

CMA Weekly Update



CMA Weekly Update – June 4, 2021

The Department of Labor [released](#) a strong jobs report today. Here are a few topline takeaways on manufacturing jobs from NAM Chief Economist Chad Moutray:

- Manufacturing rebounded slightly, rising by 23,000 in May after falling by a downwardly revised 32,000 in April.
- In May, durable and nondurable goods firms added 18,000 and 5,000 workers respectively.
- We are still short about 500,000 manufacturing employees compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The overall strong numbers were spurred by numerous factors including the success of the national vaccination campaign as well as rollbacks on pandemic restrictions. Still, with employers struggling to fill open positions, the economy isn't expected to fully recover until sometime next year.

Key Issues

Cyberattacks Continue to Exploit Manufacturers At a time when supply chain disruptions already plague manufacturers, more companies are contending with ransomware attacks. The world's largest meat supplier, JBS, has its systems back online after suffering from a [cyberattack](#) last week that shut down its plant operations in the United States. Analysts expect the shutdown to result in higher consumer prices on meats. With cyberattacks up 300% since last year, the Biden Admin is working on efforts to curb the attacks and their devastating effect on critical businesses and infrastructure. The White House shared [guidance](#) this week on what companies should do to counter the ransomware threat. The memo lists the following five best practices:

1. **Back up your data, test the backups and keep them offline.**
2. **Update and patch your systems promptly.**
3. **Test your incident response plan.**
4. **Check Your Security Team's Work.**
5. **Segment Your networks.**

The NAMs [cyber cover](#) program was built to protect our associations and your members from this threat. If you haven't already, we urge you to take advantage of our [complimentary](#) cyber risk assessment, which determines the risk level of your organization. For more information, reach out to [Shonzia Thompson](#) or [Paul Hartgen](#),

NAMs Vice President, Member and Business Services.

Manufacturers and the Supreme Court The NAM is involved in a number of Supreme Court cases as an amicus, or “friend of the court,” and we have already received one significant victory this year in the energy space. The case centered around where nationwide issues should be litigated when the federal government is involved. Energy manufacturers and the NAM argued that climate change is just such a national and global issue and cannot be decided by state courts. The nature of the issue makes access to federal courts paramount. While the SCOTUS’s ruling didn’t address the underlying climate concerns, it did provide easier access to federal courts for these types of disputes.

On NAM.org, you can read a full [overview](#) of a busy spring for the NAM’s Manufacturers’ Center for Legal Action. Our MCLA has worked closely with a number of CMA partners to advance manufacturing interests in the courts this year and we will keep you updated on future opportunities.

Infrastructure Talks Continue This week President Biden and Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) continued infrastructure [negotiations](#), with the two slated to meet again today. Reports indicate that the President has signaled a willingness to compromise on his demands for a higher corporate tax rate as part of a bipartisan infrastructure deal. Expect negotiations to continue as the White House says they are not putting a [deadline](#) on the discussions. Manufacturers continue to urge that by working together in a bipartisan manner, we can find common ground that doesn’t put our competitiveness at risk. NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons recently took to the airwaves to discuss what matters most to manufacturers with taxes and infrastructure on [CNN](#) and [Cheddar News](#).

EEOC Releases New COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance In response to the NAM’s [request](#) last week for updated guidelines on vaccinated individuals in the workplace, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission released new [guidance](#) on how federal anti-discrimination laws relate to requiring vaccination in the workplace. The new guidance also covers employer-provided vaccine incentives, confidentiality and accommodating both unvaccinated workers and fully vaccinated workers at heightened risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

You can view the new technical assistance [here](#) (Section K), and below are some key updates:

- Federal EEO laws do not prevent an employer from requiring all employees physically entering the workplace to be vaccinated for COVID-19.
- Federal EEO laws do not prevent or limit employers from offering incentives to employees to voluntarily provide documentation or other confirmation of vaccination obtained from a third party (not the employer) in the community.
- Employers that are administering vaccines to their employees may offer incentives for employees to be vaccinated, as long as the incentives are not coercive.

- Employers may provide employees and their family members with information to educate them about COVID-19 vaccines and raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination.

We are still awaiting updated workplace guidance from OSHA concerning facial coverings, social distancing and other topics relating to fully vaccinated employees. If you have any questions regarding the new guidance, please [email](#) NAM Director of Labor and Employment Policy Drew Schneider.

Advocacy Opportunities

As infrastructure talks advance in earnest, the NAM is mobilizing our members to encourage historic investments that don't also undermine manufacturing competitiveness. Here's how you can help:

- **ACT NOW:** Your member companies can [use this tool](#) to send a message to members of Congress asking them to advance an infrastructure package that helps manufacturers without risking our competitiveness.

COMING SOON: The NAM is working on an **infrastructure toolkit** to equip you and your stakeholders to get involved in advancing a robust infrastructure package that doesn't undo the benefits of the 2017 tax reform law. My colleague [Michael O'Brien](#) would be happy to customize a strategy for you to share this with your members.

[Let us know](#) if we can provide you with additional resources to engage your members.

CMA Member Highlights

- We want to congratulate Cindy Squires who has been [tapped](#) to take the helm at the **American Composite Manufacturer Association (ACMA)** effective July 1, after eight years leading **International Wood Products Association (IWPA)**.
- Michelle Mason has been [named](#) the next President and CEO of the **American Society of Association Executives (ASAE)**, effective September 1. As the CEO of Association Forum, Michelle has been a great partner of the CMA. We look forward to future collaborations with Michelle in her new role.

The NAM provides this weekly update with key content for our association partners. This is also a platform to highlight work of our CMA partners. [Shoot us a note](#) on any initiatives or messages that your organization has launched that we can share with others.