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Belvidere Assembly Plant and Belvidere Satellite Stamping Plant
3000 West Chrysler Drive , Belvidere, Illinois, United States
Floor Space: Nearly 5 million square feet

Acreage: 280 acres

Products: Jeep® Cherokee

Employment: 1,991 (1,812 hourly; 179 salaried) on one shift

Union Local: UAW Locals 1268 and 1761

Plant History: Plant was constructed in 1964-65. The first car was produced on July 7, 1965. The product line from 1965 to 1977 included the Plymouth and Dodge two-door and four-door models, and station wagons, and the Chrysler Town & Country station wagon. In 1977, the plant was converted to front-wheel drive production. From 1978-1987, the product lines included Plymouth Horizon and Dodge Omni.

In 1987, the plant underwent a \$367-million, state-of-the-art, 16-week model changeover to produce the Chrysler New Yorker and Dodge Dynasty, the company's full-size, front-wheel-drive, four-door sedans. Two years later, the plant underwent a \$72-million model changeover for production of 1990 models that included the Chrysler Imperial and New Yorker Salon.

In 1994, the plant was converted to produce the Plymouth and Dodge Neon. Production of the Neon ended in September 2005. The Dodge Caliber was launched in December 2005, followed by the Jeep® Compass in May 2006

and Jeep Patriot in December 2006. The last Dodge Caliber rolled off the line on Dec. 19, 2011. Production of the Jeep Compass and Jeep Patriot ended on Dec. 23, 2016.

In October 2010, the Company announced that it would invest \$600 million to support the production of future models in 2012. The investment included the construction of a 638,000-square-foot body shop, as well as the installation of new machinery, tooling and material handling equipment. On Feb. 2, 2012, the Company announced that the original \$600 million investment had increased to \$700 million and that the plant would add 1,800 jobs by the third quarter of 2012, which included nearly 500 for production of the all-new Dodge Dart. The 3-2-120 operating pattern — three crews working four 10-hour days on two shifts for 120 production hours per week — was implemented on July 23, 2012.

In January 2012, the Dodge Dart was revealed at the North American International Auto Show, showcasing the combined engineering and technologies of Chrysler Group and Fiat. Production of the Dart began on April 30, 2012, and ended on Oct. 4, 2016.

FCA announced on July 14, 2016, that it would invest \$350 million in Belvidere Assembly to produce the Jeep Cherokee, which will move from its current production location in Toledo, Ohio, in 2017 and create approximately 300 new jobs. Cherokee production began on June 1, 2017. The plant returned to a two shift operating pattern on May 6, 2019. On July 26, 2021, the plant began operating on one shift.

Awards

Belvidere Assembly's new body shop was awarded a [LEED](#) (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Green Building System certification for meeting the highest environmental standards in April 2015. LEED, administered by the United States Green Building Council, is a comprehensive system to define, measure and validate green buildings. Certification in the national recognition program is based on strict standards in five key areas: site planning, water management, energy, material use and indoor environmental quality.

World Class Manufacturing Accomplishments

On Feb. 6, 2020, Belvidere was awarded [silver status](#) for expanding the implementation of World Class Manufacturing (WCM). WCM is a methodology that focuses on eliminating waste, increasing productivity, and improving quality and safety in a systematic and organized way. It engages the workforce to provide and implement suggestions on how to improve their jobs and their plants, promoting a sense of ownership. The plant achieved silver after receiving a bronze designation on July 14, 2016.

Belvidere Satellite Stamping Plant

3000 West Chrysler Drive, Belvidere, Illinois 61008-6094

Floor Space: 330,000 square feet

Equipment: 3 automatic transfer presses, 1 tandem press line, 1 automatic blanking line, 50 unique die sets

Employment: Included in Assembly Plant total listed above

(Updated: January 2022)

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