

***EconSouth* Third Quarter 2011**

Made in the South: A Bad News, Good News Story

Discussion questions

1. What has happened to apparel and manufacturing jobs in Alabama and the Southeast in the last 20 years?
2. How old is the Kia Motors plant in West Point, Ga.? How many workers does the plant employ?
3. How many applications did Kia get for employment at its new plant?
4. How do unemployment rates around the Kia plant compare to the national average?
5. What "type" of worker does it appear Kia is looking for? That is, what are the qualities, skills and abilities Kia is searching for in its workers?
6. How does the Southeast compare to the nation when we look at manufacturing employment?
7. With all this bad news, we certainly can't be manufacturing the same amount of stuff! What has happened to American manufacturing output in the last 25 years?
8. What has happened to per-worker manufacturing productivity in the past few years? How might this change in productivity impact the companies and their workers?
9. What do you think the "multiplier effect" means in this article?
10. How many auto assembly plants have opened in the Southeast since 1990? What are some reasons the article cites for their being located here?
11. How does the Southeast compare to the national high school graduation rate? Explain how this may impact the South?
12. What is "in-sourcing"?
13. This article is from the *EconSouth* publication of the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank. What states make up the Atlanta Fed (the Sixth Federal Reserve District)?