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75.3% of those businesses have fewer than 20 employees, according to new data gathered by SCORE, mentors to America's small businesses.

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The vast majority of American manufacturing companies are small businesses, and 75.3% of those businesses have fewer than 20 employees, according to new data gathered by [SCORE](#), mentors to America's small businesses.

Last year, manufacturing businesses generated 11.6% of the U.S. economic output and employed 8.5% of the U.S. workforce, but 89% of manufacturers report that they cannot fill all job openings.

“Manufacturing businesses drive the U.S. economy,” said SCORE CEO Ken Yancey.

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Small manufacturing businesses (with fewer than 20 employees) comprise these percentages of total employment for the following products:

- 22.9% of apparel
- 18.4% of furniture and related products
- 16.4% of fabricated metal products
- 15.2% of wood products
- 11.5% of beverage and tobacco products
- 8.6% of machinery
- 6.3% of food
- 5.6% of electrical equipment, appliances and components
- 5.3% of plastics and rubber products
- 5.1% of computers and electronic products
- 2.8% of paper

Manufacturing generated 11.6% of U.S. economic output and employed 8.5% of the workforce. Yet, 89% of manufacturers have job openings they cannot fill. Top reasons cited include:

- Shifting skill sets due to advancing technologies
- Misperceptions of manufacturing jobs
- Retirement of baby boomers

[Download an infographic](#) for more information about the economic and employment impact of U.S. manufacturing businesses.

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