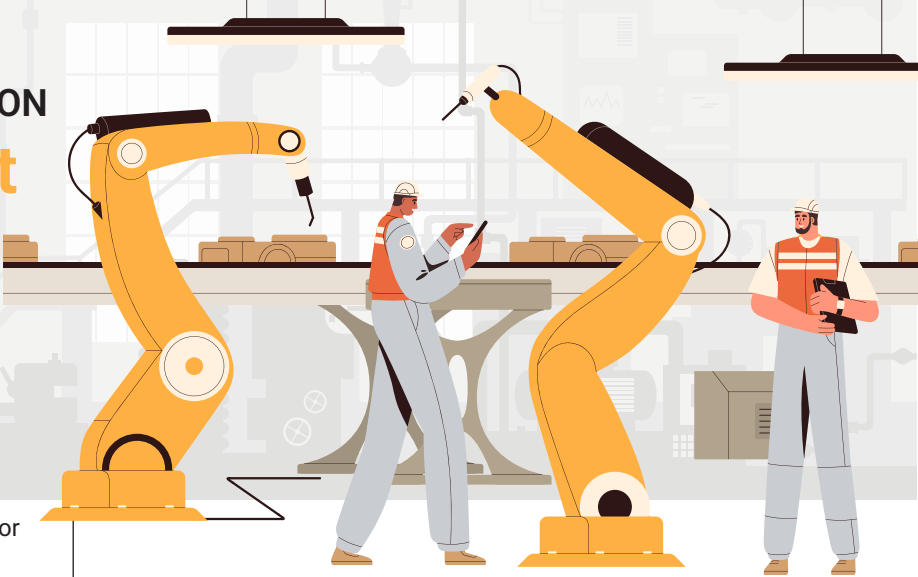


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Labor Market Spotlight

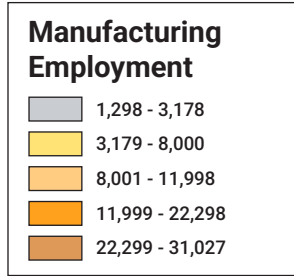
The Blueprint of Innovation: Key Insights for New Jersey's Manufacturing Sector

Issue No. 37, Volume 4: October 2026

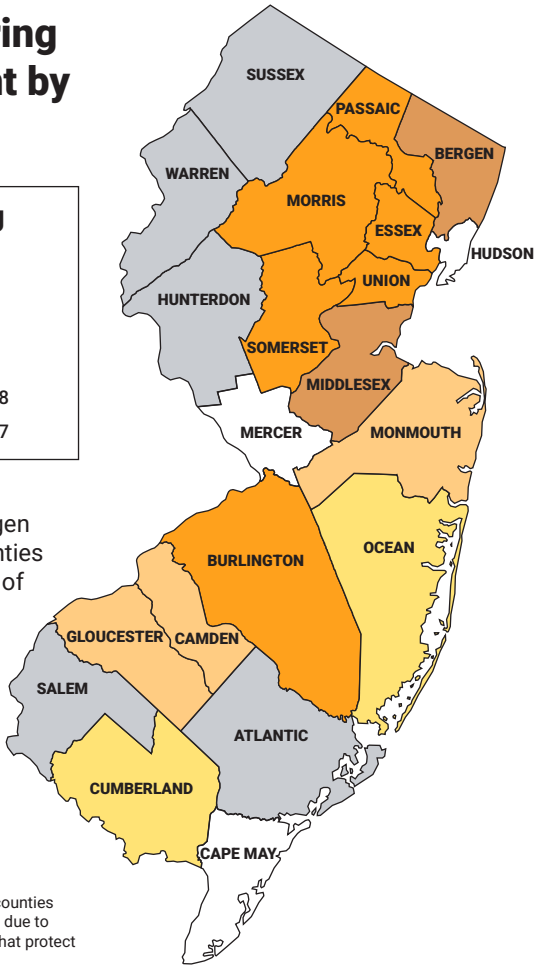


In honor of National Manufacturing Week, this edition of Labor Market Spotlight highlights the sector's role in the state's economy, employing 250,000 workers, or 6.7% of private sector employment. The industry contributed \$60.3 billion or 9.6% of the state's Gross Domestic Product in 2025, and New Jersey manufacturing revenues² were \$121.4 billion in 2024. Since 2018, NJDOL has invested \$25.5 million in apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and work-based learning programs to support manufacturing's workforce pipeline.

Manufacturing Employment by County

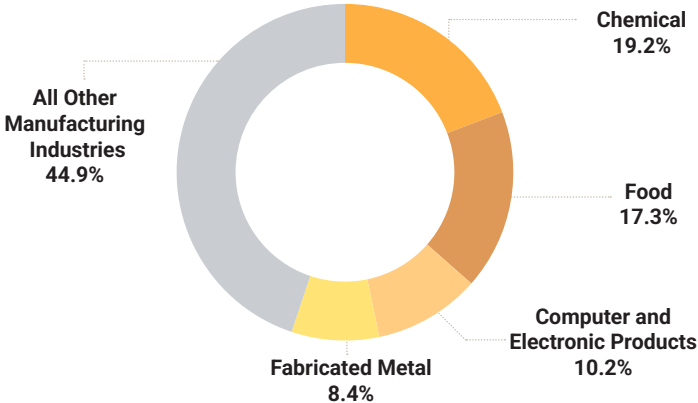


Manufacturing employment in Bergen and Middlesex counties accounts for 24.2% of all manufacturing jobs statewide.



*Please note: Data for three counties cannot be shown on this map due to confidentiality requirements that protect sensitive information.

Manufacturing Employment by Type



Chemical manufacturing accounts for the largest share of manufacturing jobs statewide due to its high concentration of pharmaceutical firms. The state's employment in chemical manufacturing ranks fifth nationally behind Texas, California, Ohio and Illinois.



250 THOUSAND Total employment; Share of statewide employment: 6.7%



\$26.2 BILLION Total wages paid by NJ's manufacturing establishments in 2025



\$60.3 BILLION Manufacturing's contribution to NJ's 2025 Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP)¹



\$25.5 MILLION NJDOL's investment in manufacturing through apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and work-based learning programs



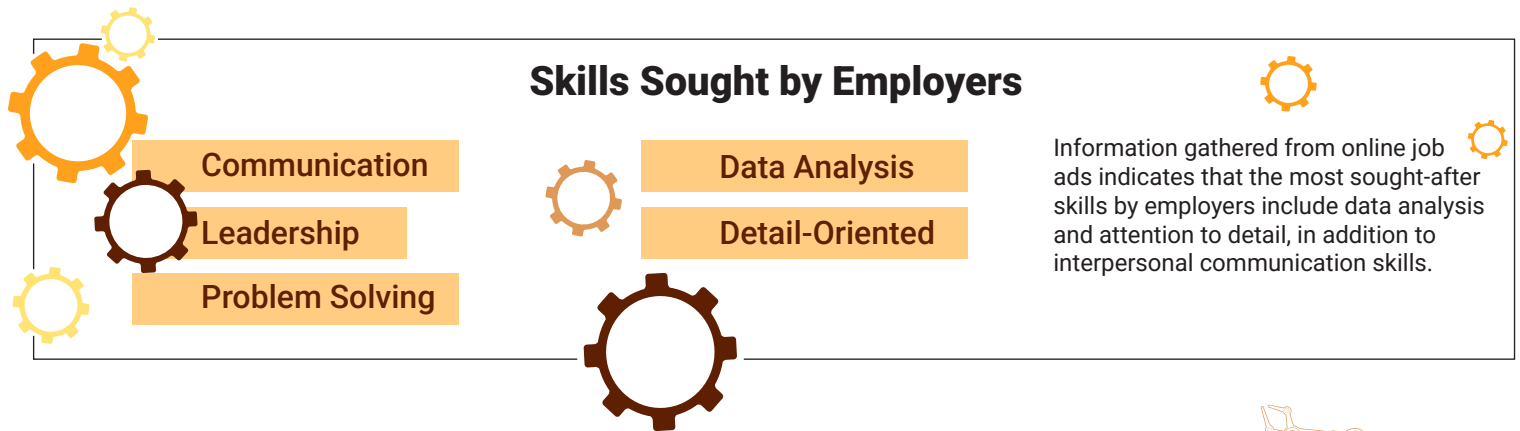
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[NJ.GOV/LABOR/DATA](https://nj.gov/labor/data)

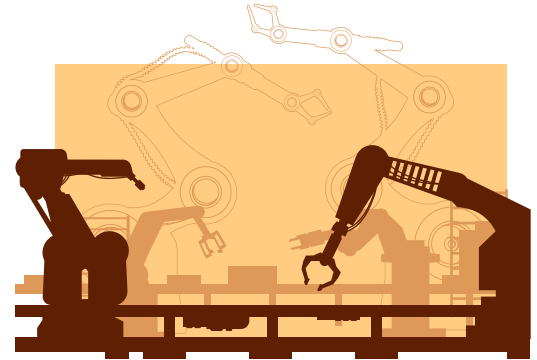
Top Occupations in Manufacturing

Occupation	Employment	Average Salary
Assemblers and Fabricators	11,620	\$44,045
Production and Operating Supervisors	9,440	\$85,705
Freight and Stock Laborers	8,590	\$43,543
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	7,590	\$58,585
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	7,110	\$44,869

From putting together products and components, ensuring processes run smoothly and products meet required standards, the top occupations in manufacturing each play an essential role in the overall productivity and quality of the manufacturing industry. Many of the most prevalent occupations do not require advanced education creating opportunity for individuals who do not have a college degree.



NJDOL has committed to developing the pipeline of future talent in the manufacturing sector through apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and work-based learning programs. The UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grant program helps employers keep their workforce updated with new and emerging skills. Growing Apprenticeship in Nontraditional Sectors (GAINS) promotes the expansion and development of USDOL approved Registered Apprenticeship programs that encourage economic growth by promoting skill development and educational attainment, thereby creating pathways to higher-paying careers and advanced credentials. Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Education (PACE) expands the participant's career pathway opportunities with industry-based training coupled with classroom instruction by providing education and training that lead to admission into a registered apprenticeship, college, or career training program; or employment at a set starting range. The mission of Youth Transitions to Work (YTTW) is to recruit, screen and facilitate effective transitions of high school juniors, seniors, and Out of School Youth (ages 16-24) to high-skill, high-wage employment in labor demand occupations. More information about programs offered by NJDOL Office of Apprenticeships can be found at: nj.gov/labor/career-services/apprenticeship/findaprogram.shtml



¹Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total of value of goods produced and services performed adjusted for factors like inflation.

²Revenues refers to Sales, value of shipments, or revenue from the US Census Bureau Annual Integrated Economic Survey.

Technical Note: The data in this report is from the Occupational and Employment Wage Statistics (OEWS) survey May 2025 panel, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) 2025 annual averages, US Census Bureau Annual Survey of Manufacturers, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and NJDOL administrative data

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's (NJDOL) Office of Research and Information is the singular solution for labor market data needs, combining the power of data and marketing materials to deliver evidence-based research. Our team of local and industry specialists provide technical assistance and information that highlights key New Jersey economic status, such as employment, wages, occupation, workplace safety, and labor force.

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