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NEW STUDY SHOWS NEW YORK MANUFACTURING COMPANIES MAINTAINING SIZE OR GROWING, DESPITE NEGATIVE OUTLOOK

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK—Results of a new study released today, “The State of New York Manufacturing in New York: An MRI/Zogby International Study,” indicate that manufacturing executives perceive New York State as a difficult place to do business, but show optimism and hope for the future. The report is the second study released by the Manufacturing Research Institute of New York State (MRI).

The January 2011 study surveyed 100 manufacturing executives from across New York State and asked them questions about conducting and operating business in New York State. It also reveals the challenges manufacturers face in terms of policy and business climate, as well as what factors contribute to them staying and continuing their operations in state.

The study shows that 61 % of surveyed manufactures report that their company has either remained the same or grown within the past five years. This comes as positive news given that nine in ten manufacturers in New York State have a negative outlook on the current state of New York manufacturing.

Three out of five think New York State presents a poor opportunity as a place for young people to begin or advance a career in manufacturing or as a place to develop a small manufacturing business. It is further revealed that taxes, the sluggish economy and declining employment were the first things that came to their mind by half of those surveyed when thinking about manufacturing in New York State.

“While the results and feedback from the survey are somewhat difficult to hear, they are our reality,” stated MACNY President Randy Wolken. “In order for state and federal policy makers to begin working towards the creation of stronger, pro-manufacturing, public policies and a better business climate, the opinions of those businesses that operate in our challenging climate need to be heard and taken into consideration as we begin the process of getting New York State back on track.”

Putting into consideration the past five years, three out of five reported that maintaining manufacturing business operations within New York State has gotten worse. Most attributed the economy, high taxes and the lack of business as reasons why the climate has worsened.

Despite the negative outlook, the study suggests that nearly half think the ability to maintain manufacturing business operations within the State of New York will get better or remain the same within the next five years.

THE MANUFACTURING RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK STATE IS THE RESEARCH, POLICY AND EDUCATIONAL ARM OF THE MANUFACTURERS ALLIANCE OF NEW YORK, A STATEWIDE COALITION LED BY THE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL NEW YORK (MACNY). THE MANUFACTURING RESEARCH INSTITUTE WORKS TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE AND NECESSITY OF MANUFACTURING SUSTAINABILITY TO NEW YORK STATE'S FUTURE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE.

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When asked what needs to be offered or provided in order to allow manufacturing to be successful, two out of five surveyed indicated tax incentives, lower taxes or increases in business and sales are key components to future successes in manufacturing.

Wolken concluded, "It is clear that the manufacturing sector, a longtime and critical component to New York's economic viability, is both resilient and strong. Despite the dismal economic and business climate we are enduring, businesses say they are remaining the same size or even growing. Based on key policy changes, the possibility for advancement of New York State manufacturing, as well as our state's economic future, is boundless. I hope New York and Washington lawmakers will use this valuable information and begin making the necessary changes that will allow the dedicated and hardworking manufacturers to continue doing what they do best: create quality products and provide good paying jobs for their communities."

ABOUT THE STUDY

Zogby International was commissioned by the Manufacturers Research Institute of New York State to conduct a telephone survey of manufacturers across New York State. The target sample is 100 interviews with approximately 31 questions asked. The list of manufacturers included a cross section of all manufacturing companies in New York State. This study will be followed up in the future with additional benchmark studies as a means to determine whether or not the outlook and perception of those surveyed has changed. These studies will be conducted and released at a later date.

ABOUT ZOGBY INTERNATIONAL

Zogby International is a non-partisan, premier global public opinion polling and market research firm that offers timely, accurate results. Zogby International works with issue experts in a vast array of fields including healthcare, technology, finance, insurance, energy, agriculture, public affairs, and media who offer insightful data analysis and exceptional service to clients in countries throughout the world.

ABOUT THE MANUFACTURING RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK STATE

The MRI is the research, policy and educational arm of the Manufacturers Alliance of New York State, a statewide coalition led by MACNY, The Manufacturers Association. The MRI conducts research to increase awareness among the general public, educators, policy makers and the media about the importance and necessity of manufacturing sustainability to New York State's future economic stability and overall quality of life. The MRI is the first and only research institute dedicated solely to the promotion and advancement of New York State manufacturing. For more information about the MRI, please visit www.mrins.org

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