

PENNSYLVANIA MANUFACTURING

Alive and Well



By James Mentzer

MANUFACTURING IS THE KEYSTONE to

Pennsylvania's economic success and the impetus that has provided Pennsylvanians with family-sustaining wages and a wonderful quality of life since before the state was established as a commonwealth. *Pennsylvania Manufacturing: Alive and Well* examines the many forces behind manufacturing's contribution to Pennsylvania's economic prosperity and why the commonwealth is a global leader in that industry sector.

Pennsylvania is the birthplace of many inventors and inventions. In *Pennsylvania Manufacturing*, we profile ten men and women whose vision, drive, and tenacity have had a profound impact on all of our lives. We also take a peek at five iconic Pennsylvania-born products and visit with the third-oldest company in the United States, which is still doing business in the City of Brotherly Love.

Pennsylvania is credited with not one, but two "Capital of the World" designations as the top producer of these two products, and we highlight many other "firsts" that can be attributed to the Keystone State. *Pennsylvania Manufacturing* takes an in-depth look at the rich diversity of industry sectors in the state that have made Pennsylvania products an international sensation.

The manufacturing industry is not immune to challenges, and we probe these issues and discuss real-world solutions that are helping to ensure modern manufacturing's success and advance the industry beyond unfair stereotypes of manufacturing. Special attention is dedicated to exploring workforce issues, the number-one priority of manufacturers. Manufacturers seek solutions that not only help them continue to operate, grow, and improve, but also to provide Pennsylvanians with well-paying jobs and a higher standard of living.

When it comes to defining why Pennsylvania is a great place to do business, the numbers speak for themselves. Pennsylvania's economy ranks sixth in the United States, its total gross state product is \$570 billion, and if it were an independent country, it would rank as the eighteenth-largest in the world. We delve into the various forces that contribute to these fascinating statistics and examine why Pennsylvania-based manufacturers love doing business here and why both domestic- and foreign-based companies are looking to bring their companies to the Keystone State.

We conclude with a special section highlighting the corporate profiles of some of the great companies who are proud to call Pennsylvania home. Each company has a unique story to tell, and these stories reinforce the fact that Pennsylvania's manufacturing sector is indeed alive and well.

From its proximity to a vast majority of consumers in the United States and Canada to its abundant natural resources to having access to dedicated and hard-working employees whose work ethic is second to none, we show you the reasons why Pennsylvania is a major manufacturing hub and why it will be for many years to come.