



*Senator
Bill Stouffer*

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: Missouri Is Tops in Manufacturing

Missouri is number one again. In this case, Missouri has garnered the top ranking for manufacturing.

The 2008 National Manufacturing and Logistics Report Card, which is put together by Ball State University, ranks all 50 states in 20 categories. The categories include crime, sales taxes, property taxes, and percentage of the population with a college degree. Missouri tops the list for reasonable property taxes, health care premiums, and low long-term health care costs. Only five other states got an A from Ball State. Some of our neighboring states received B's and C's. West Virginia came in last with an F.

Missouri's economy has been moving forward for the past three years. While other states are looking for ways to bail out their budgets, Missouri came into the current fiscal year with a surplus. Ball State's report card shows the nation's economy slowed in the 4th quarter of 2007 but industrial production went up 2.8 percent. The report also indicates manufacturing in the U.S. hit its peak in the late 1970s, when more than 19.5 million people worked in the manufacturing sector. Today, the number has fallen to roughly 13.8 million.

Manufacturing remains vital for the state and the national economies. Manufacturing and related employment are keys to seeing how the overall economy is and will be in the months to come. A study by the Missouri Department of Economic Development states industrial production in the United States fell from September of 2000 through December of 2001. The situation started to turn around during the recovery of 2002 and has been gaining ground ever since. Their study also says manufacturing employment has gone up and down over the last six years, not only across the country, but right here in Missouri.

Fortunately, Missouri has some strong partners around the globe. In 2006, we set a record for exporting, selling \$12.8 billion in goods to 191 different countries. Canada imported the most from us, followed by South Korea, Mexico, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Australia, and the Netherlands. Missouri ranked 27th among the 50 states in exports in 2006.

The Department of Economic Development is aiming at eight different industries, hoping to build upon current strengths and generate future growth. They're agribusiness, which employs approximately 88,000 Missourians; automotive, with nearby Kansas City employing part of the 36,000 people in the industry; energy, which includes the ethanol and bio-diesel industries that are becoming the backbone of rural Missouri; finance; information technology; life sciences, which currently employees some 31,000 Missourians, many of those folks are also in rural Missouri; defense and homeland security, which includes Whiteman Air Force Base and Fort Leonard Wood; and transportation. Transportation is the heart and soul, including not only our roads, but air travel, railroads, and river traffic. Roughly 175,000 Missourians are working in the transportation industry right now.

The [2008 National Manufacturing and Logistics Report Card](#) is a positive sign for Missouri's economy. I am glad to see manufacturing remains a strong point and necessary as the foundation of a good economy.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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