

MANUFACTURING Myths vs. FACTS

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| <p>U.S. manufacturing is declining. All the jobs are leaving the U.S.</p> | <p>Manufacturing in the U.S. has definitely changed over the last decade, but it's not all doom and gloom as most people believe. In fact, the output of U.S. manufacturing has steadily increased, and the U.S. continues to be the largest manufacturer of goods produced in the world. News of outsourcing is greatly broadcast, but the truth remains that manufacturers have a strong need to replace an aging workforce as baby boomers retire and leave the workforce. Only a small fraction of those jobs will be filled through outsourcing.</p> |
| <p>If there are good manufacturing jobs in the U.S., they aren't around here.</p> | <p>There are good manufacturing jobs in the U.S. The U.S. has by far the largest share of the world's manufacturing jobs, and Texas is second in the nation with more than 1.2 million manufacturing jobs.</p> |
| <p>Manufacturing is always unpleasant, hard, dirty work.</p> | <p>It's true, manufacturing has not always been clean, safe and full of high-tech equipment. But today, thanks to advances in technology and a desire for more efficient workplaces, manufacturing often has more in common with hospitals, design studios or high-tech labs. Large bulky and clunky machines have been replaced with modern, precise computer guided systems which make manufacturing more safe, more productive, and more efficient.</p> |
| <p>Manufacturing is boring and repetitive.</p> | <p>Not in today's world. Thanks to highly automated production lines, boring and repetitive are no longer associated with manufacturing. These days the manufacturing workplace is a highly orchestrated symphony of moving machines and dynamic workflow.</p> |
| <p>All manufacturing jobs are dead-end.</p> | <p>Not true. Manufacturing workers have an awesome array of choices when it comes to advancement. By gaining respected qualifications you can put your career on the fast track to higher pay and even greater options. Skills you learn in one manufacturing sector can be useful in another area of manufacturing. This makes transferring and advancing your career easier.</p> |
| <p>Manufacturing is a man's career.</p> | <p>Not anymore. Manufacturing today requires ambition, intelligence, creativity and an enthusiasm for improving the world around us through making better products. Anyone – male or female – can make a great career in manufacturing.</p> |
| <p>Manufacturing is just assembly line work.</p> | <p>Simply not true. There's much more involved than just assembly line work. Every manufactured product you see, from nuts and bolts to automobile body parts, was designed, engineered and implemented by manufacturers. Product designers, engineers, managers and many more all work together to bring products to market.</p> |
| <p>You need a college degree to get paid well.</p> | <p>Manufacturers are willing to hire young adults whether they are directly out of high school, they have vocational training or they have attended college. There are jobs waiting for people at every level of education and experience. A successful career in manufacturing could begin with or without a college degree. On-the-job training, college reimbursements or continuing education opportunities are often available to employees. Manufacturers are often seeking employees with the right mind set rather than a specific skill set. These companies are looking for problem solvers with a good work ethic. The truth is that no company expects you to know all of the answers. They just expect you to show up on time, be willing to learn and be ready to work. How much you know, doesn't limit how far you can go.</p> |

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