

Top Issues List 2023

DRMA conducts an annual survey to better understand the “hot button” issues affecting its manufacturer corporate members. The following are their top issues for 2023:

1. **Workforce.** The availability and retainability of high performing, technically skilled workers continue to be the top challenge for Dayton Region manufacturers. Replacing the declining workforce with high-skilled employees is the priority to meet customer obligations and the demand for goods and services. Members support initiatives that attract, retain, develop, and train our workforce.
2. **Increasing cost of doing business.** When surveyed, members cited increased costs for raw materials, labor, and healthcare as a major issue impacting their business. There is also growing price resistance from customers, making it hard for companies to pass on increased business expenses.
3. **Supply chain.** Not only are costs increasing for raw materials, but the shortage of supply chain resources is making it more difficult to obtain needed components in a timely manner and to get finished products to the customer. Members are experiencing logistical complexities transporting goods, which cause significant delays and disrupt normal production patterns. These factors cause economic hardship for businesses and impact their ability to meet customer expectations and commitments.
4. **Business sustainability and growth.** Members are focused on sustaining profitable operational levels. Labor and succession planning concerns, volatility in domestic and international economies leading to increasing business expenses, supply chain resources, cash flow concerns, fluctuating sales volumes, disruption of sales channels, and global competitive pricing pressures . . . Dayton Region manufacturers are feeling an unforeseen financial impact that threatens the health and long-term outlook of their businesses.
5. **Burden of regulation on business.** Members support the need for reasonable levels of regulation to protect both citizens and businesses. Regulations should: be simple to administer and to comply, minimize onerous and complex reporting requirements, and have a clear and critical need. Burdensome regulation areas specified by members include expanded employee leave and unemployment benefits, select OSHA requirements, workers' compensation mandates, hiring and safety concerns related to the legalization of marijuana, environmental compliances, and a clear definition of “small business.”
6. **Corporate tax rate and complicated tax code.** Members support the concept that lower corporate tax rates encourage growth of industry and growth of employment. Therefore, members support reforms to the tax code to make it simpler and less burdensome.
7. **International trade and global competition.** This includes the effect of trade agreements, tariffs, fair/free trade policy, and international currency manipulations. Members want a level playing field in international trade with as little volatility as possible.

Rising issues: Legalization of marijuana; cyber security threats

About DRMA

The Dayton Region Manufacturers Association (DRMA) is the voice and advocate for the manufacturing industry in the Dayton Region, providing programming, education, and peer-to-peer connectivity opportunities for members serving the aerospace, automotive, food/agriculture, defense, electronics, medical, and other markets. DRMA has 330 member companies, including 200 manufacturers located across the region. The manufacturing industry in the Dayton Region employs over 128,000 workers earning \$10.2 billion in annual payroll. For more information, visit www.DaytonRMA.org.
