

snap

S | THE MAGAZINE OF SWEETS



GRATE EXPECTATIONS

PRODUCTS THAT
EFFORTLESSLY
MARRY FORM
AND FUNCTION

Vertigo Tree Grate from Ironsmith PAGE 16

SOLAR POWER
The world's largest
solar-powered hospital
opens in Haiti
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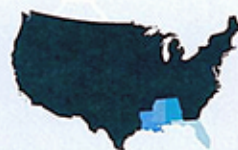
SCREEN PLAY
Exterior cladding
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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013 READ THE DIGITAL EDITION OF SNAP AT SWEETS.COM

By Land, Sea, and Air

For the Gulf Coast states, the automotive, shipping and aerospace industries are leading the way out of the recession. BY J. MICHAEL WELTON



MANUFACTURING IN the Gulf Coast states—never completely down during the recession—is making a comeback. Alabama's

secretary of commerce, Greg Canfield, points to auto as one reason, citing **Mercedes-Benz's** expansion of its "C" class facility and **Honda's** new Acura plant. As domestic housing trends upward, some building products are benefiting as well. Tuscaloosa-based screen manufacturer **Phifer**, for one, reports that traditional insect-screen business is up this year.

Mississippi is growing its automotive sector, which was nonexistent until **Nissan** arrived a decade ago. Employing 5,600 in Canton, it recently broke ground for a parts-warehouse facility that could attract suppliers to the area. As for building products, manufacturing is up from last year at Booneville company **Heartland Siding**.

Florida, which broke its own tourism record last year, is getting into the act, eliminating sales tax on manufacturing equipment in hopes of diversifying. St. Augustine-based wood-panel manufacturer **Rulon International** reports that business is up, as it was even during the downturn, says Rulon's Jesse Reyes.

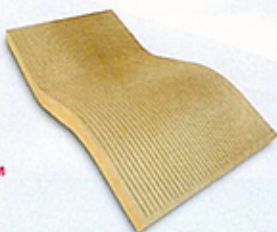
In Louisiana, the emphasis has been on oil, gas, and chemicals. **South African Sasol** is investing \$16 billion near Lake Charles to convert natural gas to liquid, low-sulfur diesel. Bolstered by \$14 billion in capital projects from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans is beginning to boom. It has also gained a new \$40 million meat-shipping facility on its waterfront.

Florida is looking to its ports, too (15 in all), investing millions to position itself as a trade hub with South America. The Mobile, Ala., and Gulfport, Miss., ports are also expanding in anticipation of a new era in global shipping.

Aerospace plays a role as well. **Northrup Grumman** plans to add an aircraft design facility in Florida. And **Boeing** and **Lockheed Martin** are in New Orleans researching NASA's planned trip to Mars. To summarize: for the Gulf Coast, the skies are no longer the limit.

Gulf Coast Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi

1 MANUFACTURER: Rulon International
LOCATION: St. Augustine, Florida
PRODUCTS: Wood and wood veneer products such as acoustic panels, other ceiling and wall panels, and wood grilles.
FOUNDED: 1976
EMPLOYEES: 120
PRICE RANGE: \$-\$\$
RULONCO.COM



2 MANUFACTURER: PGT Industries
LOCATION: Venice, Florida
PRODUCTS: Aluminum and vinyl framed windows (all types) and doors (swing and sliding).
FOUNDED: 1980
EMPLOYEES: 1,300
PRICE RANGE: \$\$
PGTINDUSTRIES.COM



3 MANUFACTURER: RoyOMartin
LOCATION: Chopin and Oakdale, Louisiana
PRODUCTS: Plywood and oriented strand board (OSB) products ranging from lumber and structural walls to siding and decorative elements such as wainscoting.
FOUNDED: 1923
EMPLOYEES: 1,054
PRICE RANGE: \$\$
ROYOMARTIN.COM



4 MANUFACTURER: Gordon
LOCATION: Bossier City, Louisiana
PRODUCTS: Specialty and sustainable architectural metal products for interior and exterior applications, including ceilings, walls, column covers, drywall, and plaster trim.
FOUNDED: 1964
EMPLOYEES: 100+
PRICE RANGE: \$-\$\$
GORDON-INC.COM



5 MANUFACTURER: Heartland Siding by ProVia
LOCATION: Booneville, Mississippi
PRODUCTS: High-quality entry, patio, and storm door systems, energy-efficient windows, insulated siding, superpolymer siding, and manufactured stone for building exteriors.
FOUNDED: 1981; 2009 (PURCHASED BY PROVIA)
EMPLOYEES: 80
PRICE RANGE: \$\$
PROVIAPRODUCTS.COM



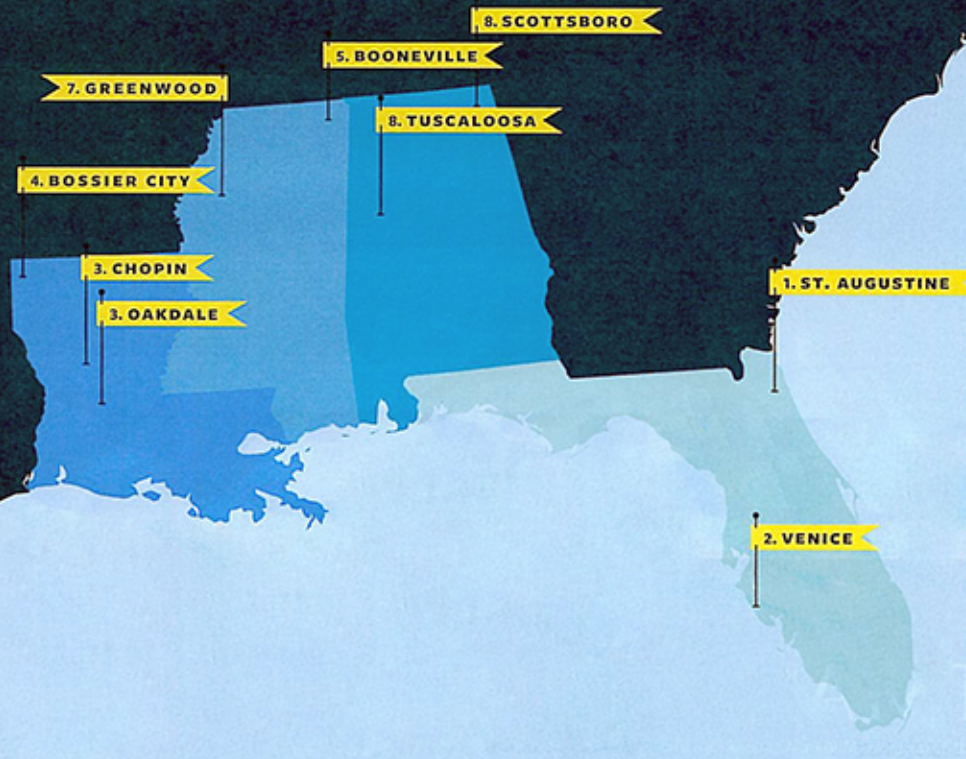
6 MANUFACTURER: Johns Manville
LOCATION: Scottsboro, Alabama
PRODUCTS: Thermoplastic, single-ply commercial roofing membrane.
FOUNDED: 2008 (SCOTTSBORO); 1858 (THE COMPANY)
EMPLOYEES: 35 SCOTTSBORO; 7,000 (WORLDWIDE)
PRICE RANGE: \$\$
JM.COM



7 MANUFACTURER: Viking Range
LOCATION: Greenwood, Mississippi
PRODUCTS: Commercial-type kitchen appliances for the residential market such as ranges, cooktops, built-in ovens, refrigerators, freezers, grills, and ice machines.
FOUNDED: 1984
EMPLOYEES: 825
PRICE RANGE: \$\$\$
VIKINGRANGE.COM



8 MANUFACTURER: Phifer Incorporated
LOCATION: Tuscaloosa, Alabama
PRODUCTS: Interior and exterior sun control fabrics for commercial and residential use, insect screens, metallic or fiber meshes, and drawn-wire products.
FOUNDED: 1952
EMPLOYEES: N/A
PRICE RANGE: \$-\$\$
PHIFER.COM



SNAPSHOTS

FLORIDA

There are **18,107 manufacturers** in Florida, employing 314,800 individuals and paying an average annual salary of \$52,378.



Florida's unemployment rate held steady at 7.1 percent for May, June, and July 2013, compared to 7.8 percent in February 2013.

SOURCES: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

ALABAMA

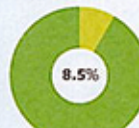
Alabama's Port of Mobile is currently the **ninth-largest port** in the nation; after a \$300 million expansion, it will become the sixth-busiest port in the world.



The state's auto industry had a record year in 2012, producing **more than 880,000 vehicles**.

SOURCES: ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MISSISSIPPI



Unemployment in Mississippi **dropped to 8.5 percent** overall in July 2013, from 9.6 percent in February 2013.



Manufacturers in Mississippi account for **15.5 percent** of the total output in the state, employing **12.3 percent** of the workforce in 2011.

SOURCES: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS

LOUISIANA

In 2013, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce named Louisiana the **No. 1 export state** in the nation, with a No. 2 rank in export growth and No. 3 in income growth per capita.



Louisiana ranked **No. 1 in 2012** for digital media performance by *Business Facilities* magazine.

In 2012, the Tax Foundation ranked Louisiana No. 2 in the country for **lowest tax burdens** faced by new firms and No. 10 for mature firms.

SOURCE: LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.COM