



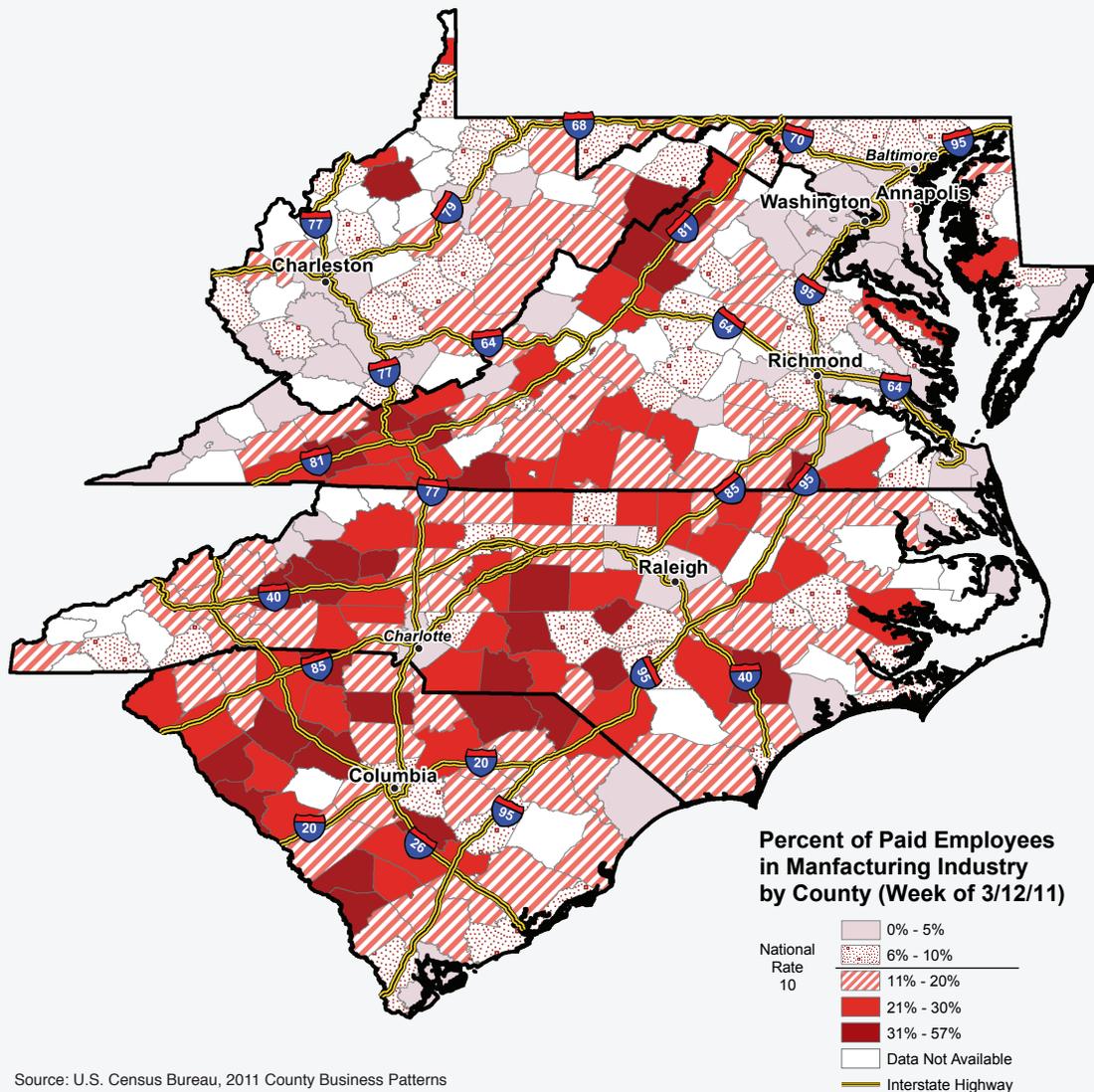
5th District Footprint

Manufacturing Jobs in the Fifth District

In 1950, a third of the U.S. nonfarm workforce was employed in manufacturing.¹ In some Fifth District states, the share was as high as 46 percent.² The national share has since fallen by more than two-thirds. This issue of *5th District Footprint* looks at the recent distribution of manufacturing employment within the Fifth District.

As of March 2011, the U.S. share of manufacturing employment was 10 percent.³ Within the Fifth District, South Carolina has the largest share of manufacturing employment at 13 percent followed by North Carolina (12 percent), West Virginia (9 percent), Virginia (8 percent) and Maryland (5 percent). The District of Columbia has the lowest share at less than one percent.

The dominant manufacturing industry varies across the Fifth District states. Manufacturing of transportation equipment employs the largest share of manufacturing workers in South Carolina (14 percent) and Virginia (16 percent), and is concentrated in motor vehicle parts in South Carolina and ship and boat building in Virginia. There are more than 250 auto manufacturing firms in South Carolina including BMW (Spartanburg County), Honda (Florence County) and Michelin (Greenville, Spartanburg, Lexington, Anderson and Laurens Counties).⁴ Food manufacturing, in particular poultry processing, has the largest share of manufacturing workers in North Carolina (13 percent). There is a meat processing cluster bounded by Hoke and Duplin Counties close to the intersection of interstate highways 95 and 40. Chemical



manufacturing and computer and electronic product manufacturing are dominant in West Virginia (17 percent) and Maryland (18 percent), respectively. Cabell, Kanawha, Putnam and Wayne Counties near Charleston comprise West Virginia's "Chemical Alliance Zone."

The share of manufacturing employment is above the national average in 60 percent of the counties in the Fifth District. The highest and lowest shares are in Hardy County, W.Va. (57 percent) and Arlington County, Va. (less than 1 percent), respectively. Hardy County's top employer is a fresh and prepared poultry products manufacturing company.

Commonalities exist in the counties that have the highest shares of manufacturing employment in the District. The majority are not densely populated (less than 100 people per square mile). They are located close to transportation networks and are near other counties that have a large share of manufacturing employment.

richmondfed.org/publications/community_development

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1952.*
² *Ibid.*
³ *Ibid*, 2011 County Business Patterns.
⁴ <http://www.scautoindustry.com>