

# FACTS ABOUT THE PAINT & COATINGS INDUSTRY

## Economic Contributions

Paints and coatings provide real value and are necessary for protecting and preserving the objects to which they are applied. Coatings are applied to almost everything we own and use, prolonging usefulness and providing protection from scratches, rust, and corrosion, and serving hundreds of other industries — from automotive and aerospace, to furniture and architectural paints and finishes — coatings are essential and touch every part of our built environment and critical infrastructure.

The following sampling of facts highlight the significant contributions the more than \$33 billion U.S. paint and coatings industry and workforce makes to the nation's economy.

- The U.S. paint and coatings industry employed 312,000 workers in 2024. Paint and coating manufacturers directly employed approximately 42,000 people in 2024.
- Product shipments by U.S. paint and coatings producers totaled \$33.2 billion in 2024.
- In 2024, there were some 53,400 paint and coatings establishments in the United States.
- The payroll for the U.S. paint and coatings industry was approximately \$19.9 billion in 2024.
- California ranked first among the states for paint and coatings industry payroll, at \$2.9 billion in 2024.
- Texas, Florida, Ohio, and Illinois completed the list of top five states in paint and coatings industry payroll in 2024.
- Total U.S. paint and coatings employment increased by 12% over the last decade, adding 33,800 jobs since 2014.
- The U.S. paint and coatings industry paid an average annual wage of \$63,900 in 2024, adjusted for inflation. Notably, the highest average annual wage was paid by the paint and coatings manufacturing sector at \$88,000 in 2024.
- The highest paid paint and coatings industry wages were those in Ohio, where the annual average wage for the state's paint and coatings industry workers was \$76,700 in 2024; Tennessee's paint and coatings industry workers received the second highest annual average wages at \$74,700.
- Michigan, New Jersey, Illinois, Texas, Alaska, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia each had strong paint and coatings industry average annual wages of more than \$70,000 in 2024.

## Top 10 States with the Highest Number of Paint and Coatings Industry Employees

State	Workers
California	45,299
Florida	27,833
Texas	26,024
New York	13,967
Ohio	13,007
Illinois	12,925
Washington	10,904
Pennsylvania	9,494
Michigan	9,153
North Carolina	8,640

**Total U.S. Workers: 312,000**  
(based on 2024 data)

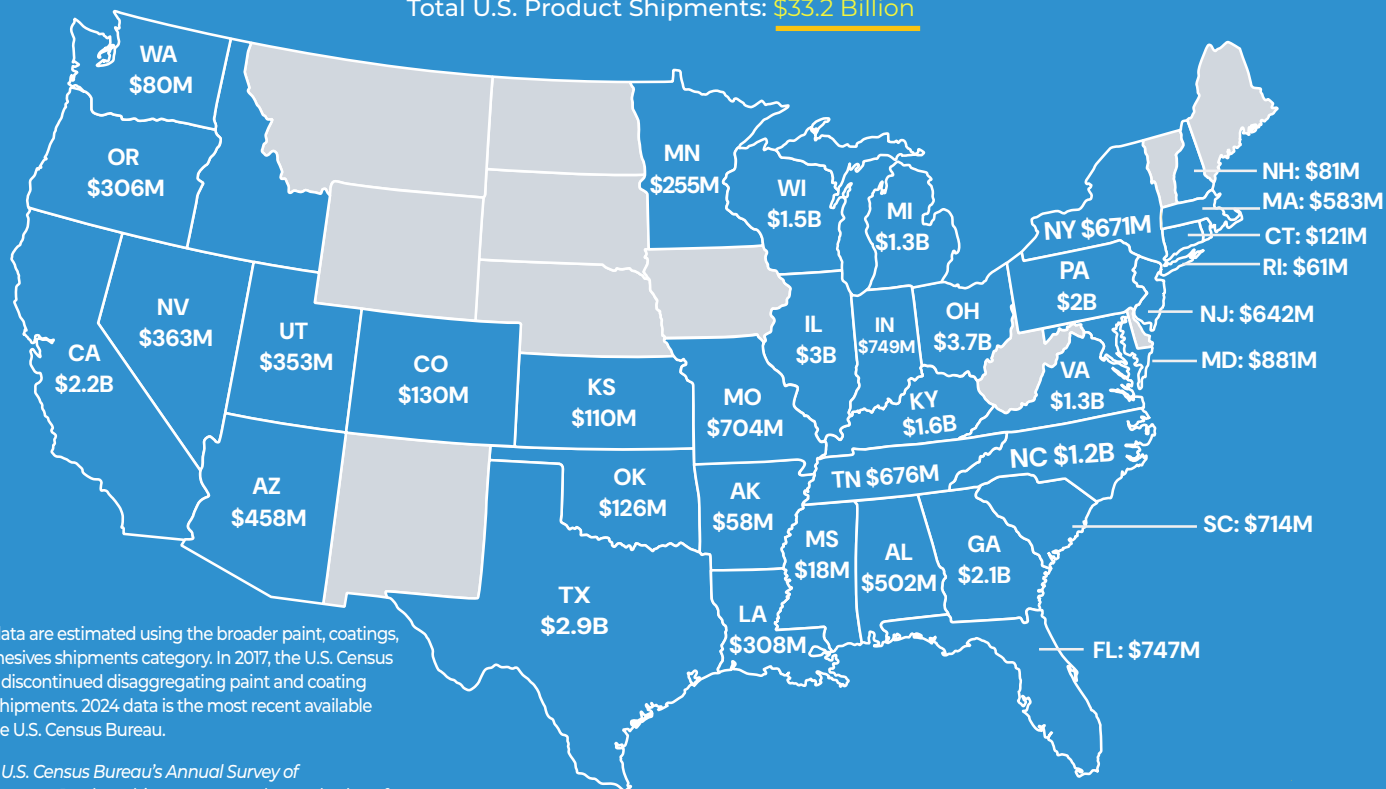
Gathered data applies to the following NAICS codes: 325510, Paint and Coating Manufacturing; 444120, Paint and Wallpaper Stores; 424950, Paint, Varnish, and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers; and 238320, Painting and Wall Covering Contractors.

For more facts about the Paint & Coatings Industry, visit [www.paint.org/economicfacts](http://www.paint.org/economicfacts).

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## Top 35 States with the Highest Number of Paint and Coatings Estimated\* Product Shipments: 2024

Total U.S. Product Shipments: \$33.2 Billion



\*State data are estimated using the broader paint, coatings, and adhesives shipments category. In 2017, the U.S. Census Bureau discontinued disaggregating paint and coating sector shipments. 2024 data is the most recent available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of Manufactures. Product shipments cover the total value of all products manufactured and shipped by all producers.

## U.S. EXPORTS: 2025

- The United States exported \$2.8 billion in paint and coatings products in 2025.
- The U.S. paint and coatings industry posted a positive trade surplus of nearly \$1.6 billion in 2025.
- The U.S. paint and coatings industry exports to Canada (\$1.22 billion) and Mexico (\$683 million) in 2025 totaled \$1.9 billion combined. These USMCA partners have consistently been the two largest export markets for the U.S. industry, accounting for nearly 70% of all U.S. paint and coatings industry exports in 2025.
- The third largest export market for U.S. paint and coatings products was China at \$113 million in 2025.
- Japan and Brazil rounded out the top five leading export markets for U.S. paint and coatings products in 2025, at \$52 million and \$44 million, respectively.
- Ohio led the states with the most paint and coatings exports, with \$327 million in 2025; Illinois was second at \$308 million; and Texas was third with \$235 million paint and coatings exports.

Source: Data based on the following four-digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes: 3208, Oil-based Paint and Varnishes; 3209, Water-Based Paint and Varnishes; and 3210, Paints and Varnishes for Leather. Trade statistics were derived from U.S. Bureau of the Census data and are reported on a Census or Customs basis. State export statistics are drawn from the Origin of Movement (OM) series compiled by the Foreign Trade Division of the U.S. Census Bureau.

The American Coatings Association (ACA) is a voluntary, nonprofit trade association working to advance the needs of the paint and coatings industry and the professionals who work in it, including paint and coatings manufacturers, raw materials suppliers, distributors, and technical professionals. ACA serves as an advocate and ally for members on legislative, regulatory, and judicial issues, and provides forums for the advancement and promotion of the industry and coatings science.