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Macro Roundup Article

Headline: Apple Makes Plans to Move Production Out of China

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Tweet: Apple will have problems moving higher-end iPhone production to Vietnam as the former lacks China's scale of potential workers, and India is a very difficult business environment for imports and exports. @WSJ

Summary: In recent weeks, Apple has accelerated plans to shift some of its production outside China. It is telling suppliers to plan more actively for assembling Apple products elsewhere in Asia, particularly India and Vietnam, they say, and looking to reduce dependence on Taiwanese assemblers led by Foxconn. Dan Panzica, a former Foxconn executive who now advises companies on supply-chain issues, said Vietnam's manufacturing was growing quickly but was short of workers. The country has just under 100 million people, less than a 10th of China's population. It can handle 60,000-person manufacturing sites but not places such as Zhengzhou that reach into the hundreds of thousands, he said. "They're not doing high-end phones in India and Vietnam," said Mr. Panzica. "No other places can do them. India is the Wild West in terms of consistent rules and getting stuff in and out."

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Primary Topic: Trade (not deficits)

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