



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
CRIS

Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies



## Future Trends Series - GR:REEN Project

### Title of the report

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**The Future of Manufacturing**

### Area

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Economy

### Reporter

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World Economic Forum

### Type of the Reporter

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International Organisation

### Periodically updated?

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No

### First issued year

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2012

### Latest update

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### Official website

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<http://www.weforum.org/>

### Language available

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English

### Short summary

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In this report, the World Economic Forum makes note of impact of globalisation on the global manufacturing ecosystem and then sets to present some important new trends that will define manufacturing and competition over the next twenty years.

### Key trends

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- 'The infrastructure necessary to enable manufacturing to flourish and contribute to job growth will grow in importance and sophistication and be challenging for countries to develop and maintain. While infrastructure alone will not lead directly to best-in-class manufacturing, a serious lack of infrastructure or a steadily decaying infrastructure will negatively impact a nation's manufacturing competitiveness and create serious obstacles for the supply chain networks of global multinationals.'
- 'Competition between nations to attract foreign direct investment will increase dramatically raising the stakes for countries and complicating the decision processes for companies.'
- 'Growing materials resources competition and scarcity will fundamentally alter country and company resources strategies and competition, and serve as a catalyst to significant materials sciences breakthroughs. In the longer term, success will be marked by discoveries of alternative elements, investing in latent supply access, breakthroughs in materials sciences and more efficient practices'

governing the use of materials.'

- 'Affordable clean energy strategies and effective energy policies will be top priorities for manufacturers and policy-makers, and serve as important differentiators of highly competitive countries and companies.'
- 'The ability to innovate, at an accelerated pace, will be the most important capability differentiating the success of countries and companies. In the 21st century manufacturing environment, being able to develop creative ideas, addressing new and complex problems and delivering innovative products and services to global markets will be the capabilities most coveted by both countries and companies.'
- 'Talented human capital will be the most critical resource differentiating the prosperity of countries and companies.'
- 'The strategic use of public policy as an enabler of economic development will intensify resulting in a competition between nations for policy effectiveness and placing a premium on collaboration between policy-makers and business leaders to create win-win outcomes.'

## Suggestions

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## Methodology

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Modelling

## Reference to other trends reports? If yes, which reports?

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