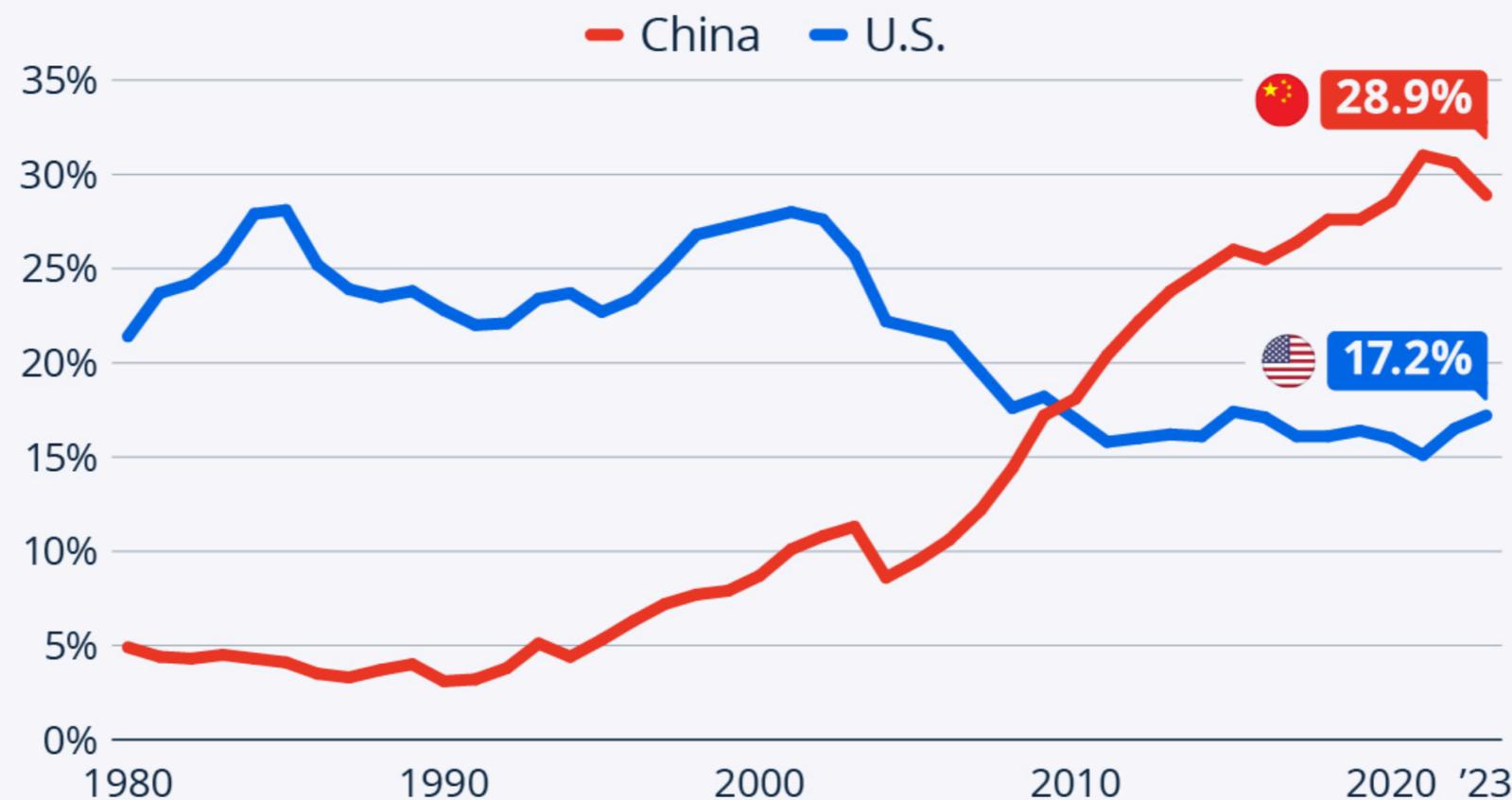
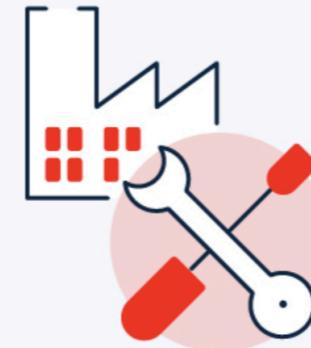


# Manufacturing

# Global Manufacturing

## Made in China vs. Made in America

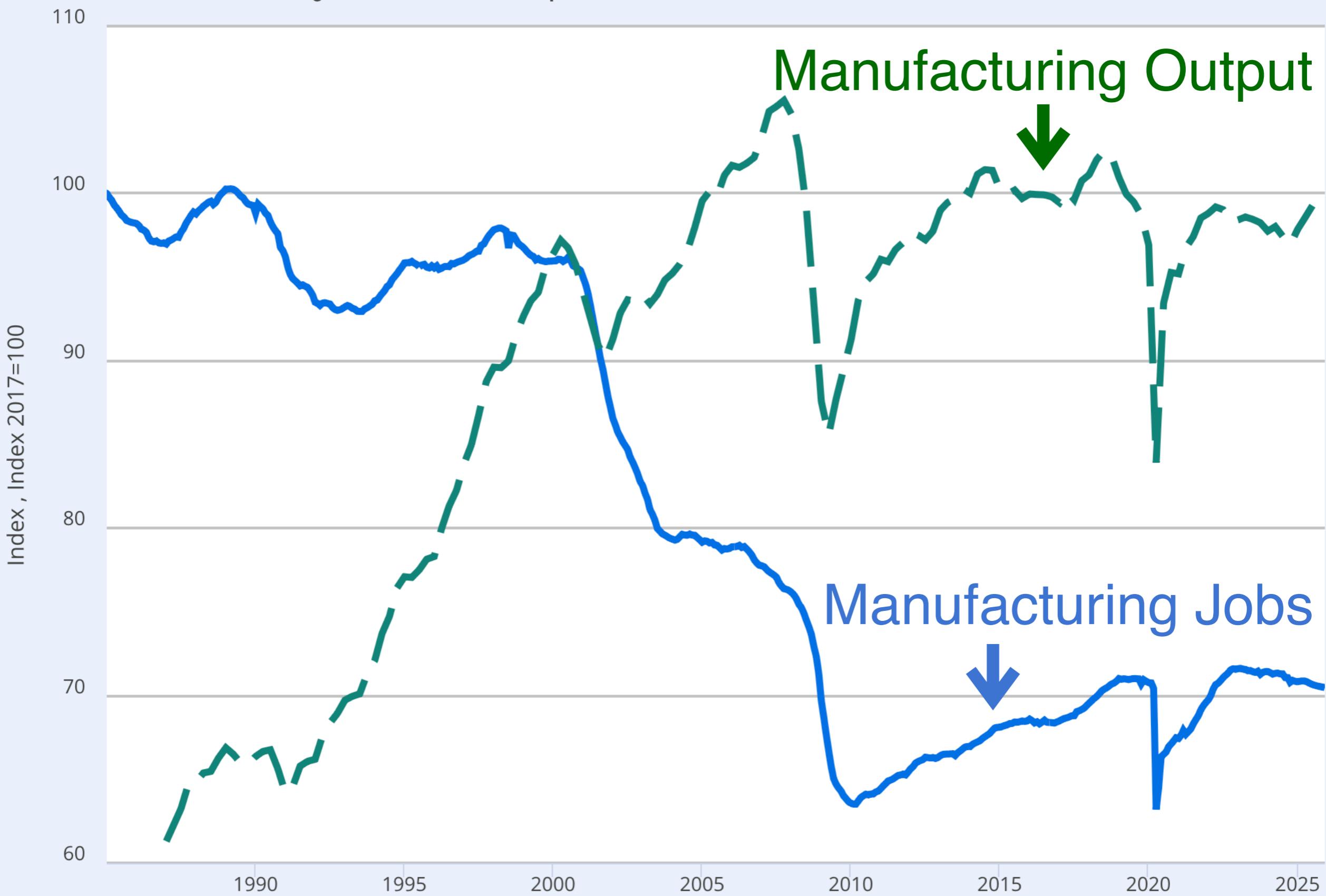
China's and the United States' share  
of global manufacturing output\*

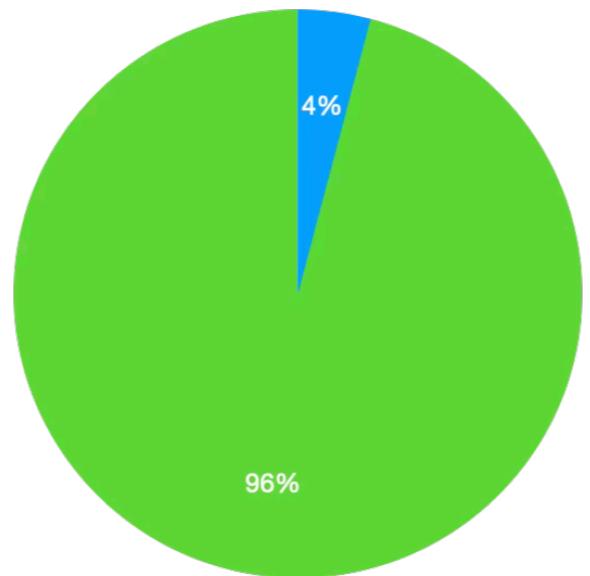


\* Output measured on a value-added basis in current U.S. dollars.  
Prior to 2004, Chinese data includes mining and utilities.

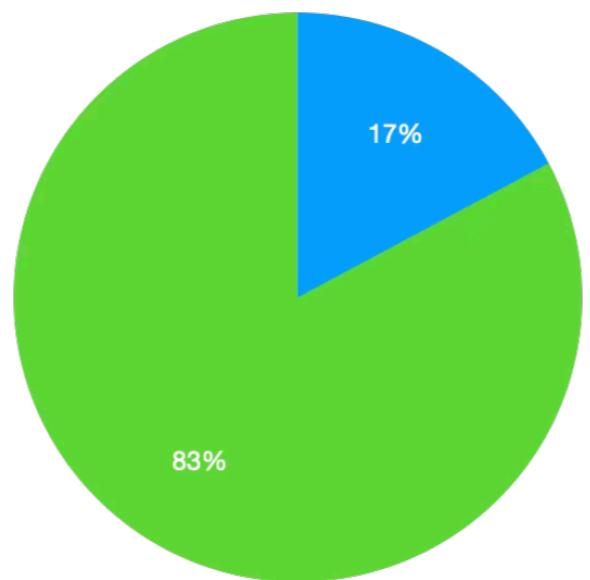
Source: United Nations Statistics Division







U.S. share of  
Global population



U.S. share of  
Global manufacturing

# Misrepresentations about international trade: The case of Apple's iPhone

Mon, June 2, 2025

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By [Farok J. Contractor](#), Distinguished Professor in Management and Global Business

Rutgers Business School

China has overtaken the United States as the top country for manufacturing. The number of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. has declined significantly since 1985, but our manufacturing output has actually grown since we have become more efficient. Our decline relative to China is in the share of global value added, as the total value of global manufactured goods has increased dramatically.

We still produce about 17% of global manufactured goods, as measured by value, and we have only 4% of global population. China produces almost twice as much, but they have around 4 times our population. So we are still a manufacturing powerhouse.

Now, do we really want more manufacturing jobs?

Manufacturing companies have good jobs in engineering, accounting, marketing, and management. But the manufacturing process itself is hard work; it's boring, tedious, and unrewarding. The only good thing about these jobs is that they allow workers to be productive and make a living wage with minimal education. That's why developing countries are so interested. They can't raise their educational standards overnight, but they can make money manufacturing products for the rich world, and use that money to upgrade their education and infrastructure.

Rutgers Business School did a study of the iPhone 16, which is assembled in China. They found only \$39.89 of value added in China. Most of the value of the iPhone is intellectual labor, which occurs mostly in the United States.

Assembly line work has low-income countries lined up to apply for jobs, and industrial robots getting more sophisticated every year. So I think we should give higher priority to creating jobs in the services and information sectors of our economy.