

# Partnership For Success



*Lincoln and Minnehaha County  
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## **Manufacturing Week celebrates economic success**

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This year, South Dakota celebrates Manufacturing Week October 3-7—and here in our region, we've got a lot to celebrate. Our area is home to 270 manufacturing companies, employing 13,600 hard-working individuals who annually earn a payroll of **\$645 million**. That money circulates throughout our economy, fueling the success of businesses from car dealerships to Main Street cafés.

One-third of all South Dakota manufacturing jobs are located in our region, with companies here making products out of metal, wood and plastic, manufacturing medical devices and chemicals, foods and beverages, electronics and machinery. The jobs offered by area manufacturers represent 9% of all local employment opportunities.

But the numbers tell only a small part of the story. Manufacturers require materials and services provided by other local companies, companies offering jobs of their own and further enhancing our regional economy. Manufacturers are among the heaviest users of local shipping and distribution options, utilizing area logistics companies, rail service and our region's International Port of Entry.

In addition to providing jobs, buying from local suppliers and keeping our transportation network busy, manufacturing firms are among our most active corporate citizens. They support local schools, contribute to regional charitable efforts and sponsor a wide variety of county activities. The people who work at manufacturing companies build our neighborhoods and participate in community leadership.

All in all, manufacturers are a key element in the partnership for prosperity that drives our regional communities and statewide economy. It's great to have a week to salute our regional manufacturers and find new ways to recognize their role in the success of our counties. Too often, manufacturing companies work in the background, quietly growing and providing opportunity, but not calling much attention to themselves. Manufacturing Week in South Dakota gives us the chance to shine the spotlight on these economic powerhouses and say a big "Thank you!"