



**Press Release Contact**

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**Virginia Retains Leadership in U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness**  
*-Virginia Ranks 7th in 2023 VA Manufacturing Competitiveness Index-*

**RICHMOND, VA** – Today, the Virginia Manufacturers Association and the Virginia Industry Foundation released the 7th edition of the *Virginia Manufacturing Competitiveness Index*, an annual report that ranks 57 discrete metrics allocated across five categories of manufacturing competitiveness: Business Climate, Workforce, Infrastructure, Innovation, and Economic Strength. The Index allows industry and policymakers to assess complex data and inform strategic public policy choices as well as critical capital and talent investment decisions. Virginia retained its #7 overall rank, showing that Virginia's manufacturing competitiveness is positioned for sustained growth and prosperity.

**Top 10 State Rankings Overall:**

1. Utah
2. North Carolina
3. Tennessee
4. Idaho
5. Texas
6. Florida
7. **Virginia**
8. Kentucky
9. Arizona
10. Georgia

Virginia's overall ranking is accredited to its performance on the Business Climate metrics (#3 in the US), Workforce metrics (#4 in the US), and Infrastructure metrics (#9 in the US). The Commonwealth's overall ranking was hindered by its poor performance on the Innovation metrics and Economic Strength metrics, where it ranked 27<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

“Virginia's #7 ranking is a testament to the ambitious and unwavering commitment the VMA and our allies have to making the Commonwealth the most competitive state in the U.S. for dynamic manufacturing,” said VMA President and CEO Brett Vassey. “Over the next two years, we have to increase industry credential attainment, increase female participation in manufacturing occupations, expand manufactured goods exports, lower the cost and increase the supply of energy resources, improve research and development commercialization, and focus the Commonwealth's workforce and economic development resources on small and mid-sized businesses.”

This year's Index also incorporates novel data points, featuring the Percentage of Women Working in Manufacturing and the Percentage of Women in Production Occupations. These specific Workforce metrics underline the pivotal role of female employment in manufacturing and underscore the need for further attention to industry credential attainment by women in the workforce.

“Virginia’s performance on the Innovation metrics reveals a sobering #37 ranking in university intellectual property licensing,” said Stacie Gordon, VMA Government Affairs Manager. “We also have to create a sense of urgency into the Commonwealth’s tax reform debate when we rank #24 for total capital expenditures per manufacturing employee.”

For access to the complete *2023 Virginia Manufacturing Competitiveness Index*, please visit [va-mfg.com](http://va-mfg.com) after November 10th, 2023.

**About Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA)**

*The VMA develops and advocates for constructive public policies and supports a broad array of business services and programs to help ensure that Virginia manufacturing companies can be productive, profitable, and competitive in Virginia. Virginia's 6,000+ manufacturers employ over 239,000 individuals, contribute \$49.5 billion to the gross state product, and account for over 80% of the Commonwealth's manufactured goods exports to the global economy. For more about the VMA, please visit [www.va-mfg.com](http://www.va-mfg.com).*

**About Virginia Industry Foundation (VIF)**

The VIF's mission is to provide scientific educational information; compose, publish, and disseminate information and standards designed to advance industry and specific education; recognize industrial, scientific, educational, workplace, and environmental achievements; support technology intensive industry research and development; and serve as a central scientific, educational, and charitable resource for industry and the public. For more information about the VIF, please visit <https://virginiaindustryfoundation.org/>.