

## Top Issues List 2022

DRMA conducts an annual survey to better understand the “hot button” issues affecting Manufacturer members. The following are their top issues for 2022:

1. **Workforce.** The availability and retainability of high performing, technically skilled workers continue to be the top challenge for Dayton Region manufacturers. This struggle is compounded by increasing labor costs, expanded employee leave regulations, and other COVID-related mandates. Replacing the declining workforce with high-skilled employees is the priority to meet customer obligations and the demand for goods and services. DRMA members support initiatives that attract, retain, develop, and train our workforce.
2. **Supply chain.** Our members are experiencing increasing costs of raw materials and for transporting goods, in addition to material and component shortages and delays. These factors cause economic hardship for businesses and impacts their ability to meet customer expectations and commitments.
3. **Business sustainability and growth.** Our members are focused on getting back to pre-pandemic operational levels. Labor and succession planning concerns, dealing with cash flow and fluctuating sales volumes, disruption of sales channels and reduced access to customers, the volatility of our customers’ industries, the economy, continual competitive pricing pressures, and the shortage of supply chain resources . . . Dayton Region manufacturers are feeling an unforeseen financial impact that threatens the health and long-term outlook of their businesses.
4. **Burden of regulation on business.** DRMA members support the need for reasonable levels of regulation to protect both citizens and businesses. Regulations should be kept to a minimum, be simple to administer and comply, minimize burdensome and complex reporting requirements, and should have a clear and critical need. Regulation areas specified by members include expanded employee leave, a clear definition of “small business,” business-friendly energy policies, hiring and safety concerns related to the legalization of marijuana, and vaccine mandates.
5. **Corporate tax rate and complicated tax code.** DRMA members support the concept that lower corporate tax rates encourage growth of industry and growth of employment. Therefore, DRMA members support reforms to the tax code to make it simpler and less burdensome.
6. **Cost of healthcare.** The high cost of health care can nearly double the cost to hire an entry-level worker and adds an unrecoverable cost to member businesses. DRMA members support efforts that will address reform of the Affordable Healthcare Act to make it less of a burden for businesses.
7. **International trade and global competition.** This includes the effect of trade agreements, tariffs, fair/free trade policy, and international currency manipulations. DRMA members want a level playing field in international trade with as little volatility as possible.

**Rising issues:** Increasing cost for raw materials; shortage of supply chain resources; logistics/cost of shipping

**Decreasing issues:** Increasing sales volume; cash flow concerns

*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 129,000 workers earning \$9.8 billion in annual payroll. For more information about DRMA, visit [www.DaytonRMA.org](http://www.DaytonRMA.org).*

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