



Randy Wolken
President & CEO

Reform Needs to Result in Economic Growth

Our nation needs reforms that grow our economy and create more manufacturing and high-tech investment. This is an important outcome. Our nation has many challenges ahead of us - and manufacturers and business leaders must work with our elected representatives at the State and Federal levels. We must urge the Administration and Congress to achieve real results to bring about growth in the manufacturing and high tech sectors.

One area needing work is tax reform. The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) has identified five main priorities for tax reform: a corporate rate as close to 15 percent as possible, lower rates for income from small businesses and other “pass-through” entities, a “territorial” tax system that doesn’t touch U.S. companies’ foreign earnings, preservation and enhancement of the research and development tax credit, and incentives for the purchase of capital equipment. Each of these would help U.S. manufacturers become more competitive in a global economy.

We are committed to working with the President and members of Congress. There is much work ahead of us and manufacturers are ready to help elected leaders succeed in forging a better tax code that rewards growing manufacturing here in the U.S. Of course, there are other issues as well. We will need to work with the Administration and Congress to increase exports, implement smart regulatory reform, and strengthen our workforce by preparing Americans for jobs in modern manufacturing and our high-tech economy. We need to continue to make a case for a pro-growth effort.

Here in New York State, we are committed to working with our state legislators and the Cuomo Administration. We will work with our representatives to improve the economic climate here in New York so manufacturers and businesses can thrive.

This is where you, our members, can help us. Let us know what reforms you need to be more successful. Together, we can work with our elected officials in Washington and Albany who share our vision of growth and success for manufacturers.

Business Activity Continued to Grow Strongly in New York State

Business activity continued to grow strongly in New York State, according to firms responding to the November 2017 Empire State Manufacturing Survey. Though the headline general business conditions index fell eleven points from the multiyear high it reached last month, it remained firmly in positive territory at 19.4.

The new orders index climbed to 20.7 and the shipments index came in at 18.4—readings that pointed to ongoing solid gains in orders and shipments. Delivery times were slightly shorter than last month, and inventory levels edged higher. Labor market indicators reflected moderate employment gains and little change

in hours worked. Both input prices and selling prices rose at a pace that was little changed from last month. Indexes assessing the six-month outlook suggested that firms were very optimistic about future business conditions. For more information visit www.newyorkfed.org.