



THE INDUSTRY THAT MAKES SUPPLY CHAINS WORK®

Introducing
The Material Handling Industry

The background image shows a person's foot in a brown leather shoe with light-colored laces, resting on a surface. A hand is holding a grey remote control, pointing it towards a television screen. The screen is out of focus, showing a green field and a blue sky, suggesting a sports broadcast. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the light from the screen illuminating the surrounding area.

The Material Handling Industry

Every product you've ever used, from televisions to tennis shoes, has been manufactured, stored and shipped to you with the help of the material handling industry.

Material handling
powers your in-store
and e-commerce
shopping experience
– enabling you to
order and quickly
receive products
how and when you
need them.

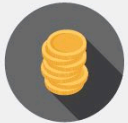


Material handling is the ONLY industry that touches every product as it moves through the global supply chain to the consumer.

The world's most successful firms use material handling solutions to gain a competitive edge by improving their speed, efficiency and customer experience while maximizing growth and profits.



Economic Impact of Material Handling



\$173.2 bn

GDP contribution to the US economy in 2018.



1.6 million jobs

Supported in the US labor market in 2018.



\$39.3 bn

Fiscal contribution in 2018.



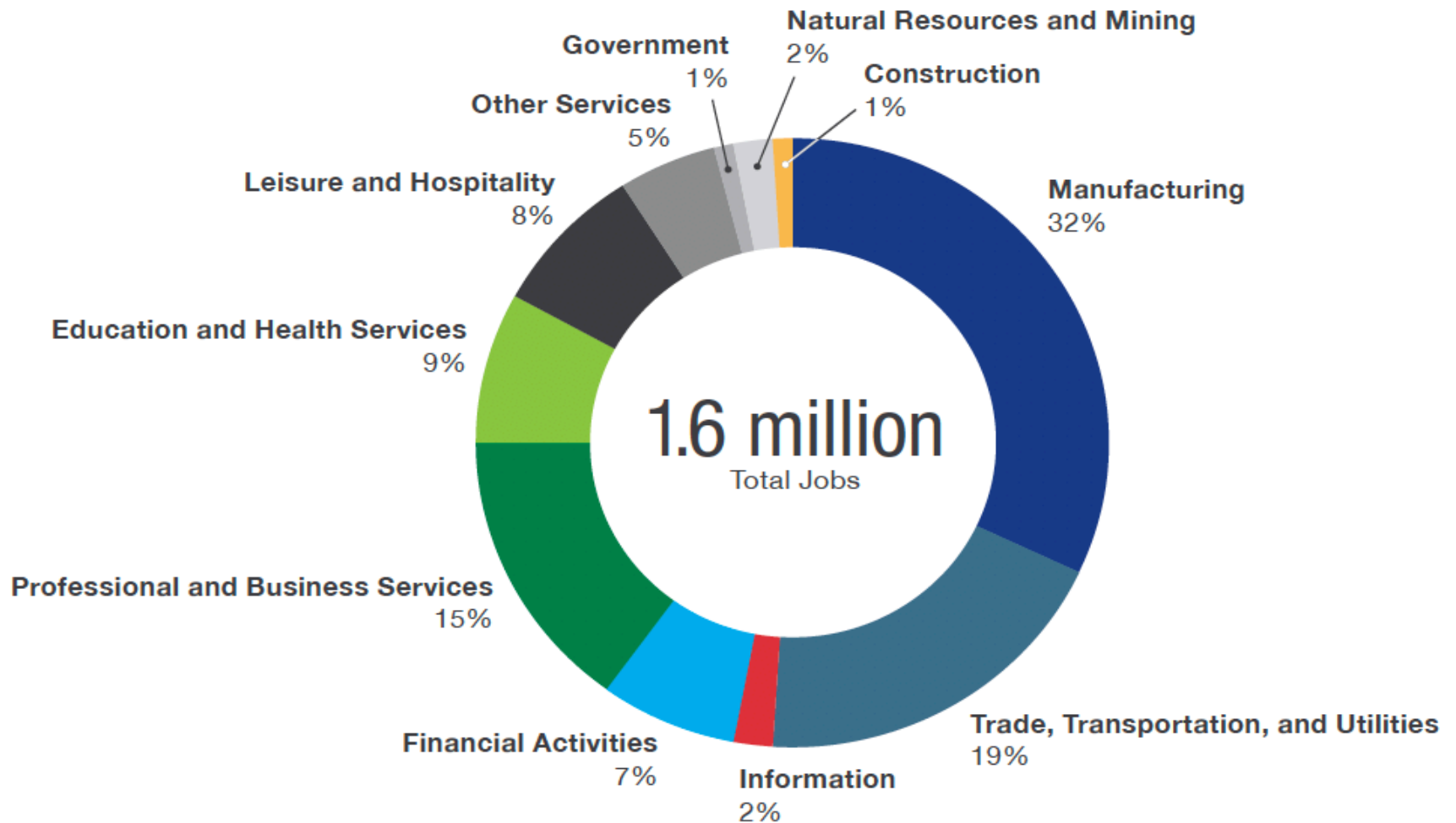
3.9 jobs multiplier

This means that for every job created by the material handling industry, an additional 2.9 jobs are added elsewhere to the US economy.

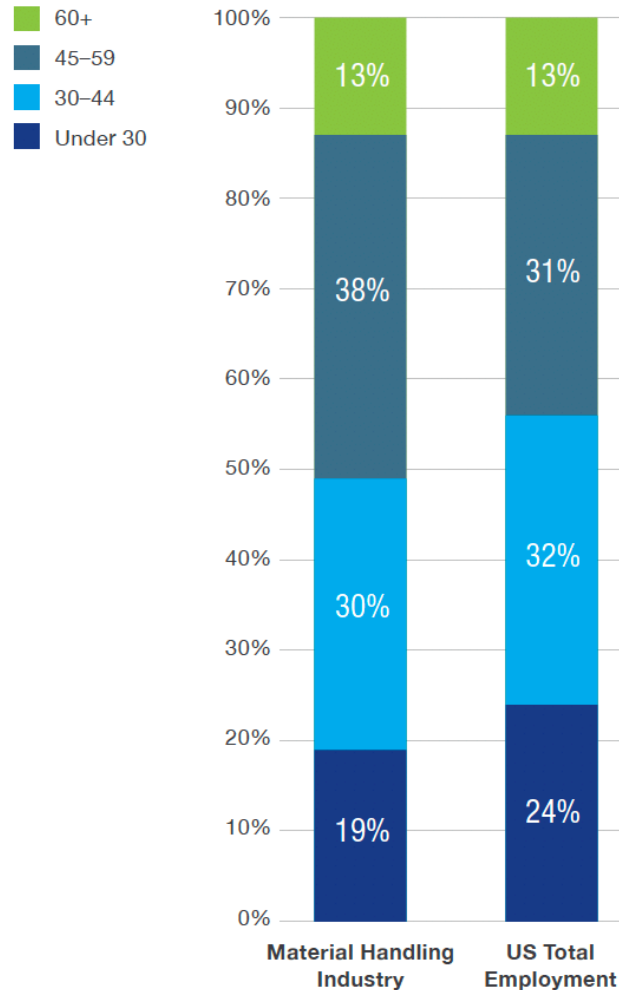


- In the United States alone, material handling is a \$173.2 billion industry supporting nearly 1.6 billion jobs.
- Despite its size, material handling remains largely unknown as an industry because its work is done behind the scenes of the greater supply chain.

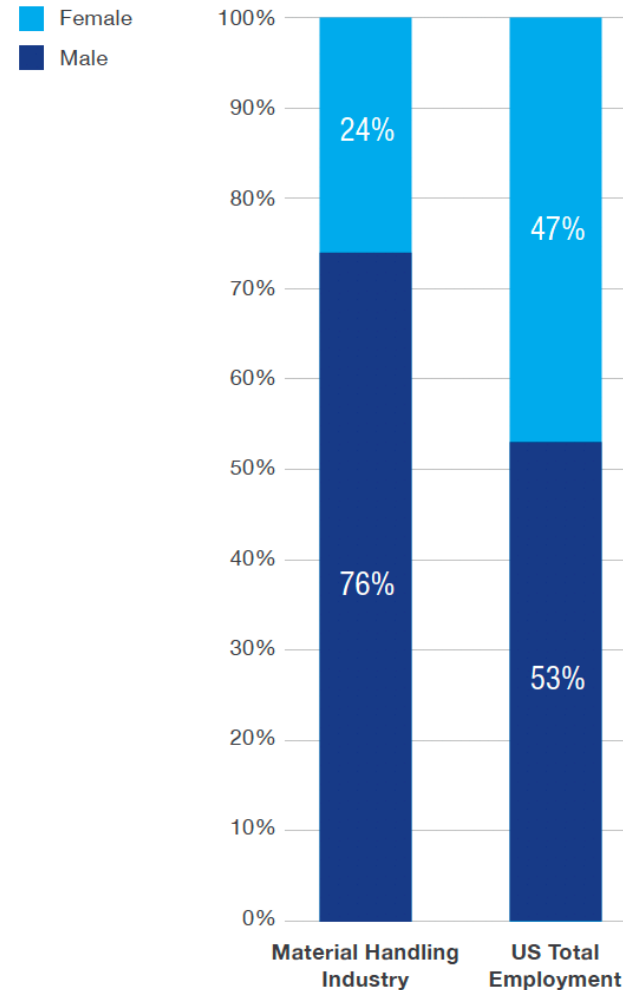
Material Handling Industry Jobs



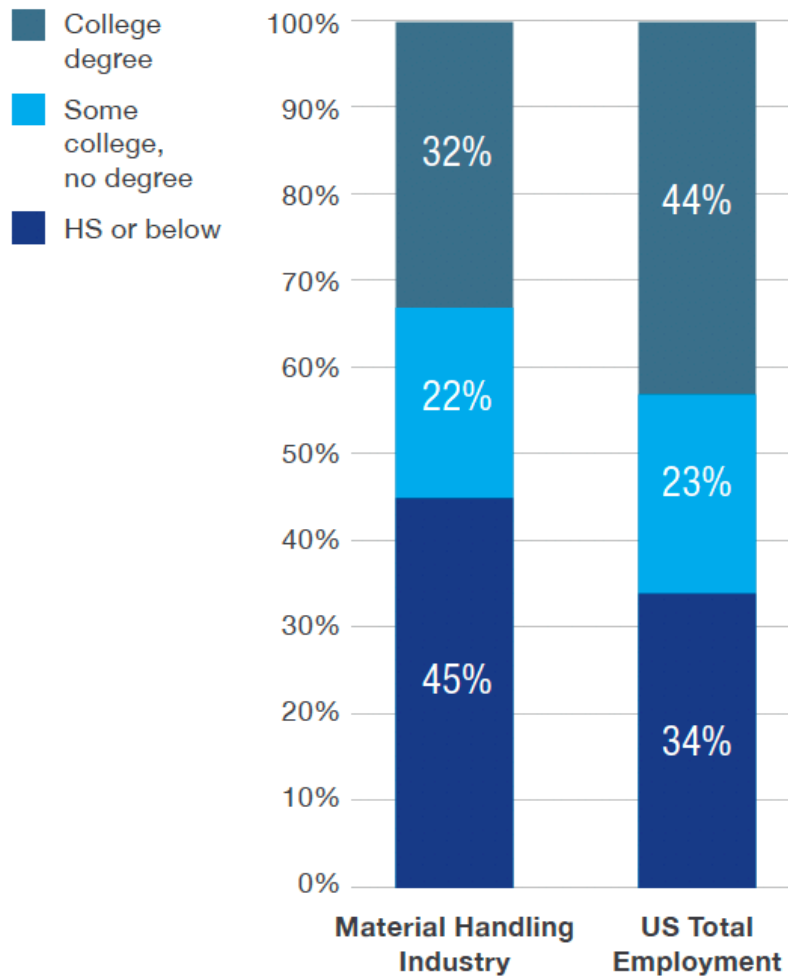
Material Handling Workforce Demographics



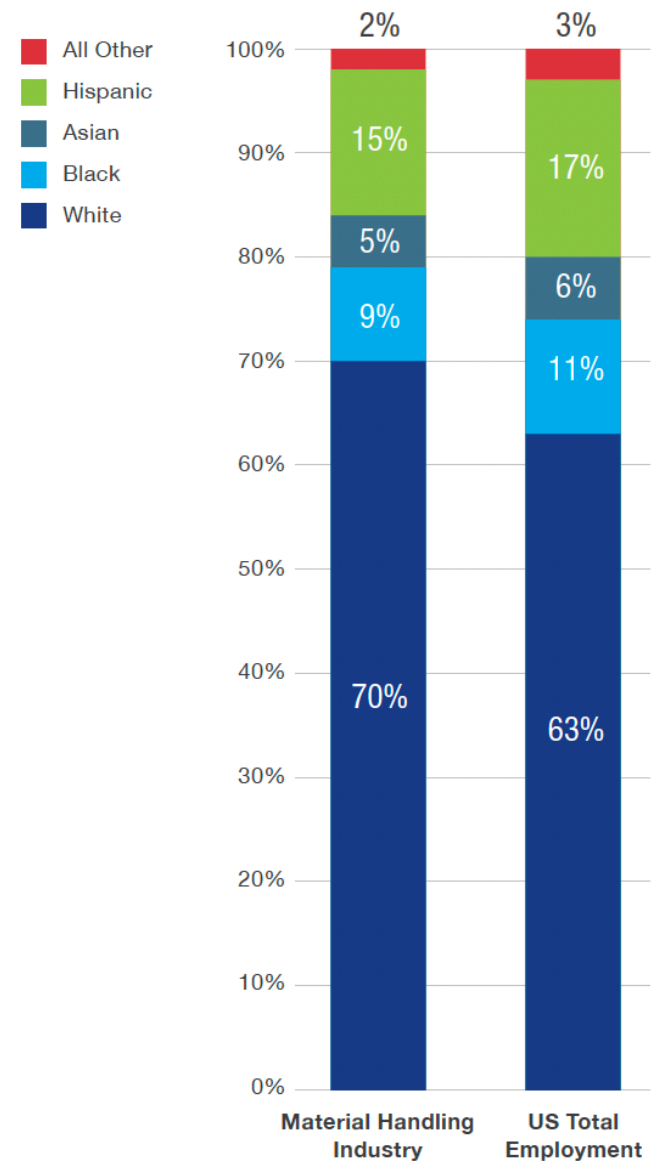
Source: ACS, Oxford Economics tabulations



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How Material Handling Works

Material handling uses a broad array of equipment, systems, services and expertise to move products through the supply chain such as:

automation, robotics, AI, information technology, automatic identification, lifting equipment, storage equipment, conveying equipment, facilities design and planning, ergonomic and safety equipment, sustainable energy and facility solutions.



75 YEAR TIMELINE

Malcom McLean invented the standard steel shipping container first implemented in 1956 at the port of New Jersey.

1950

1952

US Patent no. 2612994 issued to Norman Woodland and Bernard Silver for Barcoding Systems.

1954

Mac Barrett designs first guided vehicle for a warehouse using a trolley for electrification.

1960s

Programmable controller and mini-computers change the meaning of material handling.

1974

The first implementation of the Universal Product Code (UPC) was in 1974 at a Marsh's supermarket in Troy, OH.

Non-laser automatic identification starts.

1949

The Material Handling Institute holds first National Material Handling Show.

1948

The American Standards Association developed the first industry standards in conveyor safety.

1947

Material Handling Institute formed.

1945

Norrman Cahners designs first 4 way entry pallet.

1943

1940s

Budget Hoist introduces small portable electric hoists.

1930s

Earliest Material Handling Associations created including Monorail Manufacturers and Caster Manufacturers.

1920s

Conveyors become the primary means of handling mass produced goods.

1919

The automotive industry began using free and powered conveyor lines introduced by Jervis B. Webb in handling mass production in factories.

1850

Sir William Fairbairn patented the industrial crane.

1908

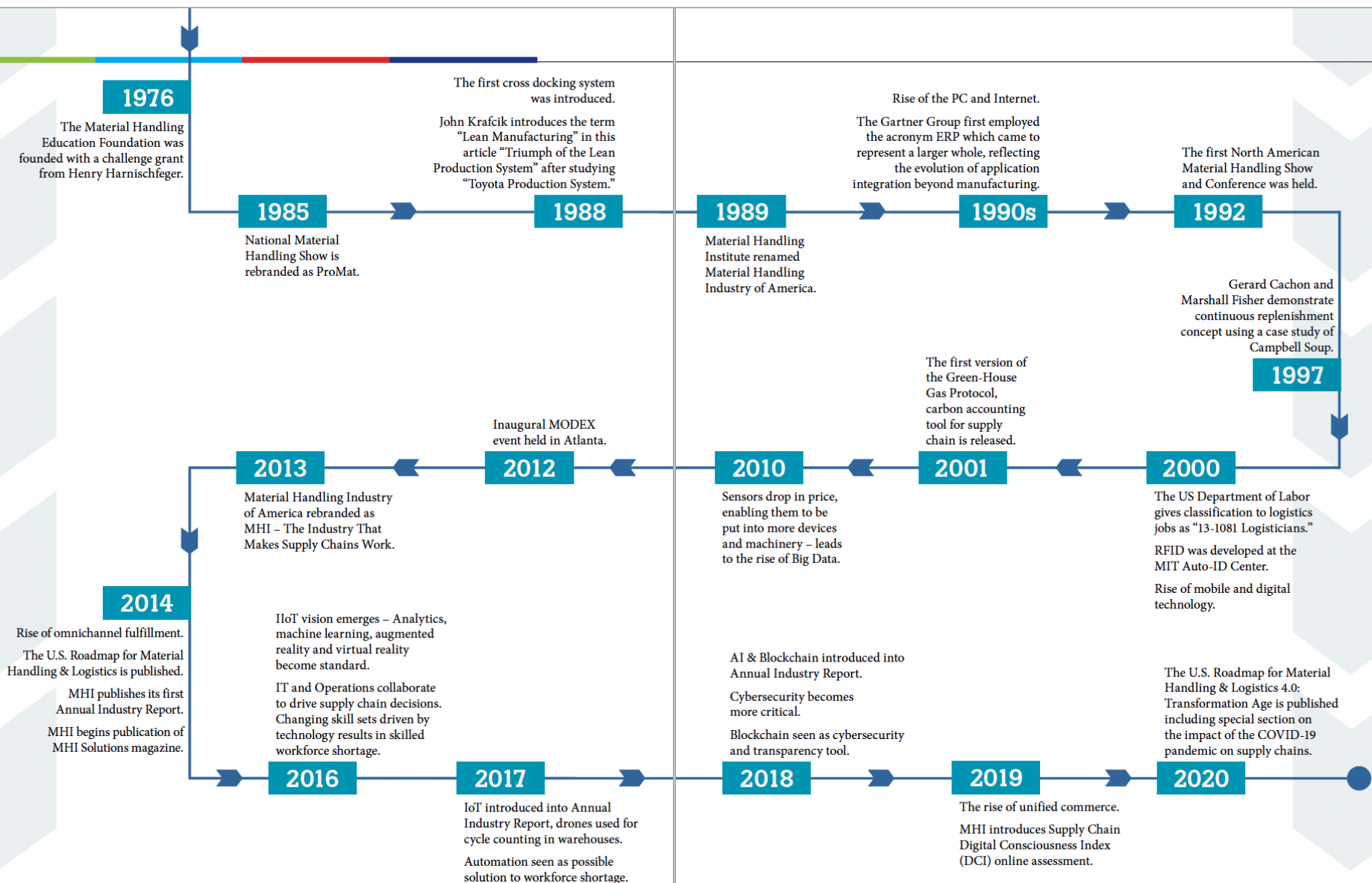
Hymie Goddard patented the first roller conveyor allowing for smooth transport of goods by means of internal ball bearings.

1913

Henry Ford introduced the assembly line.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE FOR MATERIAL HANDLING





Thousands of career opportunities with competitive compensation and rewarding incentives are available in this exciting industry.

- Sales and Marketing
- Project Management
- Operations Management
- Systems Integration
- Customer Service
- Information Technology
- Facility Planning & Design
- Human Resources
- Finance





THE INDUSTRY THAT MAKES SUPPLY CHAINS WORK®

Material Handling Industry Informational Videos

<https://videos.mhi.org/handling-the-us-economy-the-economic-impact-of-the-material-handling-industry>

<https://videos.mhi.org/material-handling-as-a-career-path>

<https://videos.mhi.org/mhi-the-industry-that-makes-supply-chains-work>

<https://videos.mhi.org/looking-back-on-75-years-of-service>