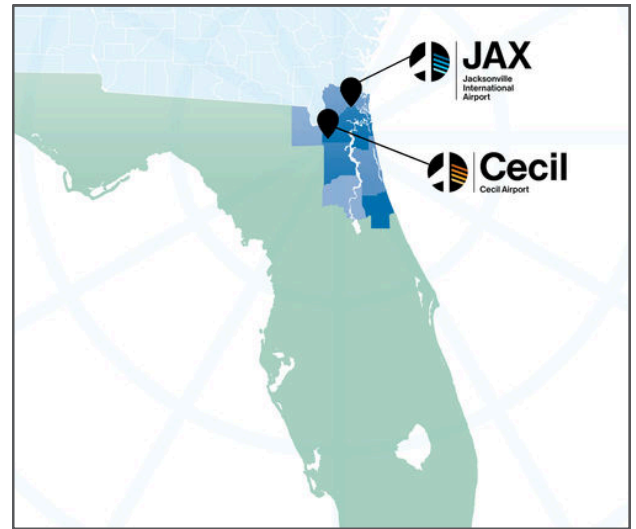


AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING

Why Jacksonville?

Located along the East Coast of the United States, Jacksonville is home to three Fortune 500 headquarters, thriving businesses and startups and waterways that inspire innovation and well-being. With 1.9 million residents, the Jacksonville region is consistently named a supernova market by Urban Land Institute, designated for its sustained population and job growth; above average levels of economic diversity and white-collar employment; and strong investor appeal.

Delivering the perfect combination of talent, infrastructure and available office and industrial space, the region is risk averse and not dependent on any one industry. Instead, Jacksonville offers a diverse industry mix due to its range of assets in environment, infrastructure, talent and education.



Aerospace Manufacturing Industry

The Jacksonville region is no stranger to the space industry. Jacksonville's **Cecil Spaceport** is the first licensed horizontal launch commercial spaceport on the East Coast and one of only nine in the country. Companies like Aevum, Inc. and Generation Orbit Launch Services, among others, have utilized the spaceport's rocket motor testing facilities, as necessary steps toward full launches at Cecil.

This focus on aerospace leads to a natural **drive for aerospace manufacturing companies to locate and expand in the region**, and specifically surrounding Cecil Commerce Center. With lower costs to conducting business, aerospace manufacturers have found success in Jacksonville including Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Embraer, KAMAN Aerospace, Redwire Space, Collins Aerospace and Fleet Readiness Center Southeast, which is one of the largest manufacturers in the Southeastern United States with more than 5,300 employees. **Construction costs are 14 percent lower than the U.S. average and the cost to lease commercial industrial space is \$10.35**, which makes the Jacksonville region an affordable and efficient location for any advanced manufacturing operation.

FLORIDA TAX ANALYSIS

- **#4 Tax-Friendliest State***
- **No Corporate Franchise Tax**
- **No State Personal Income Tax**
- **No Inventory Tax**
- **6.0% state sales & use tax**
- **5.5% corporate income tax**

*Tax Foundation, 2023

COMPARISONS OF SELECT OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES

OCCUPATION	JACKSONVILLE, FL MSA	SAN JOSE- SUNNYVALE- SANTA CLARA, CA MSA	PALM BAY- MELBOURNE- TITUSVILLE, FL MSA	JACKSONVILLE, FL MSA	SAN JOSE- SUNNYVALE- SANTA CLARA, CA MSA	PALM BAY- MELBOURNE- TITUSVILLE, FL MSA
	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES			AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE		
Aerospace Engineers	354	1,279	1,120	\$115,400	\$148,400	\$133,000
Electrical Engineers	668	4,647	754	\$107,900	\$179,800	\$116,100
Industrial Engineers	1,092	3,882	1,380	\$102,000	\$134,900	\$104,100
Mechanical Engineers	740	4,007	762	\$102,400	\$150,800	\$104,400
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians	138	175	210	\$74,100	\$99,900	\$93,500

Source: JobsEQ®

Aerospace Manufacturing Highlights: Boeing in Jacksonville

Boeing: The world's largest aerospace company and leading provider of commercial airplanes, defense, space and security systems and global services, Boeing, opened a \$245.8 million maintenance and repair facility in February of 2024 at Cecil Field. Boeing's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hangar, in addition to the \$39 million component operations facility, will create more than 300 jobs in the Jacksonville region. In June of 2024, the company also announced another \$90 million expansion at Cecil Airport with a 201,714-square-foot four-bay hangar that will serve as an MRO for KC-46A aircraft used to refuel military planes as well.

Boeing has had consistent growth since starting its Jacksonville operations in 1999. After extending its lease for another 25 years at Cecil in 2020, Boeing continues to lease six facilities totaling 402,335 square feet that provide mission support, engineering, aircraft maintenance, and training for the U.S. Navy and other military and civilian aviation interests.

Cecil Airport and Spaceport Improvements

Cecil Field is poised to further bolster the local economy and prosperity of existing and future companies thanks to \$13 million in state funding received by Jacksonville Aviation Authority. The funds will launch a new two-mile road opening hundreds of acres for development that will service the Boeing aircraft facility and future Cecil Spaceport aerospace business. Most recently, Governor DeSantis also awarded a \$5.5 million grant that will go to the construction of a 3-mile rail spur at Cecil. Soon to be accessible to the dual rail line north of Interstate 10, the access that will be offered by Cecil makes it one of the most desired locations for manufacturing, supply chain logistics and industrialized infrastructure throughout the Southeast.

Education and Talent Pipeline

Within a 250-mile radius of the region, there are approximately **332,410 college and university graduates annually** in programs that offer support for manufacturing, aviation & aerospace and tech. The institutions include University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and others.

The aviation and aerospace manufacturing taking place in the region is amplified by the available workforce. With one of the highest concentrations of veterans in the state of Florida, numerous military personnel from the region's four military installations choose to remain in Northeast Florida upon military separation annually. Additionally, universities in and around Jacksonville are among the nation's top producers of STEM graduates, including many specializing in aviation and aerospace. Programs at Florida State College at Jacksonville's (FSCJ) Aviation Center of Excellence, University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the newly established University of Florida graduate campus in Downtown Jacksonville, as well as area high school aviation career academies, are delivering the talent needed to meet the demands of the competitive industry.

Cecil Commerce Center

Jacksonville Aviation Authority's diversified airport system oversees four airport facilities, including Cecil Airport, a haven for aeronautical, manufacturing and logistics business. The airport is equipped with four runways including Florida's third-longest at 12,500 feet and is home to Cecil Spaceport, providing **fertile ground for aerospace businesses to grow.**

It is also home to the largest aviation industrial park in the Southeast, Cecil Commerce Center, representing more than three percent of the land area in the county, including an 800-acre certified megasite and a master-planned, multimodal business park known as AllianceFlorida.

Through a public-private partnership between the city of Jacksonville and Hillwood, more than \$150 million in infrastructure investment has been made to ensure its fully ready for immediate operations. The park's total build-out is anticipated to be nearly 34 million square feet of manufacturing, distribution and warehousing.

TOP EMPLOYERS AT CECIL COMMERCE CENTER

Boeing	Saft
LSI, Inc.	U.S. Coast Guard
Lockheed Martin Corp.	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Fleet Readiness Center Southeast	GRACE Aerospace
Tactical Air Support	Cosentino
Florida State College at Jacksonville	Flightstar Aircraft Services

About JAXUSA Partnership

JAXUSA Partnership, a division of JAX Chamber, is Jacksonville's regional economic development initiative. Using strategic research and targeted marketing, JAXUSA focuses on recruiting new companies, increasing private capital investment and expanding the existing business community. Economic development partners in the seven-county region situated in Northeast Florida comprise the strong partnership that drives the business development process.



Aundra Wallace
PRESIDENT
904.366.6654
awallace@jaxusa.org



John Freeman
SENIOR DIRECTOR, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
904.366.6682
jfreeman@jaxusa.org