**PMA Bulletin: Pennsylvania’s Manufacturing Sector is the Engine of Economic Growth**

Pennsylvania’s manufacturing sector is poised for a bold transformation. With over $112 billion in annual output and more than 562,000 high-wage jobs, manufacturing already plays a critical role in the Commonwealth’s economy. Now, a new strategy—**Vision 2030: Advanced Manufacturing Strategy for Economic Growth in Pennsylvania**—sets a course to grow that impact dramatically by the end of the decade.

Developed by the Pennsylvania Manufacturing Extension Partnership (PA MEP) and supported by the Pennsylvania Manufacturers’ Association, Vision 2030 outlines targeted initiatives to fuel economic growth, create family-sustaining jobs, and revitalize small business supply chains across the state.

**A Vision Backed by Numbers – Macroeconomic Level**

At the heart of the strategy lies a bold goal: increase Pennsylvania’s manufacturing output by 10% annually, reaching **$180 billion by 2030**. Economic modeling shows this surge could result in **more than 368,000 new jobs**, spanning both direct manufacturing roles and positions in related industries.

Of those, over **138,000 would be direct jobs** in manufacturing—offering high-paying, stable careers. Meanwhile, an additional **230,000 jobs would be created indirectly**, across sectors like transportation, healthcare, warehousing, and retail. The ripple effect of this growth would generate an estimated **$33.5 billion in new labor income** and **$12.8 billion in tax revenue** across all levels of government.

**Powering the Economy, Empowering People**

Pennsylvania's small and mid-sized manufacturers—many with fewer than 500 employees—are the backbone of this strategy. Yet one of their most persistent challenges is finding skilled workers. At the same time, a large portion of the state’s youth and displaced workers remain underutilized.

Vision 2030 addresses this head-on by expanding apprenticeship programs, boosting career training, and promoting second-chance hiring. The strategy emphasizes that most new manufacturing jobs will not require a four-year degree. Instead, the focus will be on accessible credentials like high school diplomas, post-secondary certificates, and associate degrees.

To prepare the workforce for the future, training in advanced technologies such as automation, robotics, and additive manufacturing will be scaled up. Just as important, career exploration programs will reach students early—helping them see a future in modern manufacturing.

**Strengthening Resilience and Innovation**

Supply chain resiliency is another key pillar of Vision 2030. By bolstering local supplier networks and encouraging lean operations, Pennsylvania aims to safeguard against future disruptions and reduce dependency on global logistics. In parallel, the plan promotes digital transformation and cybersecurity readiness for manufacturers—particularly those engaged in national defense. Currently, 20% of the Columbia Class submarine supply chain originates in Pennsylvania, making the state a linchpin in America’s security infrastructure.

Expanding the industrial base is equally vital. Pennsylvania is in fierce competition with other states for manufacturing investment. To stay ahead, Vision 2030 calls for policies that lower operational costs through infrastructure upgrades, better tax policy, and enhanced access to broadband and energy. Connections between manufacturers and research institutions will help spark the kind of innovation that attracts forward-looking companies to the Commonwealth.

**A Vision Backed by Numbers – Microeconomic Level
KeyState River Hill Fertilizers, Fuels, and Chemicals: A Vision 2030 Success Story in Action**

In the heart of rural Pennsylvania, the **KeyState River Hill project** exemplifies the potential of the *Vision 2030: Advanced Manufacturing Strategy* to revitalize the state’s economy. With a $2 billion investment in a new fertilizer and chemical manufacturing facility in Clearfield County, this project brings the Vision 2030 goals of job creation, industrial diversification, and supply chain resiliency to life.

Over the first five years, KeyState is projected to generate:

* **2,956 total jobs** statewide, including 1,252 direct hires and over 1,700 indirect and induced positions across related sectors like transportation, healthcare, retail, and engineering.
* **$538 million in total labor income**, providing family-sustaining wages and helping to close the skills gap in advanced manufacturing.
* **$3.15 billion in total economic output**, contributing significantly to Pennsylvania’s GDP.
* **$267 million in new tax revenue** at the local, state, and federal levels.

The project also directly supports Pennsylvania’s energy independence and supply chain resilience, reducing reliance on foreign imports for critical agricultural products like ammonia and urea. With 60% of production already secured through long-term contracts, it sets a benchmark for economic stability and strategic industry alignment.

The long-term outlook is even more promising. Once operational, the facility will support more than 1,200 jobs and $700 million in annual output for decades—exactly the kind of sustained impact envisioned by Vision 2030. The facility’s advanced carbon capture and clean hydrogen initiatives further align with Pennsylvania’s innovation and environmental goals.

From upskilling rural workers to bolstering U.S. supply chains, KeyState's project is not just a factory—it’s a catalyst for generational prosperity.

**A Strategy for Shared Prosperity**

This strategy isn’t just about business—it’s about people and communities. The projected growth could drive job creation across industries such as healthcare, education, finance, and hospitality. For every new manufacturing job created, another 1.7 jobs are supported throughout the economy. That means more families earning stable incomes, more vibrant main streets, and stronger local economies.

From Erie to Philadelphia, and from Scranton to Pittsburgh, Vision 2030 is a unified call to action. It invites policymakers, educators, business leaders, and workers to work together toward a thriving, inclusive, and future-ready Pennsylvania.

Read more, Vision 2030 Full Report: <https://www.catalystconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Vision-2030-Strategic-Vision-FINAL.pdf>

Read more, KeyState Full Report: <https://pamanufacturers.org/keystate/>