STATE OF THE U.S. AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

2015

INVESTMENT, INNOVATION, JOBS, EXPORTS, AND AMERICA’S ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

AMERICAN AUTOMOTIVE POLICY COUNCIL

JULY 2015
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report, the second of its kind from the American Automotive Policy Council, is meant to serve as a resource for policymakers, researchers, and media interested in the state of automotive manufacturing in America and what leadership in this industry means for our nation’s economic competitiveness.

The bulk of figures presented here are derived from simple comparisons of each automaker’s production, sales, employment, and parts purchases in the U.S. and abroad. These are obtained from each automaker’s respective annual reports and corporate websites, as well as reports produced by several of the industry’s trade groups. For more information about how automakers contribute to America’s economy and our global competitiveness, visit our website at www.americanautocouncil.org or the website of the Alliance of Automotive Manufacturers at www.autoalliance.org. For information on America’s automotive parts suppliers and their contribution to America’s economy, we rely on analysis produced by the Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (www.mema.org).

Most of the critical analysis cited in the report has been produced by the Center for Automotive Research (CAR), a nonprofit organization focused on a wide variety of important trends related to the automobile industry and society at the international, federal, state, and local levels. CAR’s Sustainability & Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) group focuses on the intersection of industry and the public sector. Its Automotive Communities Partnership helps state and local officials develop public policies that sustain auto communities. We rely heavily on CAR’s “job multiplier” analysis; its sales, production, and employment forecasts; its estimates of automaker spending on research and development and capital investment; and its analysis of the reach and nature of a typical plant’s supply chain. More information about CAR, SEDS and the Automotive Communities Partnership is available at www.cargroup.org.

For data on corporate R&D, we rely on the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre’s 2014 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, which contains economic and financial data for the world’s top 2,500 companies ranked by their investments in research and development. The rankings also include data on employment, revenue and capital investment. The data are drawn from the latest available companies’ financial statements. The rankings and related materials are available at http://iri.jrc.ec.europa.eu/scoreboard14.html.

This report also cites findings from a recent study produced by Frank Dubois, Associate Professor of International Business at The American University’s Kogod School of Business. For each of the past three years, Dubois has ranked each of the more than 300 vehicle models sold in the U.S., based on where the model’s engine, transmission, and other parts are produced; where it is assembled; where its headquarters is based; and where the R&D that produced the model is performed. His research is available at http://kogodnow.com/autoindex/.
This report examines the current state of the U.S. automotive sector and its share of America’s manufacturing production, capital investment, innovation, and jobs.

We make five points:

1. Automakers contribute a great deal to America’s economy, but some contribute more than others;
2. Automakers are doing their share to make America more competitive;
3. Every state is an “auto state”;
4. Their investments are contributing to the revival of manufacturing in America; and
5. In an industry as capital intensive and competitive as autos, public policy matters.

In making these points, we explain how production, investment and employment have rebounded since the financial crisis and are likely to grow through 2016. As part of this, we examine how highly efficient manufacturers, like those in the U.S., can benefit from the industry’s shift toward centralized production and global model platforms.

We also compare the economic contributions of America’s automakers – FCA US, Ford, and General Motors – with those of their competitors. While most car buyers appreciate just how many Americans FCA US, Ford, and General Motors employ, this report, explains why so much of their global workforce is based here.

Finally, we examine how the highly competitive nature of the industry – and the enormous fixed costs that go into producing cars and trucks – combine to give public policy decisions an enormous impact on which automakers grow and where auto jobs are created.

AAPC and its members are optimistic about the future of auto manufacturing in America and all of the research, design, finance, marketing, and other related jobs that this industry generates. But the long-term success of any American research lab or assembly plant depends, in part, on how government regulations, global trade agreements, and national currency policies, together, affect an automaker’s ability to compete.
Automakers drive the U.S. economy. Automakers and their suppliers are America’s largest manufacturing sector, responsible for 3% of America’s GDP. No other manufacturing sector generates as many American jobs. They are also America’s largest exporters. In fact, over the past five years, automakers have exported more than $637 billion in vehicles and parts – approximately $118 billion more than the next largest exporter (aerospace). They buy hundreds of billions of dollars worth of American steel, glass, rubber, iron, and semiconductors each year. Today, more than 734,000 Americans work for an auto supplier. They are also among America’s largest investors in R&D. The auto sector ranks third out of the forty largest industries, on a global basis, in R&D spending.

FCA US, Ford, and General Motors are in the driver’s seat. FCA US, Ford, and General Motors produce more of their vehicles, buy more of their parts, and conduct more of their R&D in the U.S. than their competitors. As a result, they employ two out of three of America’s autoworkers and operate three out of five of America’s auto assembly plants. Perhaps the best way to appreciate the scale of FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ investment in the U.S. is to consider what would happen if foreign automakers matched their U.S. production and parts purchase rates. The answer? To match FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ U.S. production rate last year, their competitors would have had to assemble nearly 2 million more cars and trucks here in the U.S. Lined up bumper to bumper, those cars would stretch about 6,000 miles. To match FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ domestic content rate, they would have had to buy another 1 million more cars’-worth-of-parts here.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Automakers are investing to make America more competitive.

Over the past six years alone, FCA US, Ford, and General Motors have invested more than $30.8 billion in their U.S. assembly, engine, and transmission plants, R&D labs, headquarters, administrative offices, and other infrastructure that connects and supports them. Every state is an “auto state.”

Last year, FCA US, Ford, and General Motors produced 6.1 million vehicles in the U.S., with the help of 232,000 employees, working at more than 226 assembly plants, factories, research labs, distribution centers, and other facilities, located in 32 states across 115 Congressional Districts.

They work with more than 10,150 dealerships, which employ another 609,000 workers. Finally, FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ thousands of auto suppliers employ hundreds of thousands of other Americans.

Automakers have responded to new domestic cost advantages by shifting production from other countries here to the U.S. Ford has shifted some production of its Fusion sedan from Mexico to Texas. General Motors is moving more of its pickup production to the U.S.

Globally, FCA, Ford, and General Motors, together, invest more than $18 billion in R&D every year. Each alone spends more on R&D than some of the world’s most famous technology companies.

Every state is an “auto state.”

Automaker investments are contributing to the revival of manufacturing in America.

U.S. auto sales have increased by more than 58% since the 2009 financial crisis (from 10.4 million to 16.5 million last year). CAR projects sales will reach or exceed 17 million vehicles per year through 2016. Meanwhile, U.S. auto production has nearly doubled during that same period (from 5.8 million vehicles in 2009 to 11.4 million vehicles in 2014). U.S. auto production is expected to reach or exceed 11.5 million vehicles per year through 2016. CAR estimates automaker and auto supplier employment in the U.S. will increase by more than one-third from 2011 to 2016.

An industry-wide move toward global model platforms is contributing to this trend, because automakers are centralizing production in high functioning markets, like the U.S., which can now export the same body frame or major component to assembly facilities around the world.

In a globally competitive auto industry, public policy matters.

Because the auto industry is so competitive, the profit margin on each vehicle is comparatively small. Because producing cars and trucks is so capital intensive, automakers must maintain scale to remain competitive on costs. For these reasons, trade agreements, tax policy, and regulations have an enormous impact on each automaker’s competitive status.
AUTOMAKERS CONTRIBUTE A GREAT DEAL TO AMERICA'S ECONOMY, BUT SOME CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN OTHERS.

Last year, Americans bought more than 16.5 million cars and trucks. Over 11 million of those cars and trucks were produced at one of America’s 48 automotive assembly plants. Lined up end-to-end, the cars and trucks assembled in the U.S. would stretch 49,500 miles, enough to stretch from the Statue of Liberty to the Golden Gate Bridge eight times.  

A typical auto plant requires between $1 and $2 billion in start-up capital investment and employs 2,000 to 3,000 workers. Each assembly plant job supports 9 to 12 others at suppliers and in the surrounding community. While plant output varies, a single plant producing 200,000 vehicles each year can contribute nearly $6 billion to America’s gross domestic product.  

Each vehicle these plants assemble contains 8,000 to 12,000 different components (and as many as 15,000 individual parts). More than 5,600 suppliers produce auto parts in the U.S. Together, they employ more than 734,000 Americans.

The components in a typical car or truck contain more than 3,000 pounds of iron, steel, rubber, and glass. Because of the size of each vehicle – and the number of these vehicles made each year – automakers are also among the largest buyers of those American raw materials.  

Designing each of those 15,000 parts and integrating them into a single vehicle is an enormous engineering challenge. Automakers and suppliers spend about $18 billion on R&D in the U.S. each year – about $1,200 per vehicle sold here.  

Distributing, marketing, selling, and servicing those vehicles employs hundreds of thousands of other Americans. FCA US, Ford, and General Motors alone rely on more than 10,150 dealerships, which employ approximately 609,000 Americans.
One way to measure an industry’s economic contribution is to consider the number of workers it employs through its own operations, its suppliers, and the other local businesses it supports.

Economists refer to this as a sector’s “job multiplier.” Generally speaking, a sector’s multiplier grows relative to its supply chain – the number and costs of the inputs that go into its products. Because the auto supply chain is so large, automaker jobs have the largest multiplier.

Among the leading sources of job multipliers in the U.S. is CAR, which examines how jobs at each step of the automotive value chain (from R&D to suppliers, assembly plants, and dealership lots) supports other jobs in the community.

CAR uses its own Regional Economic Impact Model (REMI), customized using proprietary company data on employment and compensation (by region), as well as publicly available data on capital investments. The model generates estimates of the economic contribution associated with the manufacturing operations it is testing. CAR’s REMI model has been used by automakers, their trade groups, and policymakers for more than 20 years.

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One way to measure an automaker’s investment in the U.S. is to compare its U.S. production to its U.S. sales. Last year, FCA US, Ford, and General Motors produced 6.1 million vehicles in the U.S. That same year, FCA US, Ford, and General Motors sold 7.5 million vehicles here. In other words, their 2014 U.S. production represented 81% of their 2014 U.S. sales.

By comparison, foreign automakers’ U.S. production represented only 59% of their sales here. As a result, Ford produced approximately 1 million more cars and trucks in the U.S. last year than Toyota or Honda, nearly three times as many vehicles as Hyundai-Kia, nearly seven times more than BMW, and 18 times more than VW. Similarly, FCA US assembled 398,000 more vehicles in the U.S. in 2014 than Toyota, even though Toyota sold 268,000 more vehicles here.

To produce more vehicles, automakers need more plants. General Motors operates as many plants as Toyota, Honda, Nissan, and Subaru, combined. Similarly, FCA US operates as many assembly plants as BMW, Daimler, Hyundai-Kia, Nissan, Subaru, and Mitsubishi combined.

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Because the auto industry is so big, the difference between FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ 81% U.S. production rate and their competitors’ 59% U.S. production rate represents millions of jobs and billions in capital investment. In order to match FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ U.S. production rate last year, foreign automakers would have needed to assemble nearly 2 million more vehicles here last year.xx

To build 2 million more vehicles, foreign automakers would have to build six plants or more, each employing approximately 3,000 Americans, and supporting tens of thousands of other workers.xxii

The Difference: Six New U.S. Assembly Plants, Producing a Line of New Cars 6,000 Miles Long

3 out of 5 auto assembly plants are FCA US/Ford/General Motors.
Automakers and suppliers are America's largest exporters, beating the next best performing industry by more than $118 billion over the past five years. In 2014, FCA US, Ford, and General Motors exported more than 1 million American-made vehicles to more than 100 different foreign markets.
AUTOMAKERS ARE INVESTING TO MAKE AMERICA MORE COMPETITIVE

Automakers assemble approximately 85 million new cars and light trucks each year, worldwide. Building new plants and maintaining their existing ones requires hundreds of billions of dollars of investment each year.

A recent study by the European Commission examined the capital investment (plants and equipment) by 2,500 of the world’s leading companies. The study found that automakers and their suppliers spent more on capital investment than technology hardware producers, telecommunications companies, electrical utilities, chemical manufacturers, and mining companies.**
Over the past six years alone, automakers have invested $48.1 billion in their U.S. assembly, engine and transmission plants, R&D labs, headquarters, administrative offices, and other infrastructure that connects and supports them.19

FCA US, Ford, and General Motors made more than $30.8 billion of those $48.1 billion in investments (about 64%). Their investment in U.S. facilities is five times greater than all Japanese and Korean automakers combined. Together, Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Isuzu, Subaru, Suzuki, Mazda, Mitsubishi, and Hyundai-Kia invested only $5.9 billion during this same six-year period. American automakers’ investment is five times greater than the combined investments of the three major European automakers competing in the U.S. (BMW, Daimler, and VW). Together, they invested only $5.9 billion over the past six years.

Building a new plant costs between $1 and $2 billion. Expanding a plant to allow for multiple platform production, or to take advantage of new process improvements, can cost several hundred million dollars. Both investments create jobs and help maintain America’s competitive advantage, but the new plant will generate hundreds of headlines, while existing plant improvements tend to go unnoticed.

FCA US, Ford, and General Motors operate 28 assembly plants nationwide. They also operate more than 198 other factories, research labs, distribution centers, and other facilities, located in 32 states across 115 Congressional Districts.
General Motors has announced investments totaling approximately $17.8 billion in the U.S. over the past six years, including a recently announced $5.4 billion investment in U.S. plants over the next three years. Approximately $4.5 billion of the $5.4 billion has been identified, leaving $900 million to be announced by year-end.

General Motors will invest (1) $1.4 billion in its Arlington Assembly Plant to update its full-size SUV production; (2) $1.2 billion at its Fort Wayne Assembly Plant in Roanoke, Indiana for aiding light- and heavy-duty truck production; (3) $520 million to expand and improve its Delta Township plant near Lansing, Mi; (4) $439 million in its Bowling Green Assembly Plant in Kentucky for a paint shop; (5) $245 million in its Orion Assembly Plant to support the launch of an all-new vehicle program; (6) $245 million in its Lansing Grand River Assembly Plant for production of the Chevrolet Camaro; (7) $174 million in its Fairfax Assembly Plant in Kansas City, MO, to support the new 2016 Chevrolet Malibu; (8) $139 million to build a new body shop and install new metal stamping equipment in its Warren, MI, Pre-Production Operations facility; (9) $124 million in its Pontiac, MI, Metal Center, for testing dies that make body panels and other vehicle parts; and, (10) $119 in its GM Components Holdings, LLC Grand Rapids operations in tools and equipment to support production of future vehicle components.

In addition to its $5.4 billion investment, General Motors will invest $1 billion in its Warren Technical Center campus, creating approximately 2,600 new jobs to support future business growth at the National Historic Landmark site.

For comparison, consider recent investments by BMW, Daimler and VW, three of the world’s largest and most profitable automakers. General Motors operates 12 assembly plants in the U.S. Together, its German competitors operate four. VW launched construction of its first U.S. assembly plant in 2011. BMW and Daimler opened their plants here more than 20 years ago. (They operate plants in South Carolina and Alabama, respectively.) During the past three years, BMW, Daimler and VW have invested approximately $3.1 billion in their U.S. production facilities.
Designing and producing autos is a massive engineering challenge, which is why automakers and their suppliers invest approximately $115 billion in R&D each year—more than software, electronics, chemicals, aerospace, defense, and oil & gas producers. In the U.S., automakers and suppliers invested approximately $18 billion last year developing alternative fuels, advanced powertrains, new materials and better sensors. That represents approximately $1,200 of R&D for each car sold last year, on average. For this work, they are awarded approximately 5,000 U.S. patents each year. In fact, Ford has earned more than 100 new patents for a single one of its new models: the 2015 F-150 pickup.

Much of auto R&D is focused on in-vehicle electronics, which can represent as much as half of the cost of a new vehicle. To appreciate the scale and significance of auto R&D, consider several findings from CAR’s recent report, “Just How High-Tech is the Automotive Industry?” For example: A new smart phone contains one microprocessor, while a new car or truck contains about 60. These microprocessors manage 100 or more sensors located throughout the vehicle, connected by as much as a mile of wiring. Just as important, a microprocessor in a smart phone is expected to last about three years, while autos are expected to last 12 years or more.

Over the past decade, automaker R&D has driven braking technology from anti-lock brakes (which help a driver break faster) to electronic stability control (which keeps a vehicle moving safely when the driver has lost control), to experimental automated emergency steering systems (which control brake, steering and throttle). Meanwhile, research into the use of new materials, better joining (welding, fasteners, adhesives) and fabrication could reduce the vehicle body weight by 10% to 20% by 2020.
Automakers, their suppliers, their dealerships and the local businesses that support them are responsible for more than 7.25 million U.S. jobs. No manufacturing sector employs more Americans.xxxi

FCA US, Ford, and General Motors Employment

Together, the 16 major automakers competing in the U.S. employ about 338,000 Americans. FCA US, Ford, and General Motors employ 232,000 of these Americans.xxxii

The fact that FCA US, Ford, and General Motors account for 67% of U.S. auto jobs is remarkable, because they account for only 47% of U.S. market share.

The reason for this disparity is simple. FCA US, Ford, and General Motors produce more of their vehicles here, conduct more of their research here, and buy more of their parts here. As a result, they have based six times more of their global workforce in the U.S. than their competitors.

To appreciate just how much having an automaker’s global headquarters in your country matters, consider VW. VW employs about 6,000 Americans (1% of its total workforce). By comparison, 43% of VW’s employees are based in Germany, the company’s home market. At Ford, 41% of its workforce is based here, and that includes tens of thousands of engineering, finance, marketing, and other management jobs.
EVERY STATE IS AN “AUTO STATE”

The Auto Supply Chain

More than 5,600 auto parts suppliers operate in the U.S. Together, they employ more than 734,000 Americans.\textsuperscript{iiii}

Approximately two-thirds of every vehicle’s parts content is produced by suppliers. For every worker employed by an automaker, two and a half other workers are employed by parts suppliers.

Many supplier jobs are in R&D. In fact, suppliers accounted for approximately 40% of the $18 billion in auto R&D conducted in the U.S. each year.\textsuperscript{iii}

Auto suppliers are the biggest reason why every state is an “auto state.” For example, 220 U.S. auto suppliers manufacture parts for hybrid, plug-in hybrid and electric battery vehicle components. They operate across 23 different states.\textsuperscript{ivv}

A state that hosts one or more assembly plants can support more than 100 different suppliers. For example, Texas and California host 106 and 160, respectively.

FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ National Footprint

For their part, FCA US, Ford, and General Motors operate over 200 assembly plants, factories, research labs, distribution centers, and other facilities, directly employing 232,000 Americans. These facilities are located in 32 states across 115 Congressional Districts. FCA US, Ford, and General Motors auto dealerships employ more than 609,000 other Americans.
Automakers sell more than 300 different models in the U.S. Those models contain anywhere from 80% to 0% "domestic content" (American- or Canadian-made parts, as defined by the American Automotive Labeling Act (AALA)).

While American auto suppliers produce hundreds of billions of dollars worth of parts each year, they are used in a comparatively small portion of American vehicles. Only one in five models contains 60% or more domestic content. More than half of them contain less than 10% domestic content. And one in four contains none.

From a domestic content perspective, cars and trucks offer a steep curve. FCA US, Ford, and General Motors dominate the top. Two out of three of their models contain 60% or more domestic content. By comparison, seven out of 10 of their competitors’ models contain 5% or less domestic content. Some foreign manufacturers score better than others. For example, Honda’s domestic content matches its domestic competitors, while even the U.S. assembled models from BMW contain 20% or less domestic content.

**A Steep Curve on “Domestic Content”**

2 of 3

FCA US / Ford / General Motors models contain 60% or more domestic content.

7 out of 10 foreign automaker models contain 5% or less.

Only about 1 in 5 models sold in the U.S. this year contain 60% or more domestic content. 7 out of 10 of them are FCA US/Ford/General Motors.

1 in 4 models contain 0% domestic content. All are produced by foreign automakers.
FCA US’ Use of Domestic Content

On a sales-weighted basis, FCA US uses 78% more domestic content, per vehicle, than foreign automakers.

Seven fleet comparisons below help explain the difference. These charts show the percent of domestic content for each model sold by FCA US, VW, BMW, Daimler, Honda, Hyundai-Kia, and Toyota. The German manufacturers each operate an assembly plant in the U.S., but none of those plants produce a vehicle with more than 45% domestic content, and their fleet’s average is 13% (on a sales-weighted basis). Only three out of 28 Hyundai-Kia models have more than 50% domestic content.

Twenty-five of Toyota’s 40 models score 10% or less. Only 10 score 50% or more. Only Honda comes close to FCA US. Fifty-two percent of its models (11 of 21) score 50% or more. At FCA US, 89% of their models contain 60% or more domestic content.

At FCA US, 9 out of 10 of their models contain 60% or more of domestic content.
The Difference: Dozens of New U.S. Supplier Plants, Producing 1 Million Cars’ Worth of Parts

To appreciate the scale of this difference, consider what would happen if foreign automakers matched FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ record. FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ fleets contain 59% domestic content (on a sales-weighted basis). Foreign automaker fleets contain only 36% domestic content. Had foreign automakers increased their use of domestic content to match FCA US, Ford, and General Motors’ content rate (from 36 to 59%), they would have insourced the equivalent of nearly 1 million cars’ worth of parts last year.
OUR INVESTMENTS ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE REVIVAL OF MANUFACTURING ACROSS AMERICA

Surprisingly, U.S. auto sales increased by double digits from 2010 through 2014, even though GDP has grown by less than 3% each year. Historically, only a GDP growth rate of 4% or more would support sales increases of this kind.

The auto sector was hit hard by the recession and the resulting credit crunch. As auto sales rebounded, they contributed greatly to the ongoing recovery. Approximately 10% of economic growth from the second quarter of 2009 to 2013 was produced by the auto sector.

U.S. auto sales have increased by more than 58% since the financial crisis (from 10.4 million in 2009 to 16.5 million last year). CAR projects sales will reach or exceed 17 million vehicles per year through 2016.

During that same period, U.S. auto production has nearly doubled (from 5.8 million vehicles produced in 2009 to 11.4 million vehicles last year). U.S. auto production is expected to reach or exceed 11.5 million vehicles per year through 2016.

Automakers are operating second shifts at most of their plants, and some have added third shifts. As a result, CAR predicts that automotive employment will increase by more than one-third from 2011 to 2016, a compound growth rate of 6.1 percent.

Auto Sales, Production and Employment Rebound

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Recently, many automakers have responded to new domestic cost advantages by shifting production from other countries to the U.S. Ford has shifted some production of its Fusion sedan from Mexico to Michigan, and its Transit van from Turkey to Missouri. General Motors is moving more of its pickup production to the U.S.

Part of this change relates to reductions in the U.S.’s labor and energy costs, but an industry-wide move toward global model platforms is also a factor. Throughout the automotive industry, automakers are reducing their research, development and production costs by building their models from a smaller number of body platforms. They are also centralizing production of those platforms. In such cases, more efficient and innovative markets, like the U.S., can gain volume, by exporting the same body frame or major component to assembly facilities around the world. Moreover, as new platform hubs grow, foreign auto suppliers may build new plants in the U.S. to serve them. Nine out of 10 of the world’s largest automakers and 46 of the world’s top 50 global automotive suppliers have opened R&D facilities in Michigan alone.

PRODUCTION
From 2009 to 2014, FCA US increased by 259%, Ford increased by 62% and General Motors increased by 69%
Ford R&D Investments and Job Growth

To appreciate just how far automaker investments reach across the U.S., consider the Ford Mustang: Parts and components for this year’s model are being manufactured in more than 25 states and sold in U.S. dealerships in all 50 states. The iconic Mustang is also available in more than 100 markets, exported through eight different ports across five states.

To produce cars and trucks like the Mustang, Ford invests $6.4 billion in research and development each year. The industry is so research-intensive Ford has earned more than 100 patents introducing a single new model. In fact, Ford invests more in R&D than IBM, Qualcomm or General Electric ($5.6, $5.0 and $4.8 billion, respectively). Ford even invests more than Apple, arguably the world’s largest company, at $4.5 billion.

As U.S. production, sales and exports of the Mustang and Ford’s other models have increased over the past five years, so has Ford’s job footprint. Today, Ford employs more than 80,000 U.S. workers, after hiring more than 9,500 new salaried employees (including technical professionals for its product development and IT teams) and 15,000 hourly workers at its increasingly busy U.S. plants.

Because Ford invests so much in the U.S., more of its workforce is based here. Approximately 4 out of 10 Ford employees are based in the U.S. By comparison, only about 1 in 10 VW employees is based here. With VW, those same research, design, engineering, finance, marketing and administrative jobs are in Germany.
IN AN INDUSTRY AS COMPETITIVE AND CAPITAL-INTENSIVE AS AUTOS, PUBLIC POLICY MATTERS

The long-term success of any American research lab or assembly plant depends, in part, on how government regulations, global trade agreements, and national currency policies, together, affect an automaker’s ability to compete.
Currency Manipulation

Currency exchange rates can be as important a determinant of trade outcomes as the quality of a particular good or service traded. Some governments manipulate their currency’s value in order to provide an unfair competitive trade advantage to their industries. In fact, currency manipulation has a far larger impact on trade than any of the tariff or non-tariff barriers that are the usual focus of U.S. free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations.

The United States and the international economic system have been ineffective at addressing the use of currency manipulation by its trade partners. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has clear rules against competitive devaluations, but it has no enforcement mechanism, and its decision-making process is politicized and easy for the manipulators to block. The World Trade Organization (WTO) has the power to carry out sanctions, but its rules on exchange rates are vague and have never been tested. Inaction to address this distortion has led to the United States suffering much larger trade deficits and job losses than it otherwise would have. Some have estimated that this inaction has led to the loss of up to 5 million American jobs.

The United States is currently negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with eleven other countries. The AAPC has called for the inclusion of strong and enforceable currency rules in the TPP. Several countries involved in the negotiations have been seen as using currency manipulation to disadvantage others. It is therefore critical that the final agreement include enforceable provisions to prevent trade-distorting currency interventions, especially with our free trade agreement partners that will enjoy preferential access to the United States.
When other countries accept both of these equally robust sets of standards, they encourage a more efficient and competitive automotive industry by:

- Reducing numbers of prototypes needed for testing;
- Eliminating redundant testing and calibration that have no added safety benefit;
- Reducing record keeping, data process and oversight resources;
- Reducing administration/retrofitting costs for consumers relocating between countries; and
- Moving transportation of automobiles and auto parts across international borders more efficiently.

Motor vehicles built to U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and the equivalent European regulations, known as Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) standards, both lead to the highest levels of safety performance and outcomes. If a manufacturer builds to applicable FMVSS or ECE standards it should be able to sell that product worldwide.

The European Commission is already actively promoting the use of ECE automotive safety standards around the world, including through its free trade agreements. To help ensure that FMVSS are also accepted internationally we have proposed that the United States:

- Proactively seek acceptance of FMVSS regulations worldwide;
- Strongly and swiftly address regulations that emerge in individual countries/regions that act as technical barriers to U.S. auto exports;
- Explicitly include acceptance of U.S. and other globally regulations in all U.S. free trade agreements; and
- Maximize the opportunity to advance regulatory convergence between the U.S. and the European Union as part of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations.

This is intended to match the vigor with which the EU has been pursuing its standards globally on behalf of its vehicle industries, and is not in any way intended to supplant the acceptance of ECE safety standards. In fact, as noted above, we recommend countries accept vehicles certified to both FMVSS and ECE regulations.

By ensuring that vehicles certified to FMVSS are also accepted worldwide, our nation will reinforce the globally competitive export platform, boosting the U.S. economy and the new jobs it can create through growing exports.
For the each of the last three years, American University’s Kogod School of Business has ranked each of the more than 300 models sold in the U.S., based on where the model’s engine, transmission and other parts are produced; where it is assembled; where its headquarters is based; and where the R&D that produced the model is performed.

These rankings show a steep curve, with models from FCA US, Ford, and General Motors dominating the top of the curve. The top 33 models are made by AAPC members, as well as the top 4 pickup trucks, the top 12 sedans and the top 15 SUVs. One in 3 foreign automaker models scored only 1 point.


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