



Industry Spotlight

Manufacturing

Polk County, Florida



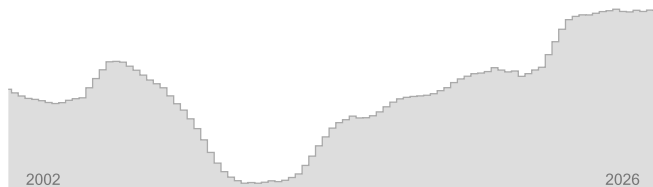
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Manufacturing Polk County, Florida – 2026Q1

EMPLOYMENT



20,157

Regional employment / **12,884,000** in the nation

1.7%

Avg Ann % Change Last 10
Years / **+0.2%** in the US



6.9%

% of Total Employment /
7.7% in the US



WAGES



\$75,039

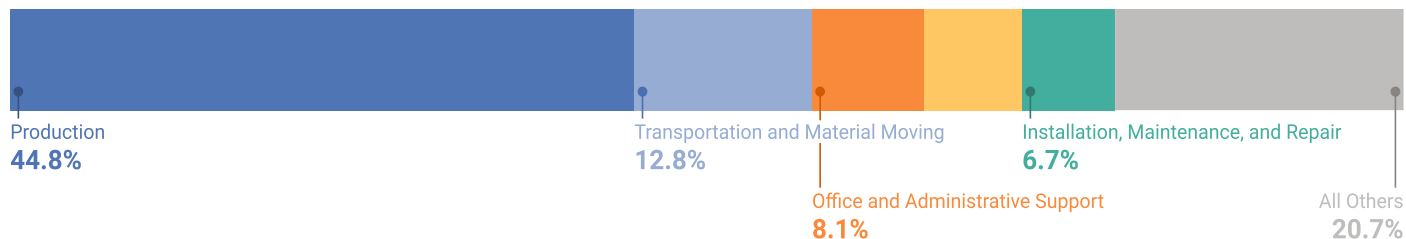
Avg Wages per Worker / **\$89,206** in the nation

4.2%

Avg Ann % Change Last 10
Years / **+3.5%** in the US

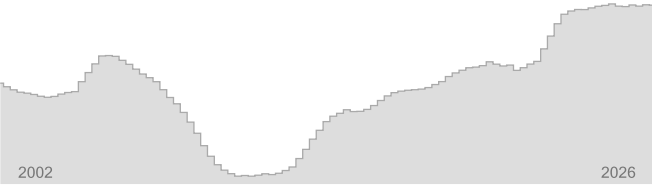


TOP OCCUPATION GROUPS

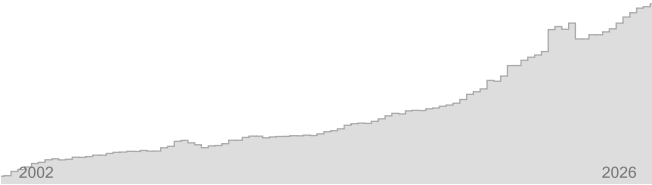


Industry Snapshot

EMPLOYMENT



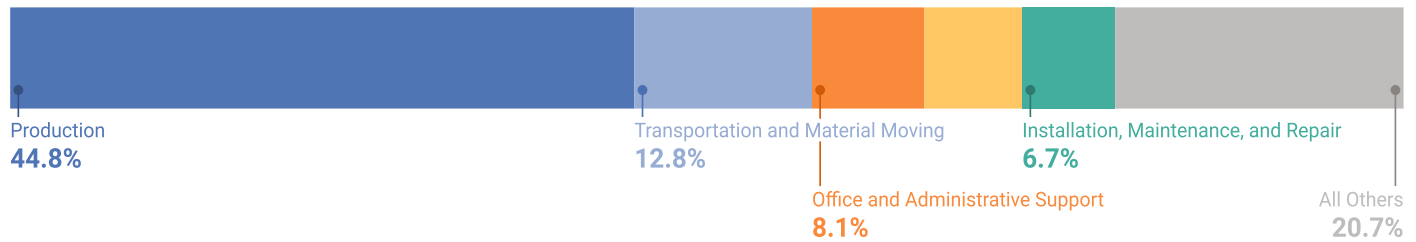
WAGES



2-Digit Industry	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	5yr History	Annual Demand	Forecast Ann Growth
Manufacturing	20,157	\$75,039	0.89		2,378	1.9%

- 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

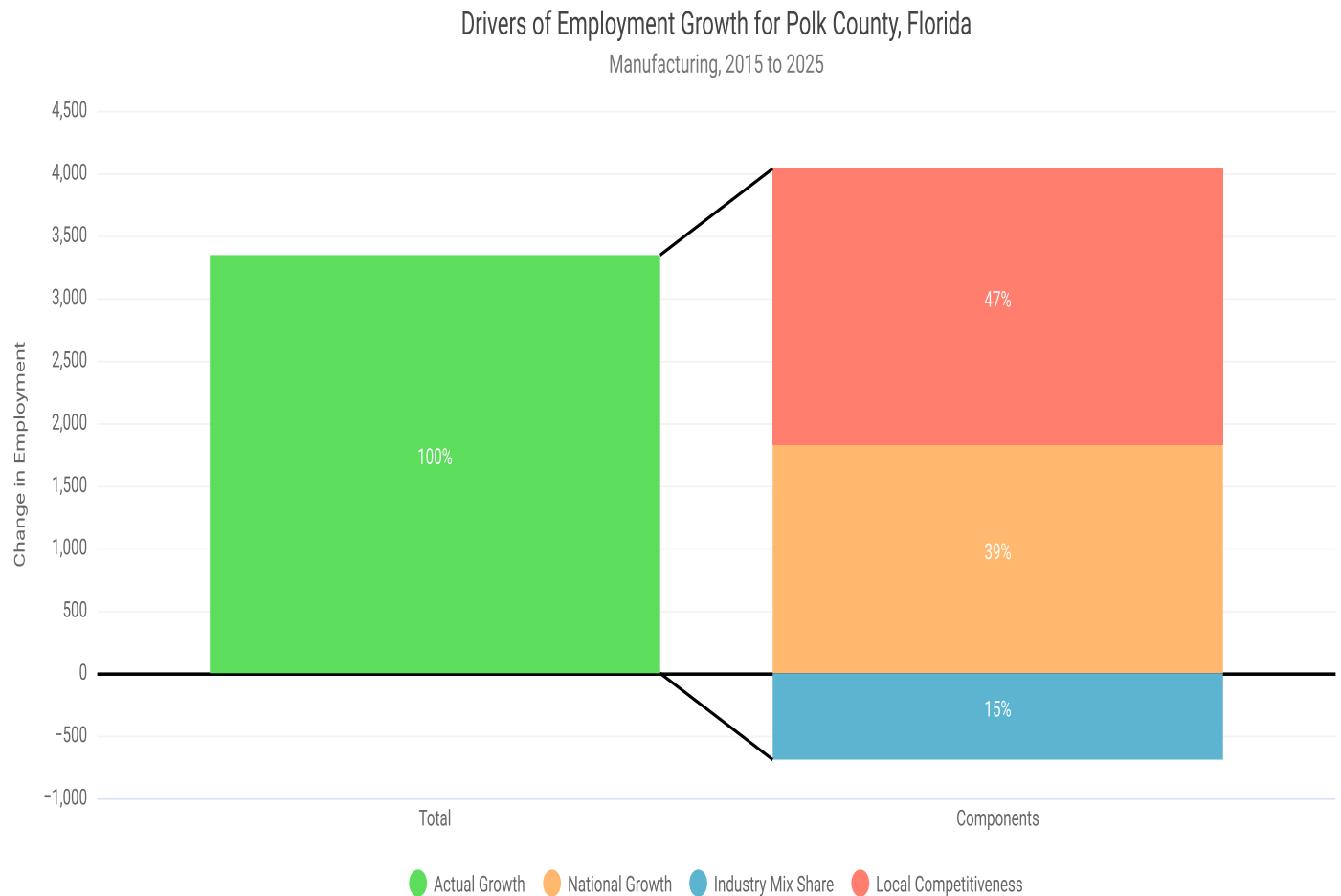


6-digit Occupation	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	Annual Demand
Team Assemblers	1,185	\$42,100	157
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	896	\$69,700	109
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	806	\$44,000	115
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	750	\$41,200	116
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	516	\$50,400	74
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	482	\$69,200	63
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	478	\$79,400	52
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	468	\$58,400	60
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	448	\$47,800	61
General and Operations Managers	428	\$125,700	44
Remaining Component Occupations	13,674	\$65,300	1,743
Total	20,132		

💡 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.

Drivers of Employment Growth

Over the ten years ending 2025, employment in Manufacturing for Polk County, Florida added 3,346 jobs. After adjusting for national growth during this period and industry mix share, the part of this employment change due to local competitiveness was a gain of 2,211 jobs—meaning this industry was more competitive than its national counterpart during this period.

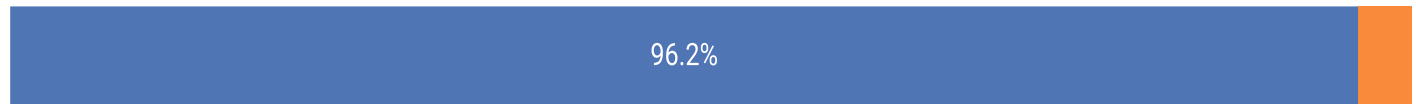


- Shift-share analysis sheds light on the factors that drive regional employment growth in an industry. A positive change in local competitiveness indicates advantages that may be due to factors such as superior technology, management, and labor pool, etc.
- National growth is due to the overall growth or contraction in the national economy. Industry mix share is the growth attributable to the specific industries examined (based on national industry growth patterns and the industry mix of the region).

Employment Distribution by Type

The table below shows the employment mix by ownership type for Manufacturing 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	19,389	96.2%
Self-Employment	768	3.8%

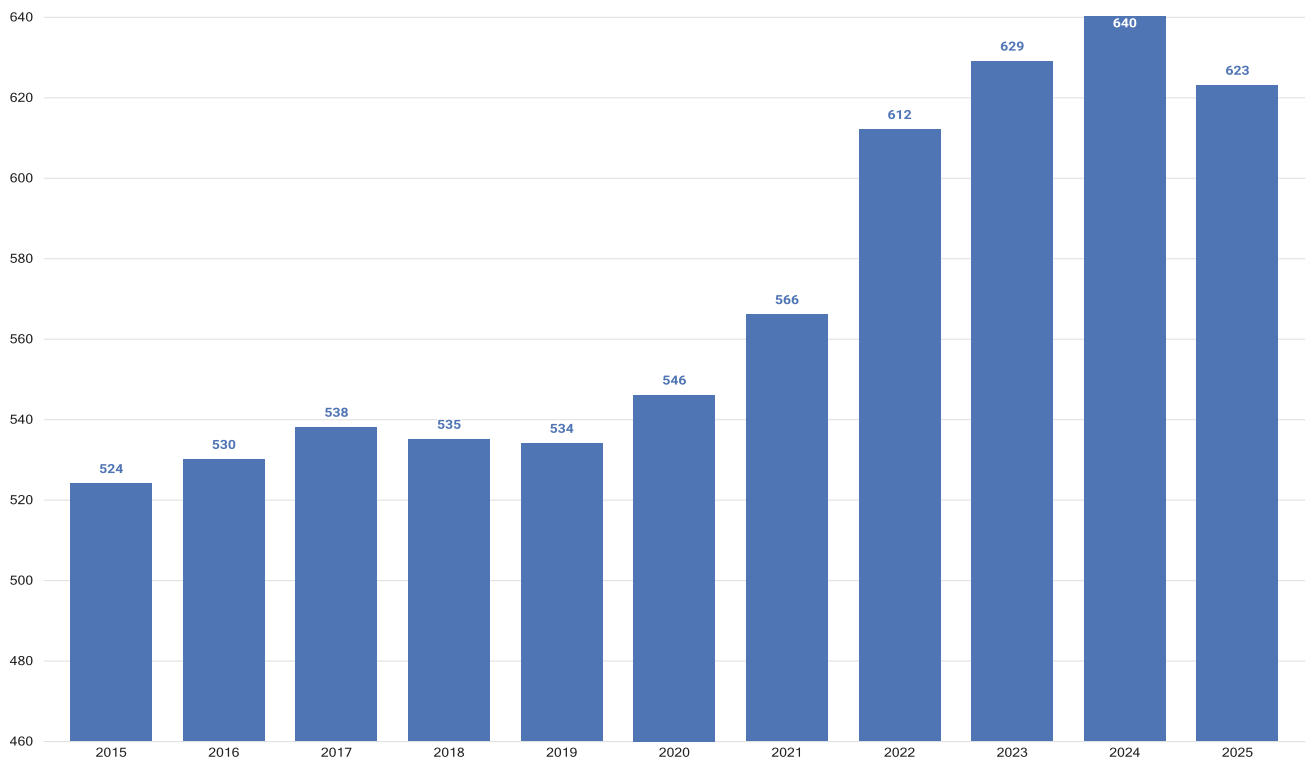
Source: JobsEQ®



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 623 Manufacturing establishments in Polk County, Florida (per covered employment establishment counts), an increase from 524 establishments ten years earlier in 2015.



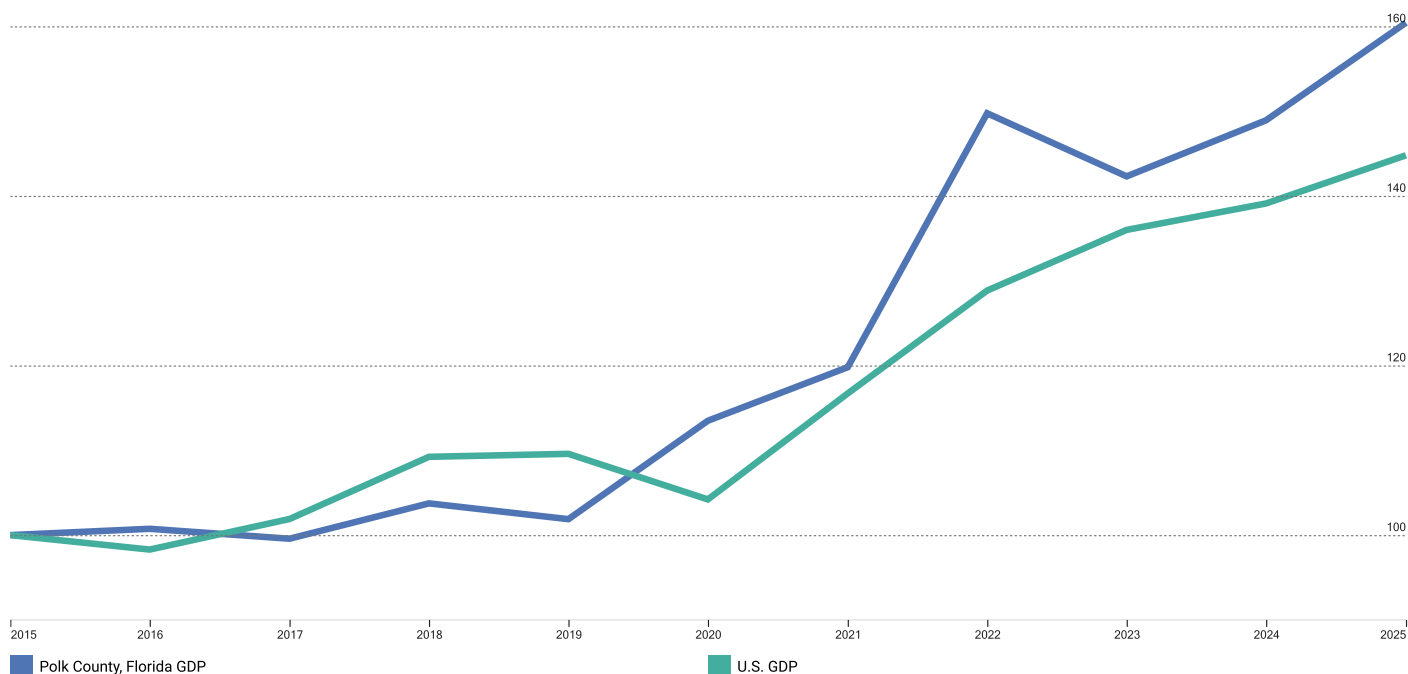
Source: JobsEQ®

💡 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, Manufacturing produced \$4.2 billion in GDP for Polk County, Florida.

GDP: Indexed 2015 = 100



11.3 %

Industry Share of Total GDP /
9.8 % in the nation



4.8 % ↑

Avg Ann % Change Last 10 Yrs /
3.8 % in the nation



\$770k

Output per Worker /
\$714k 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.

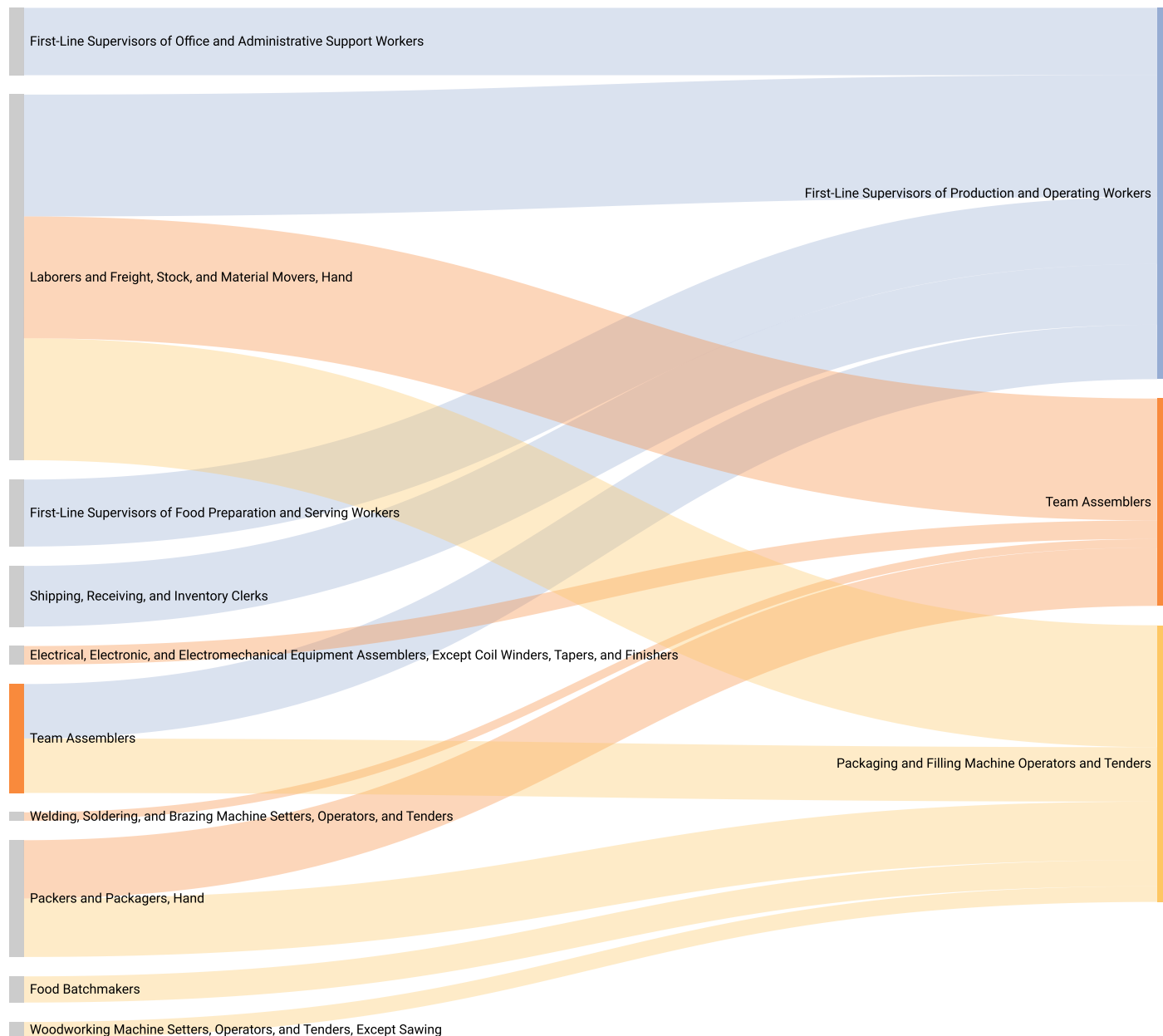
Supply Chain: Top Suppliers

As of 2026Q1, Manufacturing in Polk County, Florida are estimated to make \$9.1 billion in annual purchases from suppliers in the United States with about 26% or \$2.3 billion of these purchases being made from businesses located in Polk County, Florida.

2-digit Supplier Industries	Purchases from In-Region (\$M)	Purchases from Out-of-Region (\$M)
Manufacturing	\$1,177.2	\$3,288.0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	\$106.6	\$489.8
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	\$34.3	\$557.0
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$104.5	\$464.2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	\$108.1	\$448.7
Remaining Supplier Industries	\$804.2	\$1,540.9
Total	\$2,334.8	\$6,788.4

 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 Manufacturing

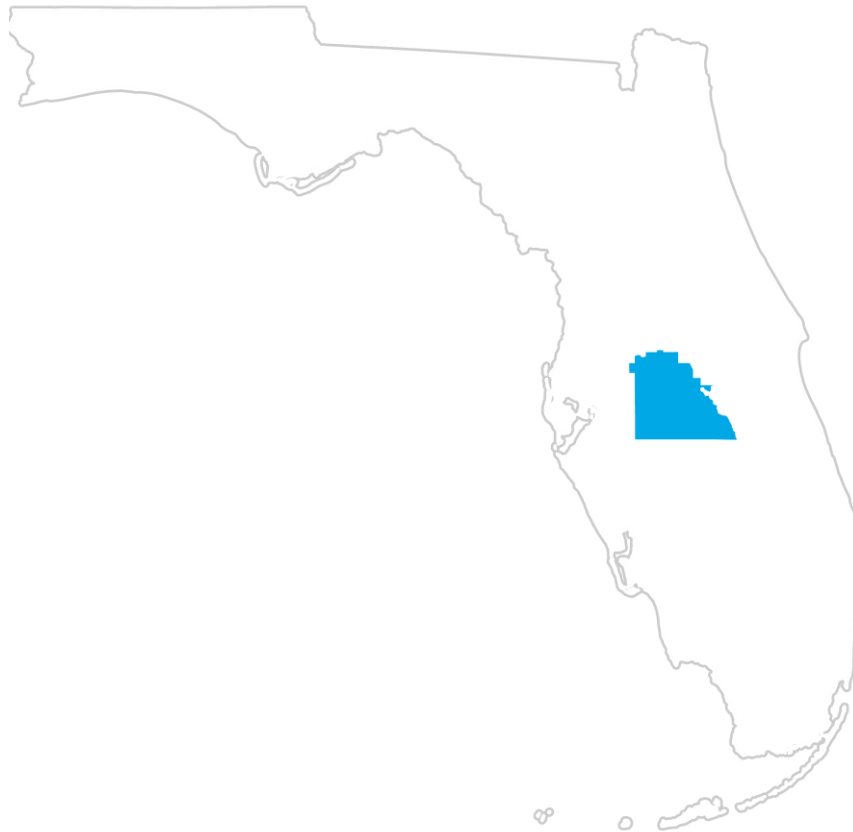
Program	Awards
Florida Polytechnic University	
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	18
Mechanical Engineering	52
Florida Southern College	
Business Administration and Management, General	162
Polk State College	
Engineering Technologies/Technicians, General	13
Manufacturing Engineering Technology/Technician	8
Ridge Technical College	
Welding Technology/Welder	26
Southeastern University	
Business Administration and Management, General	119
Traviss Technical College	
Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering Technology/Technician	26
Prepress/Desktop Publishing and Digital Imaging Design	3
Welding Technology/Welder	21

Source: [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 Manufacturing. 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.

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.