Abstract: Past research suggests that manufacturing jobs are the primary mechanism that allowed Southern and Eastern European immigrants to achieve upward socioeconomic advancement in the first half of the twentieth century. Specifically, this research suggests that the proliferation of skilled and managerial work offered a potential avenue for socioeconomic advancement among unskilled immigrants. However, organizational structures through the formation of internal labor markets often prevented unprivileged groups from achieving upward mobility. While Southern and Eastern European immigrants eventually “made it” in America, surprisingly little is known about the mobility of Italians, Slavs, and Jews who entered at the turn of the twentieth century. Did manufacturing allow for the upward advancement among European-origin groups? To answer this question, I rely on unique datasets that contain longitudinal worker histories from two manufacturing companies: A.M. Byers Company and Pullman-Standard Manufacturing over the 1900 to 1950 period. Unlike scholarship on the historical relationship between immigrants and manufacturing that relies on census data, I analyze occupational mobility over large portions of an individual’s working history. These analyses challenge contemporary assimilation hypotheses that stress manufacturing as the primary cause of upward mobility among Southern and Eastern Europeans.