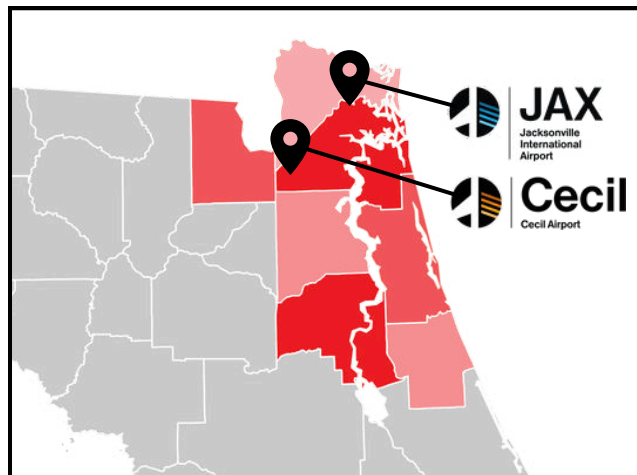




WHY JACKSONVILLE?

Located along the East Coast of the United States, Jacksonville is home to four 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**, 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 5,500 employees. **Construction costs are 13 percent lower than the U.S. average, and the cost to lease commercial industrial space is \$10.76 per square foot**, 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, 2024

COMPARISON OF SELECT OCCUPANTS 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	304	1,240	982	\$117,300	\$165,400	\$135,400
Electrical Engineers	632	4,458	691	\$108,400	\$193,000	\$120,500
Industrial Engineers	1,116	3,554	1,367	\$104,200	\$148,400	\$105,100
Mechanical Engineers	801	3,811	795	\$103,000	\$161,700	\$107,300
Aerospace Engineering and Operations Technologists and Technicians	183	144	289	\$87,900	\$108,200	\$91,000

Source: JobsEQ®, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS: HERMEUS IN JAX

Jacksonville has been selected to host Hermeus’ new hypersonic engine testing facility. Named HEAT (High Enthalpy Air-Breathing Test), the **Jacksonville facility will be Hermeus’ largest and most technologically advanced test site** to date and become a national asset for hypersonic testing. Located at Cecil Airport, this addition to Jacksonville will bring a total of 100 new high-wage jobs and a capital investment of \$135 million to the region. The objective of this new testing facility is to evaluate hypersonic aircraft engines that will offer transatlantic travel. Reaching five times the speed of sound, these engines have the potential to offer a 90-minute flight from New York to London.

CECIL AIRPORT & 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 **108,817 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 College of Jacksonville, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and others.

The region’s strong workforce is bolstered by **one of Florida’s highest concentrations of veterans**, many of whom stay in Northeast Florida after military service. Additionally, local universities are among the nation’s top producers of STEM graduates, many specializing in aviation and aerospace, which are supported by programs at Florida State College at Jacksonville’s 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.

The **University of Florida will establish the Florida Semiconductor Institute** at their new Downtown Jacksonville graduate campus. The Semiconductor Institute will drive high-impact research and development programs, expand the talent pipeline and coordinate the state’s semiconductor ecosystem. The goal is to create more than 10,000 new high-wage jobs, foster public-private partnerships and, in doing so, expand the semiconductor industry throughout Florida.

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.**

Jacksonville is also **home to the largest aviation industrial park in the Southeast**, Cecil Commerce Center, representing more than 3 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 it’s 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 PARTNERSHIPS

JAXUSA Partnerships, 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.



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