Plumbing Manufacturing

A Key Driver of Jobs, Growth and Innovation

How plumbing manufacturing contributes to the nation’s economic strength while protecting natural resources and public health and safety
Making a positive economic impact in all 50 states, plumbing fixture and fittings manufacturers contribute $85.5 billion to the American economy, according to economic data compiled by Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI).

Plumbing manufacturers directly provide 193,057 jobs and $10.4 billion in wages. These manufacturers support an additional 271,300 jobs with a payroll of $15.5 billion across the supply value chain when including the jobs created by plumbing products with wholesalers, retailers and industry suppliers. Total jobs and wages equal 464,370 and $26 billion. Reports and tables showing plumbing manufacturing industry economic data by state, congressional district, state house district, or state senate district can be created at safeplumbing.org/advocacy/economic-impact.

Plumbing manufacturing is part of one of the most productive sectors fueling the U.S. economy – the manufacturing industry. The National Association of Manufacturers reported that for every $1 spent in manufacturing, another $1.89 is added to the economy, making it the industry with the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector.

$1 = $1.89

464,370 jobs
$26 billion in wages

$85.5 billion
Total contributions made to the American economy by the plumbing fixture and fittings manufacturing industry
PMI is the voice of the plumbing manufacturing industry, representing manufacturing members who make **90% of the plumbing products sold in the U.S.**, as well as allied members who provide certification services, supplies or other resources to the industry. PMI advocates for legislation, regulations, standards and codes that will contribute to the nation’s economic strength, as well as to water efficiency and savings, sustainability, public health and safety, consumer satisfaction, and a clean environment.

For example, PMI supports funding the restoration of the nation’s underground water infrastructure to reduce risks to safe, sustainable drinking water and create the more efficient use of water. This solution will end catastrophic leakage and public safety hazards resulting from the current, aging infrastructure. Among the nation’s challenges are 16% of installed water mains being beyond their useful life* and 1.7 trillion gallons of treated water lost to leaks annually.**

PMI also supports updating and modernizing trade agreements to help expand manufacturing in the U.S., which benefits greatly from free trade with Canada and Mexico, as well as with other nations. The U.S. plumbing product share of Canada’s import market is 41%, and 54% for the Mexican market.

* Utah State University/Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association  
** United States Geological Survey
American plumbing manufacturers have helped to save significant amounts of water and energy by creating more than 27,000 EPA-certified WaterSense products, including more than 15,000 faucets, 6,500 showerheads, and 3,100 toilets. These plumbing fixtures and fittings saved 631 billion gallons of water in 2017 and more than 2.7 trillion gallons since 2006. WaterSense products also have reduced the energy needed to heat, pump, and treat water by 367 billion kilowatt hours – enough energy to supply a year’s worth of power to almost 25% of U.S. homes.*

* WaterSense Accomplishments Report, 2017
Plumbing manufacturing employs many types of workers, from production level, maintenance and technical positions to machinists, engineers and industrial designers. A skilled workforce is necessary for the industry to prosper, but the U.S. faces a shortage of workers.

With an estimated **3.5 million jobs needed to be filled by 2025** within the overall manufacturing industry sector, there will be plenty of opportunities for anyone – including young people, women and individuals from diverse backgrounds – to start a career in the field.

Many PMI member companies have developed co-op and intern programs to train and place college students in permanent roles. They also have opened their doors to students and others to draw attention to the roles manufacturers play in their communities and to underscore the economic and social significance of manufacturing.

* Deloitte and The Manufacturing Institute*