

Toyota—Made in America in San Antonio, Texas
by Betsy Bearden

They say that everything is bigger in Texas, so it should come as no surprise that even Toyotas are built bigger there: specifically, the Toyota Tundra. Toyota Motor Manufacturing Texas, Inc. (TMMTX) is located in San Antonio, Texas, USA, where they currently build the Tundra full-size pickup truck and the Tacoma mid-size pickup truck.

Toyota began construction on the San Antonio plant in October of 2003; in November 2006, the first Tundra Pickup rolled off the assembly line. The production of the Tundra was initially split between Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana in Princeton, Indiana and the San Antonio, Texas plant until 2008 when all operations of the Tundra were moved to TMMTX; this resulted in creating 1,000 new jobs for the San Antonio plant. In 2010, little brother Tacoma's production was moved from California to San Antonio, and to date the 2,000-acre assembly plant employs 2,464 employees (team members).

Because of Toyota's presence, many jobs were created even before the doors opened at the San Antonio plant. Construction, demand for suppliers and supplies, shipping goods to and from the location site, new commerce, schools, homes, restaurants, grocery stores, Toyota dealerships—this put a lot of Americans back to work in San Antonio and beyond during a very bad economical period.

During initial phases of development of the San Antonio plant, it was to be a basic assembly plant, but quickly evolved into an automotive production site. TMMTX is Toyota's first plant to integrate production facilities for many of their suppliers on the same grounds, and in some cases, in-house, under the same roof. Seven of those suppliers are minority joint ventures, including six that are locally owned. To be more specific as to the impact the plant has had on the community, TMMTX indirectly provides 13,496 jobs to local dealerships, and suppliers, and the numbers would most likely be staggering as to how many local businesses and trade employment opportunities that have surfaced since TMMTX came to town.

Toyota Motor Manufacturing in San Antonio represents a \$2.1 billion investment in the state of Texas. The plant has the capacity to build up to 200,000 vehicles each year on the TMMTX line using U.S. and globally sourced parts. The San Antonio plant is supporting the local community and keeping Americans at work in many different areas such as providing Toyota manufacturing jobs, professional careers, management jobs, engineering jobs, die creation/improvement jobs, designing jobs, professional development, full-time employment, competitive wages, salaried jobs, and vehicle fabrication jobs.

Their manufacturing operations also include stamping, body weld, assembly, paint and plastics. Non-manufacturing areas provide positions such as accounting & finance,

human resources, ordering & logistics, production planning, purchasing, quality and safety. Since the economic downturn began in 2009, Toyota has had zero layoffs of their manufacturing team members. When any downtime might be experienced, they invest that time in helping the local communities.

TMMTX has a proven track record of being a sustainable manufacturing plant and in keeping the surrounding communities as environmentally safe as possible. They provide ongoing support for a water quality monitoring station along the Medina River, and the San Antonio plant also practices green manufacturing in numerous ways: one of which is that 100% of the water used to build the vehicles at TMMTX is fully recycled. Their commitment to keeping the local environment green extends beyond volunteering efforts.

In 2011, TMMTX stepped up and offered even more to the local community by teaming with Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos, the San Antonio River Authority, and the National Parks Service on the Mission Espada/River Clean Up Project. As part of the project, TMMTX team members helped to restore natural areas on the Southside of San Antonio. They supported their local economy by purchasing landscaping items, hardscapes, and by installing picnic tables and planting flowers to bring more visitors (and revenue) back into the area.

Toyotas that are built at TMMTX keep Americans at work while the workers provide safe, dependable and reliable trucks to not only their local community, but to the entire U.S. and around the world. This keeps things Moving Forward across our country while supplying an untold number of jobs from San Antonio, to California, to Boston and back.

The 2012 Toyota Tacoma is available with two different engines and a choice of rear-wheel drive or four-wheel drive. Most configurations come standard with a 2.7-liter four-cylinder engine that produces 159 horsepower and 180 lb-ft of torque. Fuel economy in a two-wheel-drive automatic-equipped Tacoma will get you 19 mpg in city and 24 mpg highway.

A 4.0-liter V6 gives you 236 hp and 266 lb-ft of torque and is standard on the four-wheel-drive Double Cab and X-Runner, and available as an option on the Access Cab and PreRunner Double Cab. EPA estimates for a two-wheel-drive, automatic-equipped V6 Tacoma 17 mpg in city, and 21 mpg on the highway. The four-wheel-drive V6 is rated at 16 mpg in city and 21 mpg highway. The Toyota Tacoma can tow up to 6,500 pounds.

The Tacoma is equipped with Toyota's Star Safety System, and The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety gave the Tacoma its top rating of "Good."

The 2012 Toyota Tundra has a choice of three different engines and rear-wheel drive or four-wheel drive. Rear-wheel-drive Regular and Double Cabs come with a 4.0-liter V6

with 270 horsepower and 278 lb-ft of torque, with a standard five-speed automatic transmission. You can get 16 mpg in city and 20 mpg highway.

A 4.6-liter V8 will get you 310 horsepower and 327 lb-ft of torque and is standard on the CrewMax four-wheel-drive and long-bed models. You can expect 15 mpg in city and 20 mph highway.

The mother lode of the Tundra's engine lineup is a 5.7-liter V8 standard on Limited trim levels and optional on the other models. How about an impressive 381 horsepower and 401 lb-ft of torque that will give you 14 mpg in city and 18 mpg highway. And because everyone likes everything big in Texas, TMMTX has made it possible for your Tundra to tow up to 10,400 pounds of whatever you want to haul around.

The Toyota Tundra is equipped with Toyota's Star Safety System and The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety gave the Tundra its highest rating of "Good."

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