

Creating a Career Pathway in Advanced Manufacturing

Northeast Florida is one of the largest manufacturing regions in the state. Competitive local assets include industrial sites ranging from hundreds to more than 1,000 acres. **Two certified megasites in the region include Cecil Commerce Center and Crawford Diamond.**

While the region's well-trained workforce continues to grow, so do the number of Advanced Manufacturing establishments. Companies such as Stellar Electric found Northeast Florida an ideal area to expand. They recently invested \$28 million to triple its manufacturing capacity in Jacksonville.

Northeast Florida creates a wide variety of products for multiple industries, such as contact lenses, coffee, medical devices, solar panels, aircraft and engines, wire rod and windows. Growing subsets of the industry include aviation, medical, aerospace and manufacturing.

Manufacturing occupations offer excellent opportunities for career and wage growth. The occupations shown on the chart below represent a cross-section of entry-, mid- and executive-level positions within the industry.

FAST FACTS

11,500+ employed in the sector in the region

\$70,863 average wage per worker in Northeast Florida

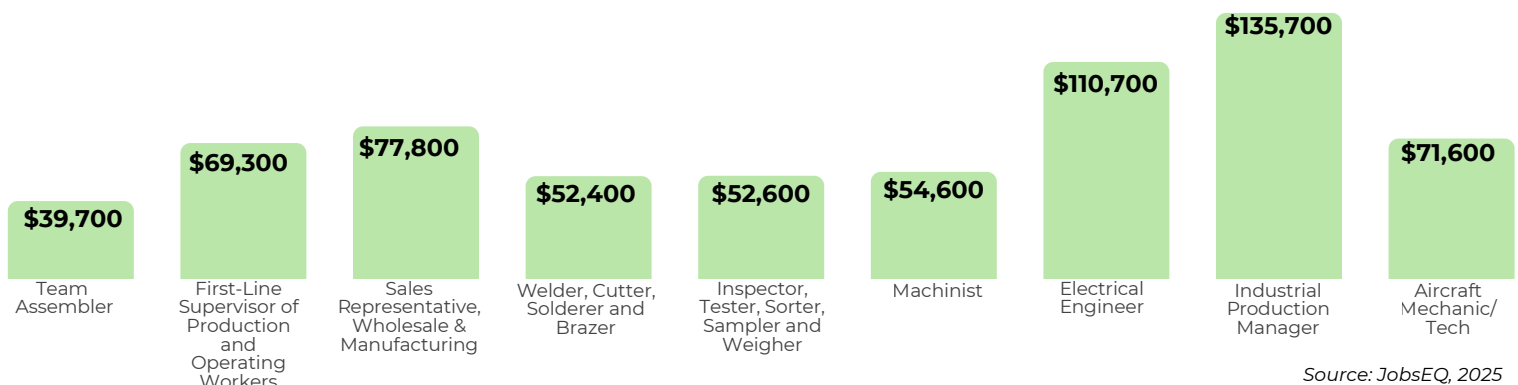
Advanced Manufacturing produced **\$2.3 Billion** in GDP in NEFL in 2022

TOP EMPLOYERS IN THE REGION



AVERAGE WAGES

Entry-Senior Level



Source: JobsEQ, 2025

Talent Pipeline

7 regional colleges & degree/certificate programs with Advanced Manufacturing (or related) concentrations

- Edward Waters University
- Florida State College at Jacksonville
- Jacksonville University
- Keiser University
- St. Johns River State College
- University of North Florida
- Flagler College

Graduate Level

- Business Administration (MBA)
- Organizational Leadership (MSOL)

ADVANCED DEGREE

- Engineering Manager (**\$159,700**)

Bachelor Level

- Advanced Manufacturing Engineering
- Applied Engineering (BS)
- Business Administration/Management (BA, BS, or BBA)
- Electrical Engineering (BSEE)
- Mechanical Engineering (BS)
- Supervision and Management (BS)

4-YEAR DEGREE

- Electrical Engineer (**\$110,700**)
- Industrial Engineer (**\$105,800**)
- Industrial Production Manager (**\$135,700**)
- Sales Representative, Wholesale & Manufacturing - Except Technical/Scientific Products (**\$108,000**)

Associate Level

- Aviation Maintenance Management or Administration (AS)
- Engineering Technology (AS)
- Industrial Management Technology (AS)

2-YEAR DEGREE

- First-Line Supervisor of Production & Operating Workers (**\$69,300**)
- Machinist (**\$54,600**)
- Electrical & Electronics Repairer, Commercial & Industrial Equipment (**\$61,100**)
- Aircraft Mechanic & Aircraft Service Technician (**\$71,600**)

Certificate Level

- Advanced Manufacturing (Automation)
- CNC Machinist/Fabricator
- Engineering Technology Support Specialist
- Level 1 Non-Destructive Testing
- Mechatronics
- Pneumatics, Hydraulics & Motors for Manufacturing
- Robotics and Simulation Technician
- Welding Technology

1 YEAR (OR LESS) CERTIFICATE

- Inspector, et al. (**\$52,600**)
- CNC Operator & Programmer (**\$47,700**)
- Welder, Cutter, Soderer & Blazer (**\$52,400**)

COMPANY-SPONSORED APPRENTICESHIP

- Machinist (**\$54,600**)

Entry Point

- High school students enrolled in any **one of 15** related Career and Technical Education (CTE) academies or curriculum, including engineering pathways. This also includes certification opportunities.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

- Inspector, Tester, Sorter, Sampler & Weigher (**\$52,600**)
- Aircraft Assembler (**\$39,700**)

DATA PROVIDED BY JOBSEQ 2025, ONET.ORG, BLS.GOV AND SALARY.COM
This represents a sampling of programs currently being offered. Curriculum is subject to change.

SELECT REGIONAL EMPLOYERS

Anheuser-Busch	Fleet Readiness Center Southeast	Micheal Baker International*	Unison Industries
Bacardi Bottling Corp.	Flightstar	Northrop Grumman	Vac-Con
BAE Systems	GE Oil & Gas	Niagara	Veritas Steel
Beaver Street Fisheries	Georgia Pacific Corporation-	Otto Aerospace	Vulcan Materials Company *
Boeing*	Palatka	Perdue*	WestRock
Boston Whaler	Gerdau Ameristeel	Pilot Pen Corporation	Wing Group
BRPH*	Grace Aerospace	Rayonier	Workscapes*
Carlisle Interconnect Technologies	Hans Mill *	Rayonier Advanced Materials	
Coca-Cola Refreshments	Ideal Aluminum	Ring Power	
Collins Aerospace	Jacksonville Aviation Authority	Safariland	
Colomer USA	Jinko Solar *	SAFT America Inc.	
Custom Made Meals	Johnson & Johnson Vision*	Sapa Extrusions North America	
Dr. Pepper Snapple Group	Kaman	Sea Ray Boats	
	Medtronic	SEMCO Southeastern Metals	

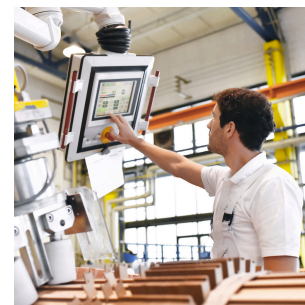
*JAXUSA Partnership Investor/ +JAX Chamber Investor

*To view full list of headquarters, [visit jaxusa.org](http://visit.jaxusa.org).

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INCLUDES AVIATION AND AEROSPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Otto Aviation, now Otto Aerospace, a Texas-based aviation company known for its innovation in fuel-efficient aircraft, has officially selected Jacksonville as the location for its new manufacturing and production facility. The company plans to invest more than \$430 million in two phases at Cecil Airport, which includes the construction of a state-of-the-art facility to produce its “next-generation” Phantom 3500 aircraft as well as the relocation of its headquarters from Fort Worth to Jacksonville.

The Otto Aviation contract is expected to generate significant economic benefits for the Jacksonville region, including job creation, increased tax revenue and enhanced aviation capabilities at Cecil Airport. The agreement aligns with the strategic visions of JAA and JAXUSA Partnership to position Jacksonville as a premier aviation destination in the Southeast.



JAXUSA TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Anna Lebesch, Senior Vice President
(904)366-6651 or alebesch@jaxusa.org

Earn Up is powered by JAXUSA Partnership, the private, nonprofit division of JAX Chamber that is Jacksonville's regional economic development initiative overseeing the efforts of the seven counties of Northeast Florida. Earn Up also works closely with CareerSource Northeast Florida to ensure that employers have the best assistance or any pertinent workforce needs.