DEPARTMENTS

BY THE NUMBERS

The Altered Landscape of the U.S. Auto Industry

This summer, new car sales finally returned to pre-recession levels, but the auto industry in this country may never look as it did before the downturn. The influence of the “Detroit Three”—Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler—began to dwindle even before the crisis, as foreign-based carmakers gained market share and shifted auto manufacturing south. Last year, the Detroit Three accounted for less than half of the light vehicle sales in the U.S.

MANUFACTURING JOBS BY STATE

Along with car sales, auto manufacturing jobs have also rebounded. Among the top car producing states, Alabama saw the largest increase in the last decade.

VEHICLES PER JOB

Productivity has increased, too, with fewer workers needed to produce the same number of cars.

PRODUCTION MARKET SHARE

Mexico is becoming an important player as its share of vehicle production in North America has grown.

WHERE THE ASSEMBLY PLANTS WERE LOCATED IN 2012

Most of the Southern plants are on greenfield sites, away from manufacturing hubs—and one another—which means less competition for labor.

Circles show production volume at each plant.

Blue = Detroit Three
Red = Foreign producers

MANUFACTURING JOBS BY STATE

Gain/loss, 2000-2012

Numbers in thousands, not seasonally adjusted

VEHICLES PER JOB

PRODUCTION MARKET SHARE