

## 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, which is why 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, windows and more.**

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

**39,300+** employed in the sector in the region

**\$84,895** average wage per worker in Northeast Florida

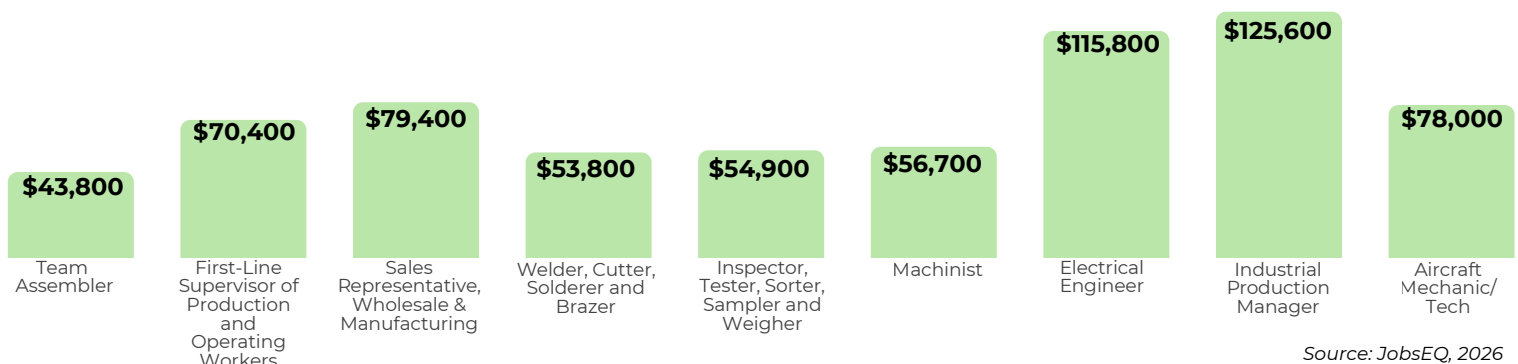
Advanced Manufacturing produced **\$2.3 Billion** in GDP in NEFL in 2022

## TOP EMPLOYERS IN THE REGION



## AVERAGE WAGES

Entry-Senior Level



Source: JobsEQ, 2026

## Talent Pipeline

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
- University of Florida (Graduate Campus)

### Graduate Level

- Business Administration (MBA or DBA)
- Organizational Leadership (MSOL)
- Engineering Management (MS)

#### ADVANCED DEGREE

- Engineering Manager **(\$144,500)**

### Bachelor Level

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

#### 4-YEAR DEGREE

- Electrical Engineer **(\$115,800)**
- Industrial Engineer **(\$102,500)**
- Industrial Production Manager **(\$135,900)**
- Sales Representative, Wholesale & Manufacturing - Except Technical/Scientific Products **(\$79,400)**

### Associate Level

- Aviation Maintenance Management or Administration (AS)
- Engineering Technology (AS)
- Industry Operations Management (AS)

#### 2-YEAR DEGREE

- First-Line Supervisor of Production & Operating Workers **(\$70,400)**
- Machinist **(\$56,700)**
- Electrical & Electronics Repairer, Commercial & Industrial Equipment **(\$71,300)**
- Aircraft Mechanic & Aircraft Service Technician **(\$78,000)**

### Certificate Level

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

#### 1 YEAR (OR LESS) CERTIFICATE

- Inspector, et al. **(\$54,900)**
- CNC Operator & Programmer **(\$48,400)**
- Welder, Cutter, Soderer & Blazer **(\$53,800)**

#### COMPANY-SPONSORED APPRENTICESHIP

- Machinist **(\$56,700)**

### Entry Point

- High school students enrolled in any **one of 27** 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 **(\$54,900)**
- Aircraft Assembler **(\$43,800)**

DATA PROVIDED BY JOBSEQ 2026, ONET.ORG, BLS.GOV AND INDEED.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 investors, [visit.jaxusa.org](http://visit.jaxusa.org).

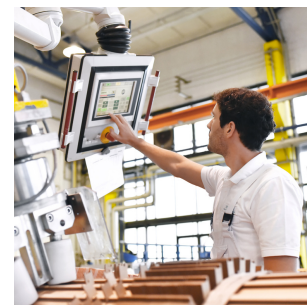
## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING INCLUDES AVIATION AND AEROSPACE OPPORTUNITIES

Otto Aerospace, a Texas-based aviation company known for its innovation in fuel-efficient aircraft, officially selected Jacksonville as the location for its new manufacturing and production facility in 2025.

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 project 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

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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.