Manufacturing Statistics 2025

In 2021, the U.S. was home to 603,348 small business manufacturers. Small manufacturers employed 4.8 million workers and paid over \$277 billion in payroll.



Sources: 1) Nonemployer Statistics, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html; 2) Statistics of U.S. Businesses, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html



Manufacturing Statistics 2025



# Small Manufacturers — Share of Employer Firms

Source: Statistics of U.S. Businesses, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html. Areas selected are metropolitan statistical areas



# Manufacturing Statistics 2025

Employment in manufacturing has declined since the 1980's. While large manufacturing employment began to grow again in 2010, there has not been an equivalent rebound in small manufacturing employment. Small businesses have consistently made up over 98% of manufacturing firms.

# Large Manufacturers 14,000,000 12,000,000 10,000,000 8,000,000 6,000,000 4,000,000 2,000,000

Source: American Community Survey (Census). Business owners were identified as self-employed individuals at incorporated businesses.



# **Manufacturing - Employment**

Small Manufacturers





# Manufacturing Statistics 2025

# Number of Small Employer Firms by Manufacturing Type

0	)			20,000	
Fabricated Metal Products					
Food					24,3
Miscellaneous					22,183
Printing and Related Support Activities	21,1				21,156
Machinery	1			8,514	
Furniture and Related Products	13,69			13,698	
Wood Products	11,464				
Beverage and Tobacco Products	10,797				
Chemical	9,711				
Computer and Electronic Products	9,420			)	
Nonmetallic Mineral Products			8,528		
Transportation Equipment			8,493		
Plastics and Rubber Products			7,952		
Textile Product Mills	4,948				
Apparel	4,755				
Electrical Equipment	4,249				
Primary Metal	2,534				
Paper	2,094				
Textile Mills	1,521				
Leather and Allied Products	1,031				
Petroleum and Coal Products	751				

Over 20% of small manufacturers are in the fabricated metal production business.



Source: Statistics of U.S. Businesses, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html

40,000





Pandemic Changes in Manufacturing, 2019 - 2021



The number of small manufacturing firms increased over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the number of employees fell.



Sources: 1) Nonemployer Statistics, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/nonemployer-statistics.html; 2) Statistics of U.S. Businesses, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/susb.html

## 4,806,794



### 2021

Small Manufacturing Employment



Source: 2023 Federal Reserve Small Business Credit Survey — Industry Chartbook, https://www.fedsmallbusiness.org/reports/survey/2024/2024-small-business-data-chartbooks