

# STATE OF THE SECTOR

## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING



### FAST FACTS:

**CECIL COMMERCE CENTER**  
IS THE LARGEST INDUSTRIAL PARK IN THE SOUTHEAST

**31,847**  
EMPLOYED IN SECTOR  
SOURCE: JOBS EQ

**4 MEGASITES**  
ARE CERTIFIED AND SHOVEL-READY FOR ANY SIZE PROJECT

Northeast Florida is one of the largest manufacturing regions in the state. Competitive local assets including JAXPORT, three major rail lines, low electricity costs and ample available land for large facilities and operations provide the necessary infrastructure for innovative advanced manufacturing companies.

The region's well-trained workforce is growing and will continue to outpace the U.S. average over the next decade, especially in areas of maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) and device manufacturing. Companies such as Georgia Pacific in Palatka are finding this an ideal area for company expansion, making a \$400 million investment in its Palatka mill.

### TOP REGIONAL EMPLOYERS (2018)

	No. of employees
<b>JOHNSON &amp; JOHNSON VISION CARE</b> – Contact Lens Manufacturing	2,500
<b>FLIGHTSTAR AIRCRAFT SERVICES</b> – Heavy MRO	1,300
<b>RAYONIER ADVANCED MATERIALS</b> – Global supplier of high-purity fibers	1,200
<b>NORTHROP GRUMMAN</b> – Aircraft Manufacturing	1,100
<b>GEORGIA PACIFIC CORPORATION, PALATKA</b> – Pulp & Paper Operations	1,010



**6** regional colleges & universities offering degree or certificate programs with **Manufacturing** concentrations

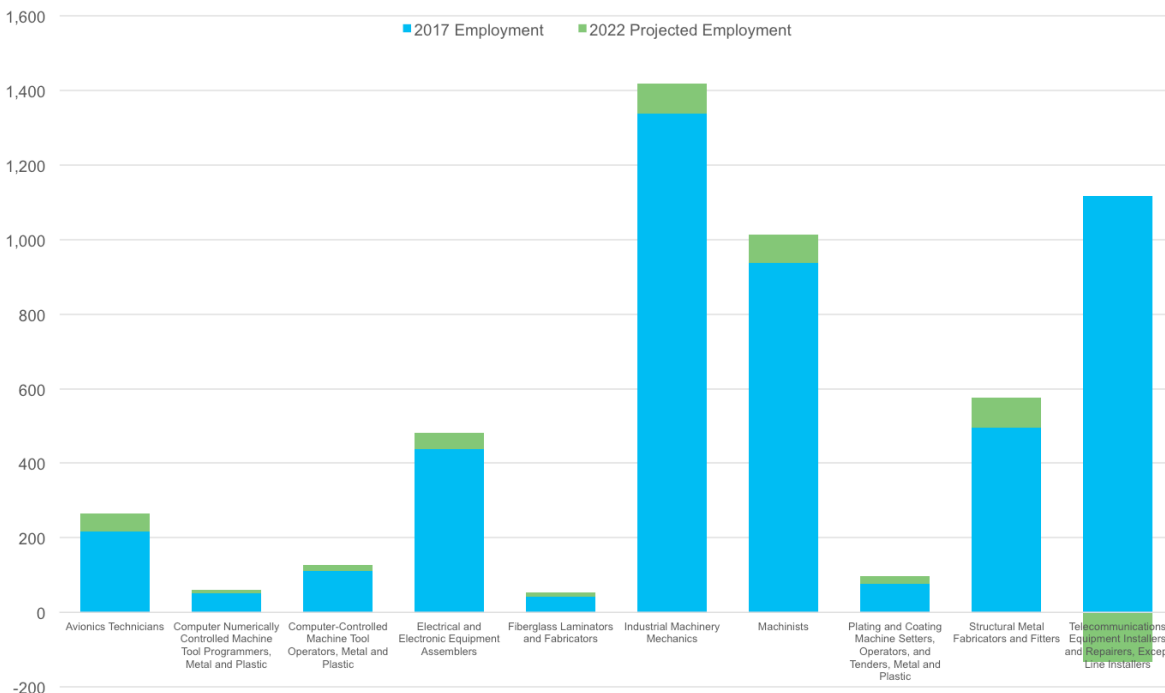


**809** students enrolled in CTE academies focusing on **Manufacturing**



**TALENT PIPELINE**

### Advanced Manufacturing Occupations



Our region employs nearly **32,000 people** in the Manufacturing sector, creating products required in a variety of industries, such as aviation, automotive, food and beverage, rail, and medical equipment.

Manufacturing occupations offer excellent opportunities for wage growth. Average annual earnings for stable jobs are at \$61,145, with average annual wages for new industry jobs at \$46,044.

Production occupations specifically also offer opportunities for significant wage increases throughout an individual's career, with a \$17,100 spike in wages comparing entry level to experienced workers.

# »» JAXUSA INDUSTRY EXPERT INSIGHT

## Project Activity

Manufacturing projects have continued to come to fruition in the region, both by existing businesses and companies new to the region. **Rulon International** in St. Johns County specializes in high end wood products, such as ceilings and walls for venues like museums and opera houses. The company undertook a 20% expansion in 2018 after initially locating here in 2006. Intrigued by JAXPort and the available labor force, **USA Quartz** moved operations from West Palm Beach into 62,000 square feet in 2017, with the \$5,600,000 in capital investment resulting in 70 jobs. **JinkoSolar**, a solar panel manufacturer, is set to open a facility in late 2018 at the Cecil Commerce Center. A \$50,500,000 investment will be made, with an initial 100 jobs being filled, with 200 filled over the course of two years.



**Aaron Bowman**  
SVP, Business Development  
JAXUSA Partnership

## Employer Needs

As more individuals retire from skilled trades, manufacturers requiring that skill set continue to look to local educational partners to offer training to fill the pending void. Many manufacturers, however, are moving to automated processes. As a result, jobs that used to require 20 people may now require 7 people. So, there is still a need to engage prospective talent to enter the manufacturing field at higher skill levels, but in reduced headcount.

## Current and Future Trends

Manufacturing will continue to prove its evolution from an industry considered dangerous, unstable, and lacking in opportunity to one that is high-tech, safe, and streamlined. Due to increased automation, tasks are required in the manufacturing space that require different skills. There will continue to be a demand for talent, but for those who are more technically skilled. Instead of physical labor, there is a need for process control techs, for example.

## EMPLOYER BEST PRACTICE

### JOHNSON & JOHNSON VISION CARE ACADEMY

At Englewood High School, part of Duval County Public Schools, an academy involving Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. Academy of Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering and Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) has been operational for two school years. Three seniors graduated in 2018, with 51 freshman and sophomores will participate in this program which provides a solid STEM foundation on which to build. With the understanding that STEM careers afford increased opportunity and earnings potential for students, school officials and private industry have partnered to create this academy aimed at shrinking the skills gap.



(Source: Will Dickey | Florida Times-Union)

Students taking the class earn college credit, have the chance to network and develop relationships with industry professionals, and garner work experience in STEM related careers. Students completing coursework, which occurs on both the high school and college campuses, graduate with not only a high school diploma, but also an Associate of Science Degree (AS) in Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering from FSCJ. Transportation is provided from the high school to the FSCJ Downtown campus during the junior and senior years, alleviating any concerns about transportation needed to participate.

Paid internships at Johnson & Johnson Vision Care are offered in the students' final two summers in high school. Another positive aspect of the academy is the offer of "priority interview status" once a student has completed the program. Johnson & Johnson Vision Care is a leader in this area as far as training opportunities for existing staff, as well as reaching out into local schools. In fact, J & J won the 2017 First Coast Manufacturers Association Workforce Education Award. Abe Alangadan, senior portfolio manager, is highly involved in the academy and advocates for its absolute need in Jacksonville. He states: "Through this incredible partnership, students graduate from high school with a 2-year degree and 2 summers worth of internship experience. They have a distinct advantage when entering the workforce. This is an excellent way for businesses to develop their own talent pool."



**JAXUSA Partnership** works closely with **CareerSource Northeast Florida** to ensure that employers have the best assistance for any pertinent workforce needs. For more information, please contact:

- ▼ **Roben Faircloth**, Industry Sector Manager, Manufacturing, Aviation and Aerospace  
(904) 798-9229 ext. 2228 or [rfaircloth@careersourcenefl.com](mailto:rfaircloth@careersourcenefl.com)



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