

Strategic Signals

Signal/Driver	Indicator/Example	Implications
Federal Incentives	CHIPS Act approvals (≃\$30B in projects, 15 states); IRA funding for EV/battery plants (\$199B total announced, 63% since IRA)	Sustains a construction boom. States with quick applications and matching funds (e.g. Texas CHIPS Act) capture more projects. Ensures U.S. gains share of global chips & EVs. Funding cycles create "waves" of announcements.
Reshoring / FDI Trends	Reshoring Initiative: 287k US manufacturing jobs announced in 2023 (2nd-highest on record); 80% of these in essentials (EV battery, semis).	Companies are shortening supply chains. Industrial policy (tariffs, subsidies) and events (COVID, geopolitics) continue to drive onshoring. A strong pipeline of projects is underway; accelerating timelines depends on geopolitical stability.
U.S.–China Dynamics	Ongoing trade/tech tensions; export controls on chips, tariffs on EVs. National security emphasis on domestic semis.	Heightened risk leads firms to diversify production in friendly countries (e.g. US, allies). This can bring more investment, but also provoke Chinese retaliation. States must consider supply-chain security in location pitches.
Workforce & Costs	Site selectors rank skilled labor and training first. South/Sunbelt is growing due to lower costs. California reports top U.S. status for high-tech wages and education.	Labor availability drives site decisions: e.g., Midwest union auto talent vs. tech-savvy coasts. Talent shortages can stall projects. States invest in apprenticeships (CA's 500k slots by 2029) and leverage universities to attract manufacturers.
Market Demand & Innovation	Rapid EV/AI/5G growth. Government targets (50% EV sales by 2030; 20% global logic chips by 2030).	Industrial expansion depends on sustained market growth. If targets are met, auto and semiconductor plants may accelerate. If demand weakens (e.g., due to recession), projects may scale back. Companies cite emerging tech (AI, 6G, etc.) to justify capacity.
Infrastructure & Permitting	IIJA-funded infrastructure (ports, power, broadband). State regulatory burden (permitting times, water/land availability).	Efficient permitting and infrastructure give states an edge. For example, Texas and Ohio rail/road access support heavy industries. California's infrastructure (ports, grid) is good, but regulatory delay