the perception that manufacturing is a “male-favored culture.”

Solutions:
1. Increase STEM education participation and proficiency for girls
2. Provide the technical skills training needed through vocational and community college programs
3. Increase women in leadership roles
4. Develop mentoring programs

Within the manufacturing sector, women make up over 62 percent of the office and administrative workers and 35 percent of the sales employees. But the largest numbers of potential jobs are in areas of production, and here women only hold about 28 percent of the jobs.

Manufacturing jobs pay well, on average 17 percent higher than other industries. Manufacturing jobs are also more likely to include medical and retirement benefits than service-sector jobs. We should want this opportunity to be open to all the young women of our country.