In 2018, Indiana continued its robust performance in manufacturing and logistics health. Indeed, 2018 marked the longest employment expansion in manufacturing employment in state history. Changes within categories of the 2018 Manufacturing & Logistics Report Card provide a clearer analysis of the elements of this success.

Indiana continues to dominate the overall measures of manufacturing and logistics industry health, tax climate, and global reach. In all these areas, Indiana remains a solid national leader in all these aspects. The strong market-based outcomes involving employment, production, business expansion, and exports all clearly signal sustained excellence at the state level.

Indiana's fiscal liabilities, such as bonds and pension funds, remain modest and appropriately funded, proving the state a solid B- in that category. Indiana remains an average state in important measures of human capital and the diversification of the manufacturing sector.

In 2018, worker benefit costs slipped from a B to B- due to an increase in healthcare premiums. This figure remains better than previous years due to the continued strong performance of the Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0 in reducing health care costs in general, and Indiana has made significant and sustained improvements over the course of a decade.

The biggest change for Indiana came in the productivity and innovation category due to a decline in manufacturing productivity and value-added growth. This is expected given the lengthy period of employment growth and the slowing national measures of manufacturing productivity that accompany a lengthy expansion. This is especially true in states with a heavy share of advanced manufacturing. More advanced production techniques experiences slower productivity over the business cycle.

More Online

Visit the Manufacturing & Logistics Report Card website to view the performance history for each state since 2009 and an archive of past reports, including companion pieces with insight into the industry: conexus.cberdata.org