



U.S. manufacturing still strong

Jobs are disappearing, but U.S. companies make billions of dollars in sales worldwide.

By Stephen Manning

The Associated Press

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WASHINGTON — It might seem like the country that used to make everything is on the brink of making nothing.

In January, 207,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs vanished in the largest one-month drop since October 1982. Factory activity is hovering at a 28-year low. Even before the recession, plants were hemorrhaging work to foreign competitors with cheap labor, and some companies were moving production overseas.

But manufacturing in the United States isn't dead or even dying.

It's moving upscale, following the biggest profits, and becoming more efficient, just as Henry Ford did when he created the assembly line to make the Model T.

The U.S. by far remains the world's leading manufacturer by value of goods produced. It hit a record \$1.6 trillion in 2007 — nearly doubles the \$811 billion in 1987. For every \$1 of value produced in China's factories, America generates \$2.50.

So what is made in the USA these days? The U.S. sold more than \$200 billion worth of aircraft, missiles and space-related equipment in 2007. And \$80 billion worth of autos and auto parts.

Deere & Co. sold \$16.5 billion worth of farming equipment last year, much of it to the rest of the world. Then there are energy products such as gas turbines for power plants made by General Electric, computer chips from Intel and fighter jets from Lockheed Martin. Household names such as GE, General Motors, IBM, Boeing and Hewlett-Packard are among the largest manufacturers by revenue.

- America makes things that other countries can't. Today, "Made in USA" is more likely to be stamped on heavy equipment or the circuits that go inside other products than the items found on store shelves.
- U.S. companies have shifted toward high-end manufacturing as the production of low-value goods moves overseas. This has resulted in lower prices for shoppers and higher profits for companies.
- Thirty years ago, U.S. producers made 80 percent of what the country consumed, according to the Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI, an industry trade group. Now it's about 65 percent.
- American factories still provide much of the processed food that Americans buy, everything from frozen fish sticks to cans of beer.

Armor factory opens in Golden (CoorsTek Inc.)

Protection will be for tanks, other military vehicles

By Roger Fillion

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CoorsTek Inc.'s new armor subsidiary is opening a 75,000- square-foot factory in Golden to manufacture armor used on tanks and other U.S. military vehicles.

CoorsTek Armor Solutions uses ceramic it buys from CoorsTek to make lightweight composite armor for Humvees, tanks, helicopters and other ground vehicles, aircraft and marine craft.

The subsidiary supplies the armor to military contractors that make the vehicles for Uncle Sam.

The armor unit is scheduled to hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony today in Golden for the new factory, its second in the United States.

Privately held CoorsTek declined to say how many employees work at the facility or for the armor subsidiary.

CoorsTek Armor Solutions was created in June, after parent CoorsTek bought DEW Engineering and Development Ltd.

The Canadian company makes armor for military vehicles.

Terms of the deal weren't disclosed.

In addition to acquiring two manufacturing facilities in Canada, the acquisition gave the new CoorsTek Armor Solutions subsidiary a facility in Ogdensburg, N.Y.

The New York facility measures 42,000 square feet.

