



SHORTAGES DRIVE THE NEED FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND TRUSTED PARTNERS



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The **SEMICONDUCTOR CHIP** shortage has impacted the production of automated equipment. While several chip producers have announced plans to expand factory capacity, the market is not likely to see a reprieve until 2023. However, working with The Austin Company and advanced planning can help you maneuver this volatile industry sector.

STAINLESS STEEL, a common material used in meat and poultry processing equipment, is in short supply. Inventory levels across the U.S. stainless steel sector are extraordinarily low, with several grades and sizes of stainless-steel flat products completely unavailable. Demand is expected to stay strong, making sourcing difficult. Our established relationship with original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) makes Austin a trusted partner in your facility's design, engineering, and construction.

TRANSPORTATION. Throughout the past decade, the trucking industry has struggled with a shortage of truck drivers. The driver shortage affects the entire economy, as more than 68% of all freight is moved on U.S. highways. In addition, the shortage is increasing driver pay. This has a significant impact on supplier costs and consumer pricing.

EQUIPMENT, especially shipments from overseas, has slowed due to bottlenecks at ports of entry, fuel prices, and driver shortages. "We have some great manufacturers in the United States," said Sean Barr, Senior Director of Project Planning and Corporate Director, Meat & Poultry. "But whether the equipment is produced overseas or right here in the United States, logistics is a critical component to our coordination process. By getting out ahead of construction and ordering equipment early in the process, we can manage today's longer lead-times."

The **LABOR SHORTAGE** is leading many companies to consider automation. "Traditionally in the meat industry, we didn't automate because we couldn't justify the cost," said Meat & Poultry Subject Matter Expert (SME) Ed Wright. "Now, not only is the cost of labor increased but there is also an inability to find labor at any cost." This shortage has led companies to Austin for automation design.

LET'S CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION.

Stop by booth C11662 to talk about how Austin's expertise and supplier network can help you.