



Industry Spotlight

Aviation & Aerospace

Polk County, Florida



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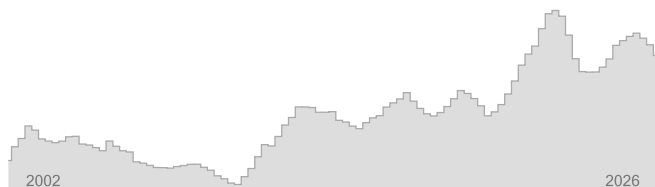
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Spotlight Summary

Aviation & Aerospace
Polk County, Florida – 2026Q1

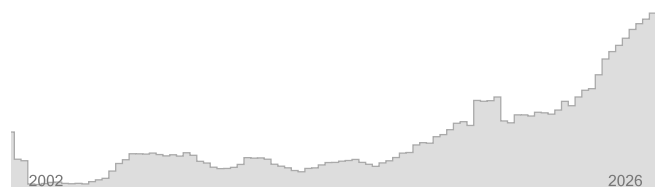
EMPLOYMENT



379

Regional employment / **1,642,543** in the nation

WAGES



\$71,999

Avg Wages per Worker / **\$115,457** in the nation

2.3%

Avg Ann % Change Last 10 Years / **+2.0%** in the U.S.



0.1%

% of Total Employment / **1.0%** in the U.S.

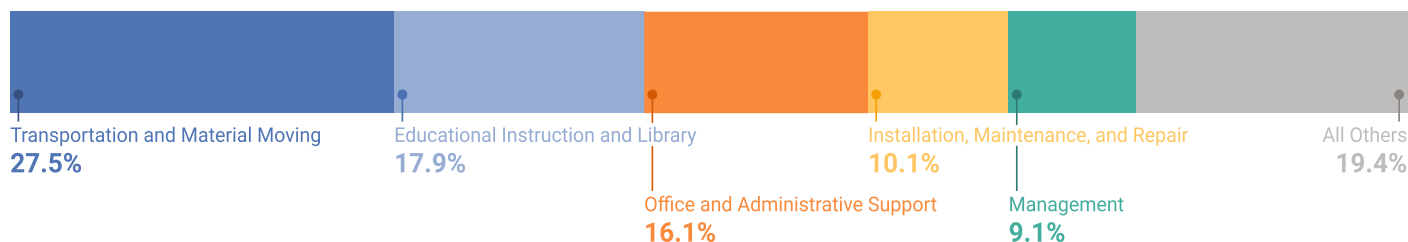


5.9%

Avg Ann % Change Last 10 Years / **+3.3%** in the U.S.



TOP OCCUPATION GROUPS



TOP INDUSTRIES

Avg Ann % Change in Employment, Last 10 Years

4.5 %



Flight Training

-4.5 %



Other Support Activities for Air Transportation

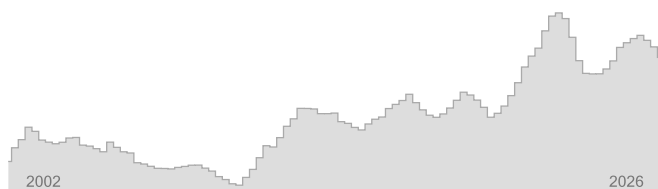
31.5 %



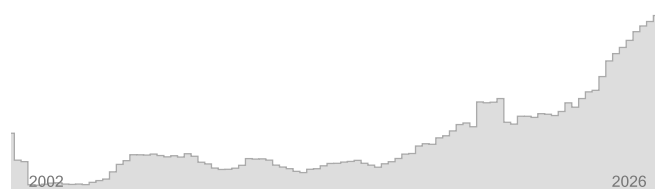
Other Nonscheduled Air Transportation

Industry Snapshot

EMPLOYMENT



WAGES

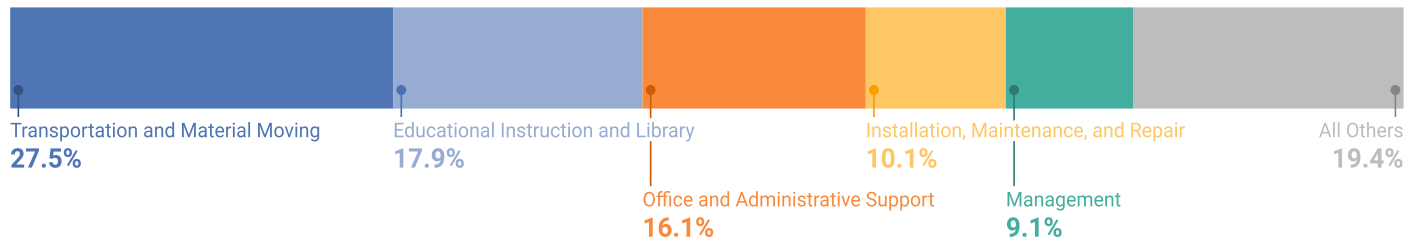


6-Digit Industry	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	5yr History	Annual Demand	Forecast Ann Growth
Flight Training	161	\$82,110	2.92		17	2.2%
Other Support Activities for Air Transportation	73	\$53,220	0.29		9	2.2%
Other Nonscheduled Air Transportation	30	\$110,334	1.93		4	2.3%
Scheduled Freight Air Transportation	29	\$70,641	1.16		4	2.2%
Nonscheduled Chartered Passenger Air Transportation	26	\$40,851	0.36		3	2.3%
Air Traffic Control	25	\$85,410	0.71		3	2.2%
Aircraft Engine and Engine Parts Manufacturing	9	\$57,519	0.05		1	2.6%
Aircraft Manufacturing	8	\$42,306	0.02		1	2.7%
Other Airport Operations	5	\$32,914	0.02		1	2.2%
Search, Detection, Navigation, Guidance, Aeronautical, and Nautical System and Instrument Manufacturing	4	\$78,537	0.02		0	2.1%
Remaining Component Industries	8	\$47,391	0.02		1	2.7%
Aviation & Aerospace	379	\$71,999	0.13		45	2.2%

💡 Employment is one of the broadest and most timely measures of a region's economy. Fluctuations in the number of jobs shed light on the health of an industry. A growing employment base creates more opportunities for regional residents and helps a region grow its population.

💡 Since wages and salaries generally compose the majority of a household's income, the annual average wages of a region affect its average household income, housing market, quality of life, and other socioeconomic indicators.

Staffing Pattern



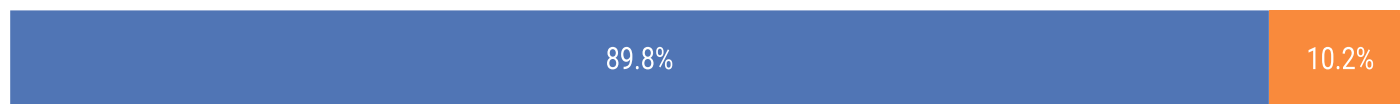
6-digit Occupation	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	Annual Demand
Career/Technical Education Teachers, Postsecondary	47	\$66,200	5
Commercial Pilots	33	\$147,600	5
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	25	\$63,900	3
Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	14	\$47,900	2
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	13	\$41,100	2
Flight Attendants	9	\$62,400	2
General and Operations Managers	8	\$127,200	1
Customer Service Representatives	8	\$43,900	1
Training and Development Specialists	8	\$68,000	1
Educational, Guidance, and Career Counselors and Advisors	8	\$58,400	1
Remaining Component Occupations	174	\$79,700	22
Total	347		

 The mix of occupations points to the ability of a region to support an industry and its flexibility to adapt to future demand. Industry wages are a component of the cost of labor for regional employers.

Employment Distribution by Type

The table below shows the employment mix by ownership type for Aviation & Aerospace for Polk County, Florida. Four of these ownership types — federal, state, and local government and the private sector — together constitute “Covered Employment” (employment covered by the Unemployment Insurance programs of the United States and reported via the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages).

“Self-Employment” refers to unincorporated self-employment and represents workers whose primary job is self-employment (that is, these data do not include workers whose primary job is a wage-and-salary position that is supplemented with self-employment).



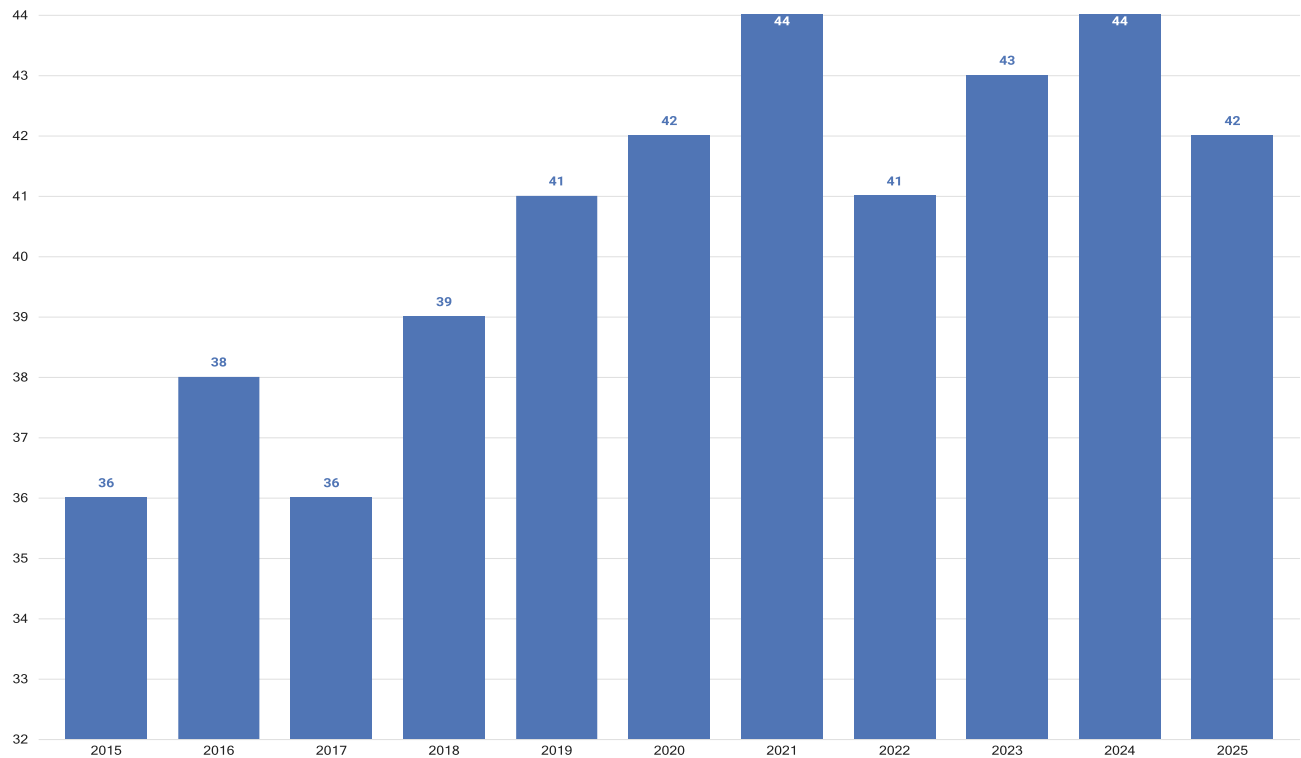
	Empl	%
Private	340	89.8%
Self-Employment	39	10.2%
Other Non-Covered	0	0.0%

Source: JobsEQ®

 Strong entrepreneurial activity is indicative of growing industries. Using self-employment as a proxy for entrepreneurs, a higher share of self-employed individuals within a regional industry points to future growth.

Establishments

In 2025, there were 42 Aviation & Aerospace establishments in Polk County, Florida (per covered employment establishment counts), an increase from 36 establishments ten years earlier in 2015.



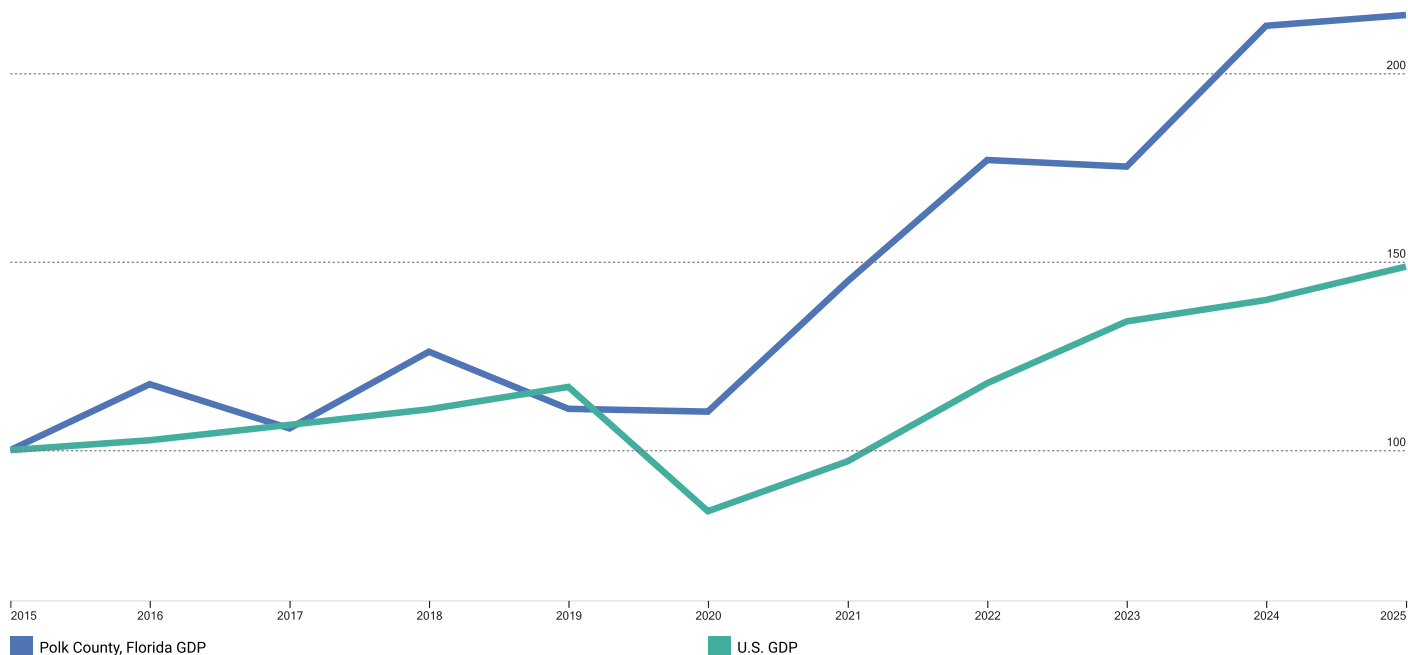
Source: JobsEQ®

💡 New business formations are an important source of job creation in a regional economy, spurring innovation and competition, and driving productivity growth. Establishment data can provide an indicator of growth in businesses by counting each single location (such as a factory or a store) where business activity takes place, and with at least one employee.

GDP & Productivity

In 2025, Aviation & Aerospace produced \$51.1 million in GDP for Polk County, Florida.

GDP: Indexed 2015 = 100



0.1 %

Industry Share of Total GDP /
1.4 % in the nation



8.0 % ↑

Avg Ann % Change Last 10 Yrs /
4.0 % in the nation



\$211k

Output per Worker /
\$465k in the nation



💡 Gross domestic product (GDP) is the most comprehensive measure of regional economic activity, and an industry's contribution to GDP is an important indicator of regional industry strength. It is a measure of total value-added to a regional economy in the form of labor income, proprietor's income, and business profits, among others. GDP values shown on this page are nominal GDP data.

💡 Growth in productivity (output per worker) leads to increases in wealth and higher average standards of living in a region.

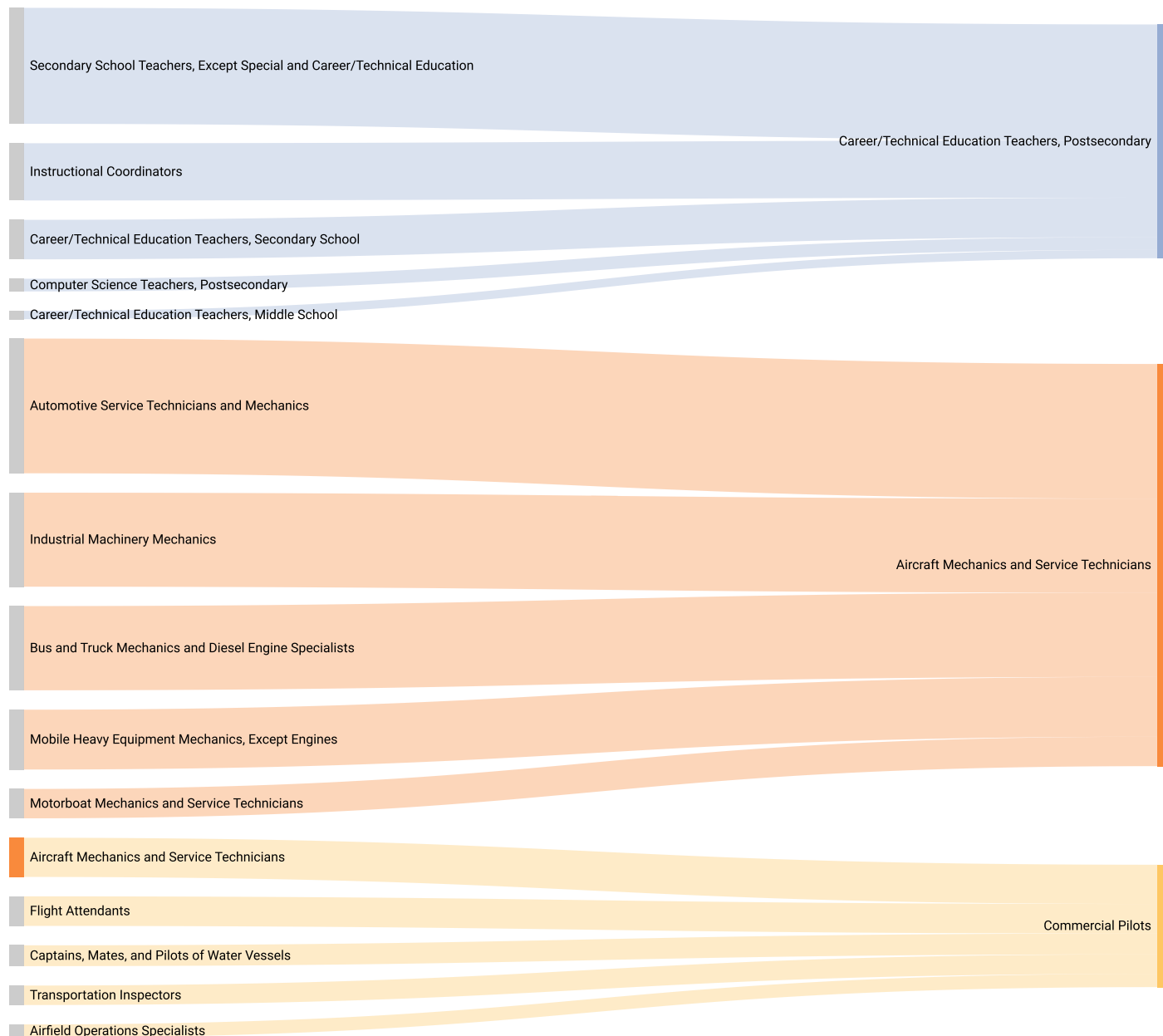
Supply Chain: Top Suppliers

As of 2026Q1, Aviation & Aerospace in Polk County, Florida are estimated to make \$38.6 million in annual purchases from suppliers in the United States with about 45% or \$17.4 million of these purchases being made from businesses located in Polk County, Florida.

6-digit Supplier Industries	Purchases from In-Region (\$000s)	Purchases from Out-of-Region (\$000s)
Investment Banking and Securities Intermediation	\$364.0	\$1,283.0
Aircraft Engine and Engine Parts Manufacturing	\$296.0	\$1,255.0
Freight Transportation Arrangement	\$836.0	\$500.0
Couriers and Express Delivery Services	\$1,180.0	\$152.0
Petroleum Refineries	<\$0.1	\$1,302.0
Remaining Supplier Industries	\$14,763.0	\$16,690.0
Total	\$17,439.0	\$21,182.0

 Supplier-buyer networks can indicate local linkages between industries, regional capacity to support growth in an industry, and potential leakage of sales out of the region.

Sector Strategy Pathways



 The graphics on this page illustrate relationships and potential movement (from left to right) between occupations that share similar skill sets. Developing career pathways as a strategy promotes industry employment growth and workforce engagement.

Postsecondary Programs Linked to Aviation & Aerospace

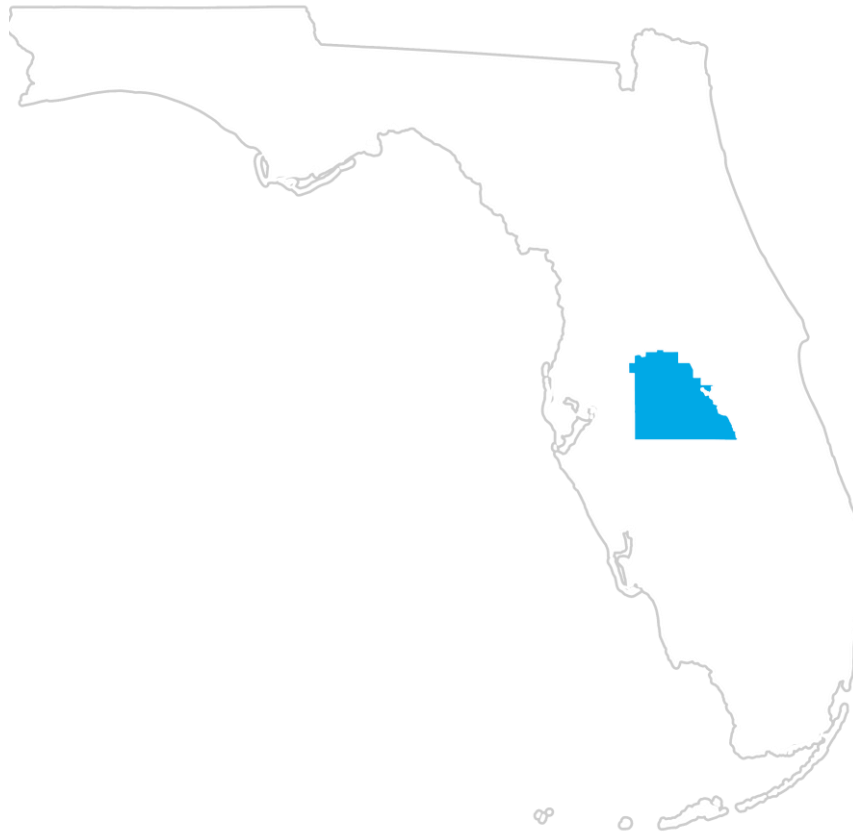
Program	Awards
Florida Polytechnic University	
Mechanical Engineering	52
Florida Southern College	
Educational Leadership and Administration, General	21
Organizational Communication, General	16
Polk State College	
Airline/Commercial/Professional Pilot and Flight Crew	10
Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies	794
Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	202
Southeastern University	
Educational Leadership and Administration, General	53
General Studies	116
Traviss Technical College	
Aircraft Powerplant Technology/Technician	19
Airframe Mechanics and Aircraft Maintenance Technology/Technician	13

Source: [JobsEQ®](http://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq)

 The number of graduates from postsecondary programs in the region identifies the pipeline of future workers as well as the training capacity to support industry demand.

 Among postsecondary programs at schools located in Polk County, Florida, the sampling above identifies those most linked to occupations relevant to Aviation & Aerospace. For a complete list see JobsEQ®, <http://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq>

Polk County, Florida Regional Map



Data Notes

- Industry employment and wages (including total regional employment and wages) are as of 2026Q1 and are based upon BLS QCEW data, imputed by Chmura where necessary, and supplemented by additional sources including Census ZBP data. Employment forecasts are modeled by Chmura and are consistent with BLS national-level 10-year forecasts.
- Occupation employment is as of 2026Q1 and is based on industry employment and local staffing patterns calculated by Chmura and utilizing BLS OEWS data. Wages by occupation are as of 2026, utilizing BLS OEWS data and imputed by Chmura.
- GDP is derived from BEA data and imputations by Chmura. Productivity (output per worker) is calculated by Chmura using industry employment and wages as well as GDP and BLS output data. Supply chain modeling including purchases by industry are developed by Chmura.
- Postsecondary awards are per the NCES and are for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Establishment counts are per the BLS QCEW data.
- Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Industry Definition

Aviation & Aerospace is defined as the following NAICS industries:

Code	Description
334511	Search, Detection, Navigation, Guidance, Aeronautical, and Nautical System and Instrument Manufacturing
336411	Aircraft Manufacturing
336412	Aircraft Engine and Engine Parts Manufacturing
336413	Other Aircraft Parts and Auxiliary Equipment Manufacturing
336414	Guided Missile and Space Vehicle Manufacturing
336415	Guided Missile and Space Vehicle Propulsion Unit and Propulsion Unit Parts Manufacturing
336419	Other Guided Missile and Space Vehicle Parts and Auxiliary Equipment Manufacturing
481111	Scheduled Passenger Air Transportation
481112	Scheduled Freight Air Transportation
481211	Nonscheduled Chartered Passenger Air Transportation
481212	Nonscheduled Chartered Freight Air Transportation
481219	Other Nonscheduled Air Transportation
488111	Air Traffic Control
488119	Other Airport Operations
488190	Other Support Activities for Air Transportation
517410	Satellite Telecommunications
611512	Flight Training

FAQ

What is (LQ) location quotient?

Location quotient is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is annual demand?

Annual demand is a of the sum of the annual projected growth demand and separation demand. Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. Growth demand is the increase or decrease of jobs expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.