Manufacturing is 11% of the U.S. GDP when narrowly defined by government statistics, including only the value-added of manufacturing facilities, labor, and overhead. When defined more broadly, as in the “manufacturing value chain,” manufacturing is 11% of the U.S. GDP (or $2.1 trillion in 2019) and includes transportation, logistics, distribution, and marketing. The latter is what economists call “upstream” manufacturing, and it is the definition used in this report. The upstream definition is much bigger than the traditional GDP manufacturing sector and accounts for over 12 million manufacturing jobs, or about 9% of the total workforce in the U.S.

Myth #1: U.S. manufacturing is in decline.

Truth: Employment, shipments, and orders are on the rise.

Manufacturing is 1/3 of the U.S. economy when you include facilities and everything they invest in, including logistics. The MEP National Network helps manufacturers create or expand their workforce.