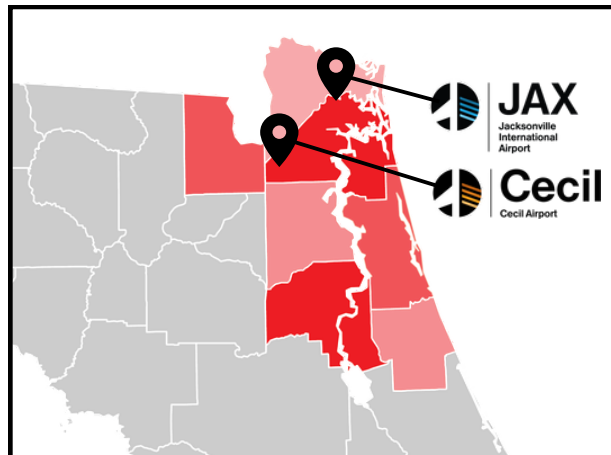




WHY JACKSONVILLE?

Located on the East Coast of the United States, Jacksonville is a powerhouse market, home to four Fortune 500 headquarters, a rapidly expanding ecosystem of innovative startups and a natural landscape that enhances both productivity and quality of life. With nearly 1.9 million residents, the seven-county Jacksonville region has earned recognition as a “supernova market” by the Urban Land Institute, a distinction driven by sustained population and job growth, exceptional economic diversity, a strong talent pipeline and undeniable investor momentum.

Backed by a strategic combination of skilled talent, robust infrastructure and abundant office & industrial space, the region offers stability without stagnation while delivering growth without overexposure to any single industry. With accelerated gains in job creation, workforce development and capital investment, the Jacksonville region is uniquely positioned as a premier destination for forward-thinking businesses.



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 11 percent lower than the U.S. average, and the cost to lease commercial industrial space is \$9.71 per square foot**, which makes the Jacksonville region an affordable and efficient location for any advanced manufacturing operation.

FLORIDA TAX ANALYSIS

- > **#5 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, 2025

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	230	1,184	976	\$123,200	\$173,100	\$141,700
Electrical Engineers	704	3,339	750	\$115,300	\$198,900	\$125,900
Industrial Engineers	1,180	3,273	1,580	\$103,500	\$153,100	\$112,400
Mechanical Engineers	815	3,502	818	\$105,500	\$167,600	\$112,100
Aerospace Engineering, Operations Technologists and Technicians	89	103	206	\$83,000	\$114,800	\$97,900

Source: JobsEQ®, 2025 Q3

HIGHLIGHTS: OTTO AEROSPACE IN JAX

Announced in 2025, Jacksonville was selected as the future manufacturing hub for Otto Aerospace at Cecil Airport, where the company will develop and produce its next-generation Phantom 3500 ultra-efficient business jet. As part of the project, Otto Aerospace is relocating its global headquarters to Jacksonville, reinforcing the region’s growing strength in aerospace and advanced manufacturing. The project represents a transformational investment of up to \$430 million and is expected to create 1,200 high-wage jobs in two phases. As of 2026, Otto Aerospace has advanced into early-stage site development and planning as the company moves toward production readiness and future flight testing at Cecil Airport.

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 more than **82,000 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
Fleet Readiness Center Southeast	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Lockheed Martin Corp.	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
VICE PRESIDENT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
904.366.6682 | jfreeman@jaxusa.org