

Assessing the Impact of "Made in China 2025"

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"Made in China 2025", launched by the Chinese government in 2015, is a strategic initiative aimed at upgrading the manufacturing sector from labor-intensive to technology-intensive production, while reducing dependence on Western technologies. As the 2025 milestone approaches, multiple analyses—including those from the *South China Morning Post*, *China's World-Making*, and *CommonWealth Magazine*—indicate that the policy has yielded notable results.

According to implementation assessments, over 86% of the targets across the initiative's ten key sectors have been met. Four sectors—electric vehicles (EVs), energy and power technologies, high-speed rail, and shipbuilding—have fully achieved their goals. Five sectors, including aerospace, biotechnology, new materials, robotics and machine tools, and semiconductors, have seen partial success. Only the agricultural machinery sector has underperformed.

In the EV sector, annual sales nearly reached 10 million units in 2023—well ahead of the 2025 target of 3 million. BYD alone surpassed 3 million units, reflecting China's progress in areas such as automotive LiDAR and autonomous driving systems. Despite U.S. sanctions, Chinese firms like SMIC and Huawei have advanced to 7nm semiconductor nodes using DUV double-patterning, enabling domestic production of high-performance smartphone chips. In aerospace, China has commercialized the C919 jet, deployed the Beidou satellite navigation system, and completed missions such as Mars exploration and the Chang'e-6 lunar sample return.

However, technological progress remains uneven. In large-scale industrial technologies—such as high-speed rail, shipbuilding, EVs, drones, and solar panels—China has established global leadership. Yet in precision fields like semiconductors, breakthroughs remain isolated, and the country still trails leading nations. Key challenges persist in areas such as advanced chip design and EUV lithography.

The policy's success has also raised strategic concerns for other countries, including intensified global competition, growing dependence on Chinese supply chains, intellectual property risks, and expanded geopolitical influence.

Looking ahead, "Made in China 2025" faces three major challenges: ongoing U.S.

export controls limiting access to advanced chips; domestic resource and talent constraints due to fiscal stress and weak foreign investment; and rising global competition as the U.S. increases investment in critical sectors such as semiconductors and AI. Despite these challenges, the initiative has significantly advanced China's manufacturing capabilities, narrowing the gap with global leaders such as the United States, Germany, and Japan.

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