



**For Immediate Release**

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**Survey Finds Region's Manufacturers Provide  
Higher Than Average Wages and Benefits**

***Lack of Skilled Workers Inhibits Growth***

Hudson Valley manufacturers pay higher wages and provide more generous benefits to their employees than other sectors of the economy, according to a survey sponsored by the Council of Industry and conducted by the Marist College Bureau of Economic

Research. The survey was taken place in November and was completed by 25 firms with more than 2,600 employees.

The survey's findings include:

- 2011 wage increases among participating companies averaged 2.3% for the management group, 2.8% for the professional, technical and manufacturing groups, and 2.7% for the administrative/clerical group. These increases were slightly lower than the reported national average of 2.9%.
- For 2012 reported planned increases are 1.9% for the management group, 2.0% for the professional group, and 2.1% for the administrative/clerical, technical and manufacturing groups. These planned increases are significantly below the reported national average of 3.0%.
- When examining benefits offered, companies reporting into this survey as a group continue to have a higher rate of health care coverage for employees than the national average (100% vs. 59%) and a higher rate of pension coverage (90% vs. 59%).
- The survey identified the average wage for some 75 job titles within the companies. Average wages ranged from \$12.79/hour for an assembler to \$24.52, for a CAD/CAM technician, \$36.60 for manufacturing engineer.

There was also an increase among participating companies that reported recruiting difficulty for specific positions with 72% indicating they are having difficulty finding qualified candidates for vacancies. This is up significantly from last year's survey when only 48% reported such problems. Among the positions reported as difficult to recruit

for are: engineers, welders, machinists, quality control technicians, quality analysis inspectors, mill and lathe operators, purchasing coordinator, customer service representatives, chemists, cost accountants, programmer/analysts, laborers, entry level managers, diesel mechanics, electronic technicians, CNC operators and multiple specialized knowledge technicians.

“The lack of skilled workers continues to be a drag on the growth of nearly all of our member manufactures,” said Council of Industry Executive Vice President Harold King. “Manufacturing in the United States is highly automated and technology driven. This is particularly true in the Hudson Valley. Manufacturing is a vital to a healthy economy. It generates wealth and, as this survey indicates, a wide variety of good jobs. If policy makers are serious about supporting manufacturing they need to address this issue in both the immediate and long term.”

The Council of Industry is the Manufacturers Association of the Hudson Valley.

Headed by Dr. Christy Caridi, the Marist College Bureau of Economic Research publishes the Economic Report of the Hudson Valley. The Bureau also conducts economic impact studies, analyses of demographics and business location, as well as forecasting and policy analysis. The Manufacturers Wage and Benefit Survey was compiled for the Bureau by Dr. Ken Sloan, Assistant Professor of Management at Marist College.

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