Manufacturing in the Northeast Ohio Region is a $46 billion industry with 248,000+ workers and 7,700 facilities. The industry was critical to Northeast Ohio’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic with efficient and timely production of much-needed personal protection equipment. Accounting for 20% of the Northeast Ohio’s gross domestic product (GDP), manufacturing is a driving force in our region’s economy. This Quarterly Economic Review explores the state of manufacturing today and the projections through 2025.
Technology Driving the Future of Manufacturing

Northeast Ohio has everything it needs to lead the world in smart manufacturing. In fact, earlier this summer, MAGNET, our region’s MEP organization, released “Make It Better: A Blueprint for Manufacturing in Northeast Ohio” – a ten-year vision for the Northeast Ohio Region’s manufacturing community. The Manufacturing Blueprint seeks to engage manufacturers around four key pillars for growth – talent, transformation, innovation, and leadership. It is a resource for expanding the use of innovative industry 4.0 technologies in manufacturing and developing the talent to power them. The Smart Manufacturing Cluster, facilitated by Team NEO, is the platform to engage small- to mid-size manufacturers for each of the Manufacturing Blueprint’s four pillars.

As this report reveals, while manufacturing employment is not projected to reach pre-pandemic levels, technology will fuel GDP growth.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT smartmanufacturingcluster.org and makeitbetterohio.org
Fabricated Metal Product Subsector Tops Employment in 2021

Representing more than 47,300 jobs, the fabricated metal product subsector employs more workers than any other manufacturing subsector in the region. Other subsectors topping the list include machinery, with 30,100 employees, and transportation and equipment, with 26,250. Less traditional subsectors such as food manufacturing (almost 20,000 employees), and computer & electronics (9,700 employees), demonstrate the growing diversity of the goods produced in Northeast Ohio.

Source: Moody’s Economy.com

$46 Billion GDP Represents Diverse Subsectors

Manufacturing in Northeast Ohio includes a broad range of subsectors. These ten sectors are expected to be the largest (of 21 total sectors) in 2021. Among the top subsectors in terms of output are chemical at more than $8.1 billion, primary metals at $6.1 billion and fabricated metal at almost $5.4 billion.

Source: Moody’s Economy.com
Technology Advancement Boosts Manufacturing GDP

Although both the Northeast Ohio Region and U.S. will see some recovery in manufacturing employment post-pandemic, it is not projected to fully recover to 2018 levels. While GDP is projected to grow 8% by 2025, implementation of innovative technologies such as the Industrial Internet of Things and Additive Manufacturing can grow the sector’s projected GDP to 73% for this time period.*

Today, advances in technology are changing the face of manufacturing. With these changes, there is an opportunity to upskill workers. That is why one of the pillars of the Manufacturing Blueprint focuses on talent and the need to build a workforce for the future, creating thousands of more high-tech manufacturing jobs.

Manufacturing Employment Sees Some Recovery Post-Pandemic

Employment in 2025 in Northeast Ohio is projected to be at 243,000 – 10% lower than in 2018. The U.S. is projected to fare a little better with a decline of about 5% lower. This variance may be attributed to the size of the economy manufacturing represents in Northeast Ohio versus the U.S.

Source: Moody’s Economy.com

Manufacturing GDP Projected to Grow 8% by 2025

Northeast Ohio is projected to grow almost $2.2B, or 8%. The U.S. is projected to grow at a faster pace, to 16% by 2025.

Source: Moody’s Economy.com

*Moody’s Analytics Economy.com as noted in the 2021 Additive Manufacturing Roadmap
**Technology Sector**

Projected to Grow

While traditional sectors such as primary metals (54%) and chemical (29%) are projected to grow by 2025, technology will also fuel growth with the computer & electronics sector projected to grow 33%.

Source: Moody’s Economy.com

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**Beverage Sector**

Employment Projected to Grow 12.3% by 2025

With automation and technology advancements playing a role in manufacturing, most sectors will see slight decreases in employment. However, beverage employment, impacted by consumer behavior and preferences pronounced by the pandemic in 2020, is projected to see an increase in employment of 12.3% by 2025.

Source: Moody’s Economy.com
Northeast Ohio boasts a variety of sites, both urban and rural, ideal for manufacturing operations. Here is a sampling of our most competitive sites:

**Newcomerstown Ohio Industrial Park**
- **Address:** East State Rd., Newcomerstown, Tuscarawas County
- **Total Developable Acres:** 97.39 total developable (78.89 contiguous)
- **For Sale:** $30,000 per acre
- **Zoning:** Industrial

jobsohio.com/site-selection/newcomerstown-ohio-industrial-park/

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**Warren BDM Brownfield**
- **Address:** 1040 Pine, Warren, Trumbull County
- **Total Developable Acres:** 236 acres
- **For Sale:** $50,000 per acre
- **Zoning:** Industrial (foundries & heavy manufacturing)

To view more options or for more information, visit: rightsites.teamneo.org

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**401 Newell Street Site**
- **Address:** 401 Newell Street, Parcel 0109708 and 0109707, Barberton, Summit County
- **Total Developable Acres:** 36 acres
- **For Sale:** $43,100 per acre
- **Zoning:** 1-2 Medium Industrial/Manufacturing

To view more options or for more information, visit: jobhubs.teamneo.org

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**Massillon Energy & Technology Park**
- **Address:** 411 Oberlin Ave, Massillon, Stark County
- **Total Developable Acres:** 200
- **For sale:** Land lease from $2,000 to $5,000 per acre per year triple net
- **Zoning:** Heavy Industrial

To view more options or for more information, visit: rightsites.teamneo.org
Data Sources
The data used for this report is Moody’s Analytics and EMSI based on Q4 2020 annualized national and local projections to employment and GDP. It is important to note that it is still VERY EARLY into the COVID-19 crisis, and as such, all projections are highly subject to change. Moody’s preliminary estimates have already been significantly revised nationally. Fully calculated data on the true impact to employment and GDP at the local level could take 18-24 months to understand. Early projections are likely to be conservative, as nationally forecasted changes for 2020 pre-COVID data have not been fully analyzed at the local level.

About Team NEO
Team NEO is a private, nonprofit economic development organization accelerating business growth and job creation throughout the 18 counties of the Northeast Ohio Region. As the designated JobsOhio Network Partner, we align and amplify local economic development efforts in the region’s 18-counties; we conduct research and data analysis to inform local conversations and influence solutions; we market the Northeast Ohio Region; and we work to increase access to jobs, education and training for the region’s 4.3 million people. We do this to build a more vibrant regional economy; one that is more talented, equitable, competitive, innovative, resilient and prosperous. For more information, visit teamneo.org.

Corporate Investors – Visionary Partners & Above

Economic Development Partner Investors

Philanthropic Investors

For a complete list of funders, visit teamneo.org/investors. To join Team NEO as an investor partner and help drive the next wave of economic growth in our region, connect with Dawn Southard, Vice President, Investor Relations at 440.476.0476 or dsouthard@teamneo.org.

Economic development partners across 18 counties of Northeast Ohio

Ashland Area Economic Development  Medina County Economic Development Corporation
Columbiana County Port Authority  Portage Development Board
Erie County Economic Development Corporation  Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development
Greater Akron Chamber  Tuscarawas Economic Development Corporation
Greater Cleveland Partnership  Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County  Wayne Economic Development Council
Huron County Development Council  Lake Development Authority

Connect with us:
teamneo.org or on social media platforms.