

# For

# MANUFACTURERS

# Only



Summer 2018

## NEBRASKA'S MANUFACTURING OUTPUT: \$13.2 BILLION



**M**anufacturers in Nebraska account for nearly 12% of the state's total economic output. That's according to the most recent summary of state facts published by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), which is one of two national affiliates of the Nebraska Chamber.

In 2016 – the latest year available – Nebraska's total output from manufacturing was \$13.2 billion. That's compared to about \$6.4 billion from production agriculture; \$9.0 billion from transportation and warehousing; \$11.4 billion from finance and insurance; \$8.6 billion from health care and social assistance; \$10.8 billion from professional and business services; and \$11.3 billion from real estate and rental and leasing.

Export markets are important to Nebraska manufacturing. Nearly \$5.4 billion in manufactured goods were shipped abroad in 2016 – and roughly half of that was with our nation's free trade agreement partners.

Here are more important Nebraska manufacturing facts from NAM:

- The 97,300 manufacturing employees in Nebraska received an average annual compensation of \$59,867, which is roughly \$17,200 more than the state's average non-farm wages.
- Nebraska has more than 1,600 manufacturing businesses.
- Manufacturers employ almost 10% of Nebraska's total workforce.
- The top manufacturing sectors in Nebraska are: Food and beverages; chemical products; machinery; fabricated metal products; motor vehicles and parts; plastic and rubber products; computer and electronic products; mineral products; and electrical equipment and appliances.

To see NAM's full summary, go to: <http://www.nam.org/Data-and-Reports/State-Manufacturing-Data/>. 

Manufacturing is a vital component of the Nebraska economy. It also represents an essential segment of the membership within the Nebraska Chamber. The State Chamber Manufacturers Council evaluates and recommends policy positions to the State Chamber Board of Directors and serves as a forum for the exchange of views and information that the State Chamber manufacturing members wish to share.

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## Manufacturing Day Set For Oct. 5

**M**anufacturing Day has been set for October 5 this year. For those who don't know, Manufacturing Day is the annual celebration of modern manufacturing meant to inspire the next generation of manufacturers.

This year, Manufacturing Day will focus on one of the biggest problems manufacturers face – a shortage of skilled workers. According to Manufacturing Institute Executive Director Carolyn Lee, “too often, the very talented younger Americans who could make the most of these careers either don't know they exist or have the wrong idea about what a career in modern manufacturing might look like.”

While Manufacturing Day is officially October 5, companies and organizations should plan their events on the date in October that works best for them. No matter the date, events can be registered on the Manufacturing Day website at [www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com). Events can be marked as public or invitation-only events.

Manufacturers in Nebraska are encouraged to open their doors to the public and elected officials to share their stories and showcase their facilities. This is your opportunity to let young people – and their parents – know that modern manufacturing is among the most rewarding career fields today.

By participating in events such as Manufacturing Day, manufacturers can connect with future generations, take charge of manufacturing's public image and ensure the prosperity of the industry. Community colleges and other educational institutions can also organize their own Manufacturing Day events by inviting students, educators and officials to special activities.

For help with publicizing your own Manufacturing Day/Month event, visit [www.mfgday.com](http://www.mfgday.com). □

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## Hastings Project To Focus On Manufacturing Workforce

**C**entral Community College recently announced that it has surpassed the \$4.5 million mark in funding for the Hastings Campus Major Gifts Campaign.

The funds from the campaign will be earmarked for an expansion and renovation of the Hamilton Building, which houses the school's advanced manufacturing design technology program and the welding technology program.

The project is aimed at helping fill the workforce void facing industries in the Hastings area community. □

## Survey: Over 95% Of Manufacturers Are Bullish

**T**hanks to an improving economy and last December's tax reform, more than 95% of manufacturers have turned bullish about their future, an all-time record.

A new survey from the National Association of Manufacturers, released in mid-June, found that 95.1% of manufacturers have a positive outlook for their companies. That is the highest level of optimism recorded in the 20-year history of the survey.

Other highlights from NAM's report include:

- Optimism among medium-sized manufacturers registered its highest level ever recorded (95.8%) in the 20-year history of the survey.
- All-time highs for projected employment growth and capital spending.
- Projected wage growth registered its fastest pace in 17 years.
- Projected sales growth kept pace at its second-highest reading in survey history. □



## Hornady Is Grand Island Area's Business Of The Year

**H**ornady Manufacturing was recently named the 2018 Grand Island Area Economic Development Corporation's Business of the Year. The company is a global leader in producing bullets, ammunition, security products, reloading tools and accessory designs.

In an article in the Grand Island newspaper, Steve Hornady, president of Hornady, is quoted as saying that his company and other area employers are "struggling to find qualified help to get more people to come to work" since the "community has low unemployment" and "a housing shortage." □

## HELP US GROW YOUR STATE CHAMBER

The Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry is Nebraska's manufacturing association.

Over a span of 106 years, the State Chamber has established a well-tuned, multi-faceted model to carry out its mission of improving Nebraska's business climate, protecting all aspects of the private free-enterprise system, and representing the interests of more than 1,200 Chamber members.

Whether through public policy, political engagement, communications or member services, the Nebraska Chamber is constantly

working to better serve the needs of the business community. But to expand our influence and compete with opposing interests, we want to grow our membership base.

Please take a minute call James Berringer at 402-474-4422 or e-mail [jberringer@nechamber.com](mailto:jberringer@nechamber.com) to let us know of businesses that would benefit from the services provided by the State Chamber.

By providing us with the names of potential new members, you will help us grow your Nebraska Chamber and ensure the organization's continued success throughout the 21st century. □

## Manufacturing Leads Nebraska For Recent Job Growth

It was recently reported that Nebraska's preliminary May unemployment rate remained at 2.8%, compared to the national average jobless rate of 3.8%. Among Nebraska's first-class cities, Kearney and Norfolk had the lowest jobless rate at 2.5%.

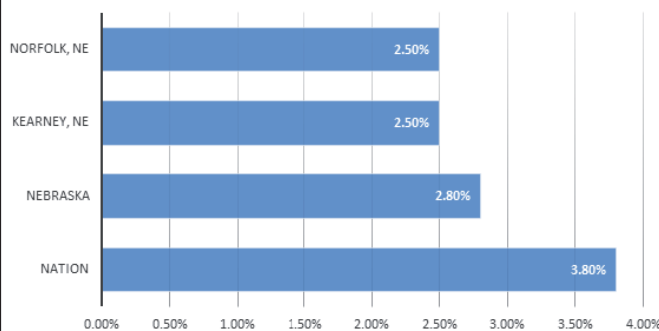
Meanwhile, Nebraska's total non-farm employment hit an all-time high in May, according to state Labor Commissioner John Albin.

Manufacturing led all other private industries with the largest year-over-year job growth, up 3,539.

A long-term forecast issued in mid-June by UNL's Bureau of Business Research and the Nebraska Business Forecast Council said that manufacturing, construction and service industries are expected to produce strong growth over the next three years, allowing the state's economy to expand.

Manufacturing and construction are expected to add 6,000 jobs combined over the next three years. □

Jobless Rate



## In The Spotlight: Exmark's Judy Altmaier



The Grand Island newspaper recently reported on Exmark Manufacturing Vice President and General Manager Judy Altmaier, who was recently honored by the University of Nebraska-Kearney's College of Business and Technology.

Altmaier, a UNK alumna and member of the Nebraska Chamber Board of Directors, has also held key positions at Eaton Corp. and the Toro Co.

Altmaier said her goal is to elevate manufacturing by promoting the industry and showing people all the doors it can open. □

# More U.S. Colleges Adding Manufacturing Programs

**A**ssembly Magazine recently reported that U.S. manufacturing is making a comeback as manufacturers continue to add jobs. However, the magazine notes that manufacturing businesses “are seeking workers whose profile is different from that of decades past, when a high school diploma was more than enough.”

As automation takes over some of the manual labor in factories, new jobs being created tend to require computer and engineering skills and advanced training. The story notes that this has helped to fuel more college investment in manufacturing programs. □



## PLAN NOW TO ATTEND STATE CHAMBER'S FEDERAL SUMMIT, AUG. 9

On Thursday, August 9, the State Chamber, along with the Lincoln and Omaha Chambers, will host its annual Federal Legislative Summit from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the SAC & Aerospace Museum, just north of I-80 at Exit 426 near Ashland.

This one-of-a-kind event features an update on federal issues presented by Nebraska's U.S. senators and congressmen. This year's keynote speaker will be Neil Bradley, executive vice president and chief policy officer of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the largest business federation in the world. The event will also feature a congressional update presented by Nebraska's U.S. senators and congressmen.

For more information or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/2ttoAhs> or call the State Chamber at 402-474-4422. □



# STATE CHAMBER PAC PREPARING FOR 2018 ELECTION

**W**hen it comes to the philosophical makeup of the Nebraska Legislature, much is at stake in the 2018 general election, which will be Nov. 6.

Election 2018 marks the seventh consecutive cycle in which Nebraska's term limits law will play a significant role in shaping the Nebraska Legislature. Here's a snapshot at the state's legislative races:

- Fourteen state senators face re-election.
- Two appointees (Senators Theresa Thibodeau and Rob Clements) are running for election.
- Six state senators are term-limited, two are not seeking re-election.
- One state senator running for state treasurer; one running for PSC.
- At least nine new state senators will be elected – likely more.

All of this means it is another busy year for the State Chamber Political Action Committee (PAC), which serves as a separate arm of the Nebraska Chamber. The PAC's mission is simple: To elect business-minded representatives to the Legislature.

State Chamber staff has dedicated a considerable amount of time to help recruit good candidates who understand the challenges facing the business community.

Moreover, Chamber staff is meeting personally with candidates who made it through the primary election to assess their qualifications and business acumen.

Through the State Chamber PAC, political investments are consolidated with those of other businesses from across the state, thereby ensuring that individual donations have a more significant impact on the key legislative races.

"The State Chamber PAC has repeatedly demonstrated its worth," Nebraska Chamber President Bryan Slone said. "Electing the right people to the Legislature is the most effective way to ensure that the concerns of your business are recognized and respected."

For more information on how you or your business can contribute to the State Chamber PAC, call (402) 474-4422 or e-mail Amanda Williams at [awilliams@nechamber.com](mailto:awilliams@nechamber.com). □



## Nebraska Chamber Announces 2018 Legislative Forums

**A**utumn is approaching and the Nebraska Chamber is preparing for its fall legislative forums.

For more than three decades, the Nebraska Chamber – in coordination with local chambers of commerce across the state – has held these statewide forums to inform community leaders about state legislative activities and other important topics impacting the business community. These forums are also used to gather input from Nebraska's business community on issues of concern.

This year's 30 legislative forums will devote significant focus on Blueprint Nebraska, a business-led initiative that seeks to grow Nebraska's economy and communities.

State Chamber members, as well as members of local chambers and the news media, are invited to participate. State lawmakers are also invited.

Enclosed in this issue of The Executive is the 2018 schedule of the Nebraska Chamber's legislative forum tour. (Note: More dates and locations may be added in the future.) □

# 2018 Fall Legislative Forums

**Monday, Aug. 27**

**Aurora** (Lunch)  
TBA  
Contact: Chris Small, (402) 694-6911

**Tuesday, Aug. 28**

**Alliance** (Breakfast)  
TBA  
Contact: Susan Unzicker, (308) 762-1520

**Scottsbluff** (Lunch)

Scotts Bluff Country Club  
Contact: Karen Anderson, (308) 632-2133

**Wednesday, Aug. 29**

**Sidney** (Breakfast)  
Dude's Steakhouse  
Contact: Sandy Goble, (308) 254-5851

**Ogallala** (Lunch)

Front Street  
Contact: Karla Scott, (308) 284-4066

**Thursday, Aug. 30**

**North Platte** (Breakfast)  
Holiday Inn Express  
Contact: Gary Person, (308) 532-4966

**York** (Lunch)

York Country Club  
Contact: Madonna Mogul, (402) 362-5531

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**Wednesday, Sept. 5**

**Wahoo** (Lunch)  
Heritage Inn  
Contact: Doug Watts, (402) 443-4001

**Thursday, Sept. 6**

**South Sioux City**, (Lunch)  
TBA  
Contact: Jim Steele, (402) 494-1626

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**Monday, Sept. 10**

**Ord** (Lunch)  
CCC Ord Learning Center  
Contact: Trevor Lee, (308) 728-7875

**Tuesday, Sept. 11**

**Broken Bow** (Breakfast)  
Bonfire Grill  
Contact: Deb Kennedy, (308) 872-5691

**Holdrege** (Lunch)

Taste of Texas BBQ  
Contact: Jawnna Kuck, (308) 995-4444

**Wednesday, Sept. 12**

**Lexington** (Lunch)  
Mac's Creek Winery & Vineyards  
Contact: Christy Werger, (308) 324-5504

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**Monday, Sept. 24**

**Henderson** (Lunch)  
Perks Cafe  
Contact: Kelsey Bergen, (402) 723-4228

**Tuesday, Sept. 25**

**Kearney** (Breakfast)  
Kearney Chamber Conference Room  
Contact: Derek Rusher, (308) 237-3132

**McCook** (Lunch)

Weeth Theater, Tipton Hall, McCook  
Community College  
Contact: Dee Spicer, (308) 345-3200

**Hastings**, (Social and Dinner)

Pastime Lanes Family Fun Center  
Contact: Lorie Schiefelbein,  
(402) 461-8400

**Wednesday, Sept. 26**

**Fremont** (Lunch)  
Midland University  
Contact: Tara Lea, (402) 721-2641

**Thursday, Sept. 27**

**West Point** (Lunch)  
Pizza Ranch  
Contact: Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong,  
(402) 372-2981

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**Thursday, Oct. 4**

**Sarpy County** (Lunch)  
Tiburon Golf Club  
Contact: Annisa Visty, (402) 339-3050

**Friday, Oct. 5**

**Columbus** (Lunch)  
Columbus Chamber  
Contact: Sharyle Sands, (402) 564-2769

**Monday, Oct. 8**

**Norfolk** (Lunch)  
Norfolk Chamber  
Contact: Jenni Canham, (402) 371-4862

**Tuesday, Oct. 9**

**Beatrice** (TBA)  
TBA  
Contact: Walker Zulkoski, (402) 228-5869

**Thursday, Oct. 11**

**Crete** (Lunch)  
TBA  
Contact: Kayleigh Schadwinkel,  
(402) 826-2136

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**Monday, Oct. 15**

**Auburn** (Dinner - Banquet)  
TBA  
Contact: Tonja Greiner, (402) 274-3521

**Tuesday, Oct. 16**

**Omaha** (Lunch)  
TBA  
Contact: Cheryl Lawson, (402) 978-7922

**Wednesday, Oct. 17**

**Nebraska City** (Lunch)  
Eagles Club  
Contact: Amy Allgood, (402) 873-6654

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**Monday, Oct. 22**

**Blair** (Lunch)  
Memorial Community Hospital  
Contact: Jordan Rishel, (402) 533-4455

**Tuesday, Oct. 23**

**Grand Island** (Lunch)  
Riverside Golf Club  
Contact: Cindy Johnson, (308) 382-9210

**Wednesday, Oct. 24**

**Lincoln** (Breakfast)  
Country Club of Lincoln  
Contact: Nichole Kaiser, (402) 436-2355

## Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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