

CMA Weekly Update



CMA Weekly Update – March 5, 2021

Today is “Jobs Day” — the first one following a full month of the Biden administration — and the NAM’s Chief Economist Chad Moutray notes that this morning’s report from the BLS shows that **manufacturing employment increased by 21,000 in February**, rebounding from the decline of 14,000 positions reflected in January’s report, and rising for the ninth time in the past 10 months. Durable and nondurable goods employment rose by 17,000 and 4,000 for the month.

Overall, the manufacturing sector remains a bright spot in the U.S. economy, with expanding demand and production and hiring moving in the right direction. As we lay out in this week’s update, the right action from Washington can help support manufacturers’ recovery efforts.

For a deeper dive on today’s numbers, check out the highlights [here](#).

Key Issues

COVID Relief

Yesterday the Senate introduced the latest version of the “American Rescue Plan”. Manufacturers continue to call for action and the **NAM urged lawmakers to take a bipartisan approach** that ensures resources are targeted in the most effective way to have the most powerful impact. For full details on the NAM’s response [click here](#).

PRO Act

As the House prepares to vote on one of the most sweeping labor [proposals](#) to upturn employee-employer relations, now is the time for manufacturers to speak out against the PRO Act. Manufacturing associations have been leading the charge on Capitol Hill and we appreciate the many CMA partners that have joined together to send a strong, collective message to the House on why this bill would threaten manufacturers’ COVID response work.

Many CMA partners have worked with the NAM to mobilize their association’s members and manufacturing employees to take action to reach out to Congress. It’s not too late to:

- **Activate your members now** to tell Congress to oppose the bill. The NAM has created [this tool to contact Congress](#) that you can share widely. This resource helps manufacturers to place a call directly in their Member of Congress’s office or send a message by e-mail.
- **Reach out directly to House members** through your association’s GR and advocacy teams or issue a separate message to reiterate the impact this would have on employees in your sector.

- **Seek support from the Advocacy's Team** who can help provide you with custom language to use in support of your efforts. Send a quick note to the NAM's [Advocacy Department](#) and we can help you get involved.

Infrastructure

As action heats up on infrastructure, we hope you caught the NAM's Aric Newhouse in the [NY Times](#). He told the paper that **we are** "optimistic and hopeful that there will be a meaningful bipartisan agreement here because the needs are clear." But as Aric also warned, if the administration tries to pay for the plan by raising taxes on corporations and other businesses that would obviously be a huge problem, and make this, instead of a bipartisan effort, a partisan effort.

- **Take action:** [Register here](#) to join the NAM's "**Infrastructure Working Group**" on Wednesday, March 10 at 2 p.m. and learn how your organization can help to advance a bipartisan package this Congress.

This debate is heating up as the American Society of Civil Engineers [released](#) its quadrennial "report card" on U.S. infrastructure, giving the U.S. a "C-" overall (up from a D+ in 2017) and indicating the country faces a \$2.59 trillion shortfall in infrastructure needs. With urgent need for action, the NAM continues to highlight manufacturers' priorities for infrastructure improvements with our [Building to Win](#) proposal.

Manufacturers Partner to Distribute Vaccines

Manufacturers from all sectors are doing their part for the pandemic response by producing the vaccines, PPE and essential products Americans are relying on to beat COVID-19. They are also increasing the capacity and efficiency of vaccination operations by embedding their manufacturing methods and technologies—as Honeywell and several partner organizations did recently in North Carolina. Many manufacturers have sought to do the same, so the group shared their recommendations in a new overview available [here](#).

- This **how-to guide** lays out the processes an organization should be aware of and plan for—from pre-event scheduling to on-site check-in, screening, vaccination and observation. The organization should also plan to do post-event data entry, which ensures both their team and local governments can document doses correctly.

Vaccines

As the vaccine rollout continues, we know that manufacturers are likely to have more questions about how to communicate on a range of issues. We've compiled expert communications guides at [NAM.org/ThisIsOurShot](#) that will address many of your concerns, and we are adding to those resources regularly.

- If you are hearing concerns about **vaccine effectiveness**, be sure to take a look at this NAM.org [interview](#) with an infectious disease expert on how to answer vaccine questions.
- Also see these expert **recommendations on a range [strategies](#) for employers** to help combat vaccine hesitancy.
- If you have questions that touch on **legal considerations** related to tracking or requiring vaccination, you can visit [this article](#) from the law firm Littler.

Manufacturers Stand Up for First Amendment Freedoms

This week CMA partners rallied together in an amicus effort to urge the Supreme Court to uphold the privacy of member and donor disclosure. Yet, manufacturers face additional threats from Congress on our fundamental right to privately associate.

The NAM [called on](#) House leaders to **reject H.R. 1**, which contains provisions intended to force **associations to disclose their members**—as a condition to exercising their First Amendment rights to participate freely in our democracy. The measure was approved in the House on Wednesday and the NAM will work our association partners to speak out as the bill heads to the Senate.

CMA Partner Highlights

- Yesterday our partners the **National Automatic Merchandising Association** celebrated the 3rd annual **National Vending Day**. This year's #vendingday focused on the contributions of convenience services over the last year to keep critical locations such as hospitals, police stations, fire houses, rest stops and manufacturing facilities stocked with necessary sustenance for the nation's front-line heroes. Check out more details [here](#).
- The **American Forest & Paper Association** this week released a new data-driven tool that helps packaging designers and brands in the design and manufacture of paper-based packaging to meet recyclability goals. The **Design Guidance for Recyclability** provides insights on how certain non-fiber elements, such as coatings and additives, impact the recyclability of paper-based packaging. [Download the guide here](#).

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. Please keep us posted on any initiatives or messages that your organization has launched that we can share with others.

Coming up

- March 11: NAM's Chemical Users and Manufacturers Task Force: PFAS Differentiation Discussion (12:00-1:00pm eastern) [Click Here to Register](#).
- March 16: NAM's *Executive Insights Series* featuring Air Liquide Executive Vice President Mike Graff (2:00 – 3:00pm eastern) [Click here](#) for details.
- March 19: Manufacturing Institute holds a Diversity and Inclusion Webinar on Workplace Flexibility (12:00pm eastern) Click [here](#) for details. Information on other related D&I opportunities from the Manufacturing Institute can be found [here](#).
- April 1: CMA CEO Roundtable (3:00-4:00pm eastern) *Registration details forthcoming*
- August 4-6: *Save the date for The CMA's 2021 Summer Leadership Conference (Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado*