EDCUTAH INDUSTRY PROFILE | FY 26-27

AEROSPACE
IN UTAH



EDCUtah ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTAH

ON THE COVER

Northrop Grumman NATO AGS Aircraft

Developed by Northrop Grumman, The NATO Alliance Ground Surveillance (AGS) system aircraft will expand NATO's joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capability. Northrop Grumman is one of the largest aerospace and defense employers in the state of Utah.

Flourishing Industry, Affordable Business Climate, Superior Workforce

Industry

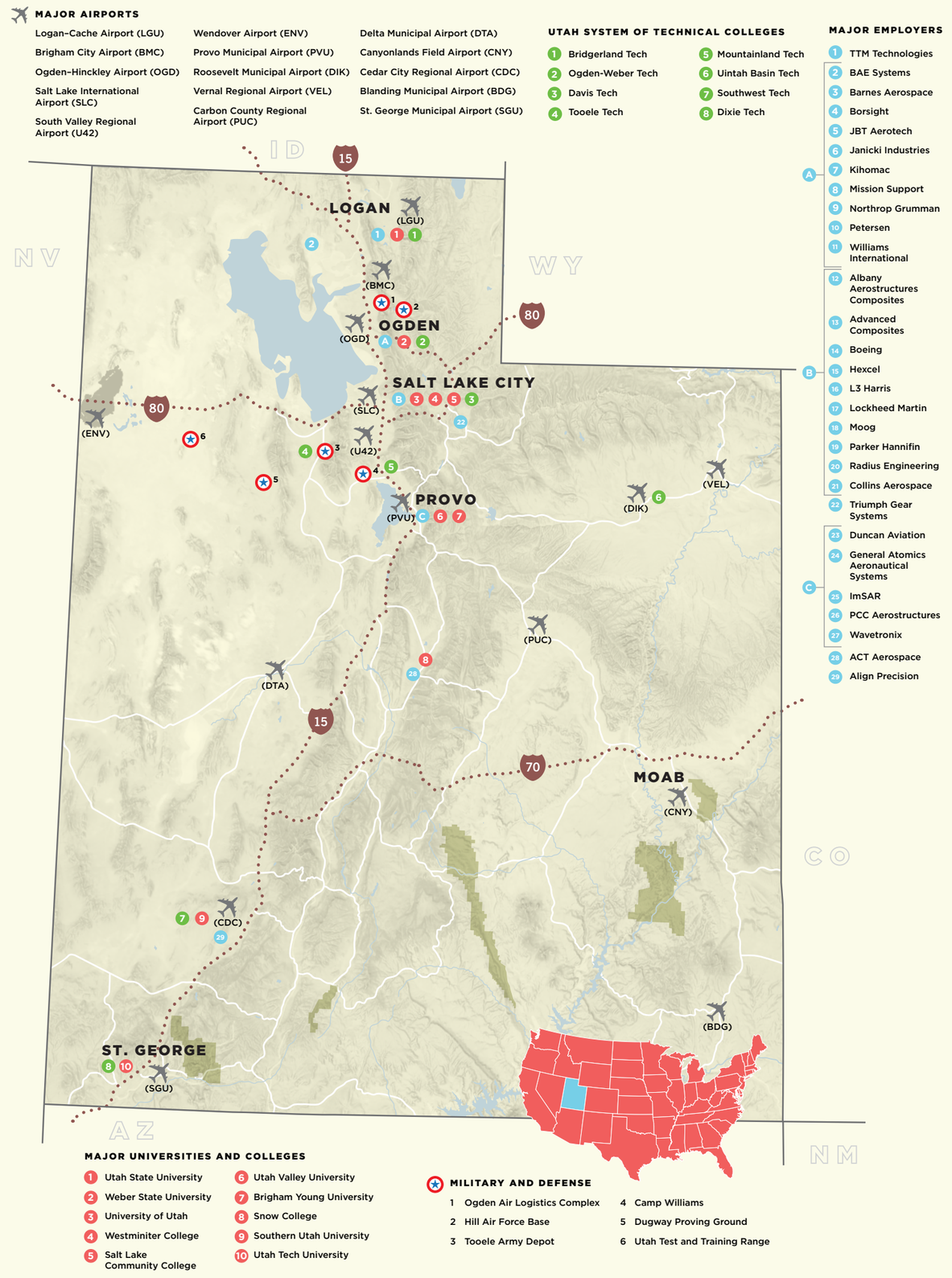
- Utah is proud to be home to companies like **Boeing, Northrop Grumman, L3 Harris, Parker Hannifin, Hexcel,** and many others. Utah is one of the top states in the nation for aerospace and defense with an employment base of more than 33,000 people.
- Just two of Utah's efforts to align education and industry are the Utah Aerospace Pathways program, which provides training high school students in aerospace manufacturing, and 47G, Utah's aerospace and defense association, which convenes industry, education, and government to build the state's aerospace workforce and innovation ecosystem.
- In 2000, the Department of Defense set a mandate to have one third of its fleet **unmanned or autonomous.** Utah, already with a rich history in unmanned systems, has taken this mandate seriously. Utah universities extensively research unmanned systems and related technologies and a variety of Utah companies continue to make strides in the industry.

Business Climate

- US News ranked Utah the **#1 Best State Overall in 2026.** Utah ranked 2nd in Economy and Fiscal Stability, and 4th in Infrastructure.
- In 2025, Utah's post-performance tax incentives program facilitated over **3,800 new jobs and more than $340M in new state tax revenues**.
- In 2026, the Tax Foundation's "State Tax Competitiveness Index" ranked Utah the **15th best in the nation**. Since 2011, Utah has eliminated or modified over 400 business regulations to ease the burdens placed on businesses.

Workforce

- Utah has high employee concentrations of aerospace engineers, materials scientists, machine operators, and many other aerospace related occupations. Utah also has the **5th lowest union membership rate in the nation at 3.8% (2025)**.
- There are a wealth of aerospace education resources in Utah, with **9 institutions offering specialized programs in aerospace, composites, or aviation.** Additionally, technical colleges in Utah provide a constant pipeline of machinists, welders, and technicians.
- Utah has an abundance of advanced materials companies with **more than 20,000 people employed in the industry.** Utah has industry-recognized expertise in advanced materials applications and unmanned systems development.



Major Aerospace Employers

COMPANY	EMPLOYEES*	DESCRIPTION
ACT Aerospace	100-249 map #28	ACT Aerospace provides consultation and manufacturing for advanced materials such as autoclave cured composite structures.
Advanced Composites	50-99 map #13	Advanced Composites is a filament winding company that specializes in aerospace, defense, and commercial applications.
Albany Aerostructures Composites	500-999 map #12	Albany Aerostructures Composites Salt Lake City plant makes composite fuselage frames for the Boeing 787, CH-53K helicopter parts, and JASSM and LRASM missile components.
BAE Systems	500-999 map #2	BAE Systems provides system engineering and technical assistance and training for the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) weapon system at Hill Air Force Base.
Barnes Aerospace	100-249 map #3	Barnes Aerospace's Ogden division is an industry leader in complex fabrications, specializing in concurrent engineering development and new product introductions.
Boeing	500-999 map #14	Boeing in Utah fabricates large composite structures including horizontal stabilizers, vertical fins for the 787-9 Dreamliner, and components for other commercial and military aircraft used internationally.
Borsight	50-99 map #4	Borsight is a system engineering, integration, and manufacturing services provider. They have expertise in mission functionality as well as human factors analysis.
Duncan Aviation	250-499 map #23	Duncan Aviation's Provo campus performs business jet airframe maintenance, avionics, interiors and paint work, and manufactures ground support equipment.
General Atomics Aeronautical Systems	100-249 map #24	General Atomics in Spanish Fork provides conceptual development, design, engineering, analysis, fabrication, and testing of airframes and support structures using advanced composite materials.
Hexcel	500-999 map #15	Hexcel Utah manufactures carbon fiber and hot melt prepregs with both woven and unidirectional reinforcements, with applications in commercial aerospace structures and military programs.
ImSAR	50-99 map #25	ImSAR designs and manufactures miniature Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology for unmanned and manned aircraft.
Janicki Industries	100-249 map #6	Janicki Industries' Layton plant next to Hill Air Force Base machines large composite and metallic aerospace parts, including F-35 composite skins and production tooling.
JBT Aerotech	500-999 map #5	JBT AeroTech, now part of Oshkosh, builds Jetway passenger boarding bridges and ground support equipment at its Ogden plant, one of four worldwide sites.
PCC Aerostructures	250-499 map #7	PCC Aerostructures (Formerly Kihomac) is a Layton-based engineering and acquisition support firm providing lifecycle sustainment services to weapon system program offices at Hill Air Force Base.
Klune Industries	100-249 map #26	Klune Industries in Spanish Fork provides sheet metal forming, casting, machining, and assembly through their machining and assembly competence center.

*SOURCE: Utah Department of Workforce Services



The assembly floor of Boeing's large tail structure facility in Salt Lake City.

COMPANY	EMPLOYEES*	DESCRIPTION
L3 Harris	2000-2999 map #16	L3Harris's Salt Lake City operation builds Link 16 data links, the NGJ-LB jamming pod, and piezoelectric ceramics for undersea sonar.
Lockheed Martin	100-249 map #17	Lockheed Martin supports Hill Air Force Base's Ogden Air Logistics Complex with modification, upgrade, and overhaul work on the F-35, F-16, and F-22 aircraft.
Align Precision	100-249 map #29	Align Precision's Cedar City plant, formerly Metalcraft Technologies, fabricates sheet metal and machined structural parts and assemblies, including A-10 nacelles and aircraft skins.
Mission Support	50-99 map #8	Mission Support is a certified manufacturer and overhaul and repair facility providing depot-level overhaul services to the US Air Force Material Command, Army Aviation, the FAA, and Naval Aviation.
Moog	250-499 map #18	Moog Salt Lake City's Aircraft, Space, and Defense Groups houses electronics and electro-mechanical systems teams, system integration teams, and a world-class FAA repair station.
Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems	10000+ map #9	Northrop Grumman Utah designs, manufactures, and tests solid rocket motors at its Promontory and Bacchus sites and supports the Sentinel ICBM program from facilities across Utah.
Parker Hannifin	500-999 map #19	Parker Hannifin in Utah designs and manufactures components such as thermoplastic elastomers for dynamic applications, as well as complex flight control components for commercial and military aircraft.
Petersen	500-999 map #10	Petersen provides design engineering, precision machining, and fabrication of tooling and components for advanced aerospace and defense systems.
Radius Engineering	20-49 map #20	Radius Engineering designs and builds composites manufacturing equipment and process solutions for net-shape composite parts. Their RTM and SQRTM processes are used globally by leaders in the aerospace industry.
Collins Aerospace	20-49 map #21	Collins Aerospace (Formerly Rockwell Collins) Salt Lake City designs and develops training and simulation solutions for the aerospace industry.
Triumph Gear Systems	100-249 map #22	Triumph Gear Systems designs, tests, manufactures, and supports power drive and actuation systems in many aerospace applications, including utility, high lift systems, and flight trim actuation.
TTM Technologies	500-999 map #1	TTM Technologies' Logan plant, in Cache Valley since 1973, makes high-mix, low-volume printed circuit boards for aerospace, defense, medical, and other industries.
Wavetronix	250-499 map #27	Wavetronix creates tools for intelligent transportation systems (ITS), including advanced radar sensors, power, and communications and data management appliances.
Williams International	500-999 map #11	Williams International in Ogden is the most modern and efficient small gas turbine engine design-to-production facility in the world.

*SOURCE: Utah Department of Workforce Services



Prepping a NASA rocket motor for testing at the Northrop Grumman test facility.

Lockheed Martin C-130 Hercules. The aircraft is capable of operating from rough, dirt strips and is the prime transport for airdropping troops and equipment into hostile areas.



The A400M Atlas military transport aircraft. Northrop Grumman produces parts for the aircraft in Utah, including composite wing cover stringers.

Major Announcements

Karman Space & Defense to Build in West Valley City (2026)
Karman Space & Defense will build a new 200,000-square-foot advanced manufacturing facility in West Valley City, investing $28 million and creating up to 500 jobs over the next 20 years. The facility will increase production of unmanned aerial system launchers and nozzle components for space and defense applications. Karman is a leading manufacturer of energetic components, structures, and integrated systems.

AeroVironment to Expand in Salt Lake City (2025)
AeroVironment will establish FreedomWerx, a 200,000-square-foot advanced manufacturing facility in Salt Lake City, creating approximately 500 jobs and investing $42.3 million over the next five years. The facility will expand production of the company's Switchblade and Blackwing loitering munition systems as part of its distributed production strategy. AeroVironment is a leader in autonomous and intelligent multi-domain systems.

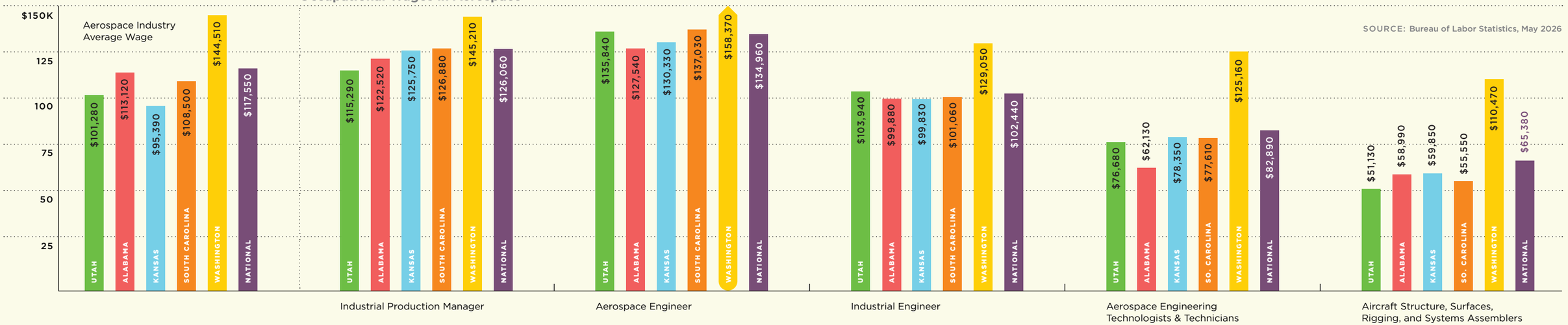
Northrop Grumman to Expand in Weber County (2024)
Northrop Grumman Corporation intends to expand its operations in Utah, creating up to 1,206 jobs. Northrop Grumman is currently the largest security and defense company in Utah with more than 5,100 employees across the state, primarily located in Bacchus, Clearfield, Ogden, Promontory and Salt Lake. This is the 2nd recent expansion for Northrop Grumman, and they account for a total of over 3,400 jobs and $1.3 Billion in capital investment since 2020.

OmniTeq to Relocate Headquarters to Falcon Hill (2023)
OmniTeq will relocate its headquarters to Utah's Falcon Hill Aerospace Research Park in Davis County, creating up to 4,000 jobs and investing $255 million over the next 10 years. The company will occupy a 75,000-square-foot facility near Hill Air Force Base. OmniTeq provides artificial intelligence, machine learning, and predictive analytics solutions specializing in data management and advanced data analysis.

Electric Power Systems To Expand Its Logan Headquarters (2022)
EP Systems plans to bring up to 3,130 new high-paying jobs and invest significant capital expenditure in rural Utah during the next nine years. EP Systems is a leading provider of high-voltage, high-power, certifiable, and scalable power systems for high-reliability applications in the aviation industry. The company is an emerging leader in energy storage and propulsion industries providing solutions to markets primarily in aerospace and defense, with additional reach into automotive, marine, and industrial traction.

Cost Profile

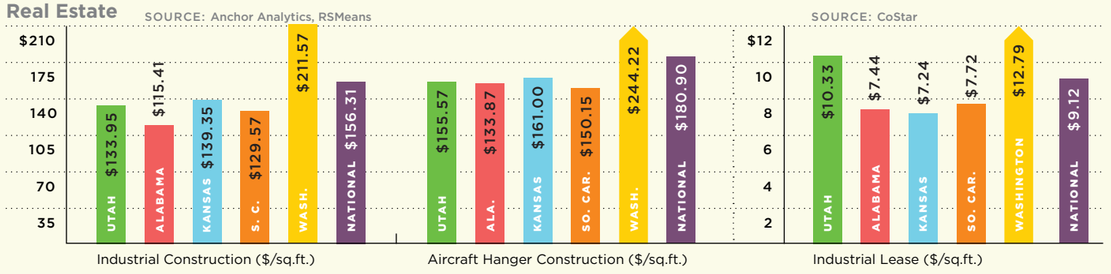
Occupational Wages in Aerospace



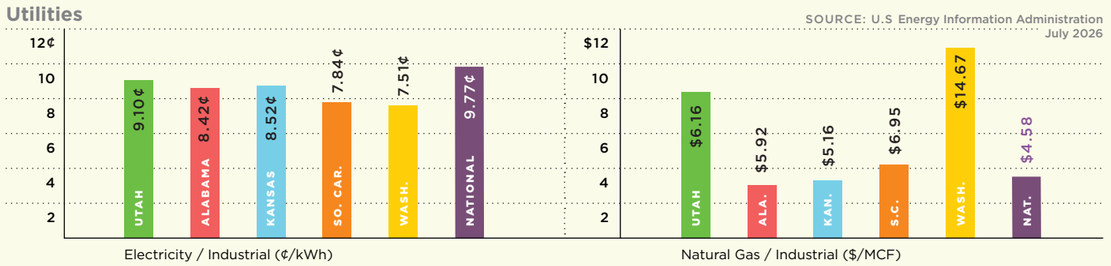
Other Comparative Wages in Aerospace

OCCUPATION	UTAH	ALABAMA	KANSAS	SOUTH CAROLINA	WASHINGTON	NATIONAL
Chemical Engineer	$85,520	$135,030	$102,020	$101,570	$128,290	$123,500
Mechanical Engineer	$102,500	$100,230	$86,260	$104,580	$110,430	$109,300
Industrial Engineering Technologists & Technicians	$67,490	$66,510	$61,000	$70,080	$78,430	$69,400
Materials Scientists	$126,840	$97,080	$115,490	$101,930	$127,250	$120,200
Team Assemblers	$42,560	$40,440	$42,680	$42,290	$51,520	$45,300
Machinists	$61,280	$55,560	$51,220	$57,970	$66,160	$58,900
Molding, Coremaking, Casting Machine Setters, Operators, Tenders, Metal & Plastic	$46,750	$39,010	$43,050	$45,270	$48,290	$45,100
Helpers Production Workers	$37,110	$35,910	$37,320	$36,610	$45,450	$40,800

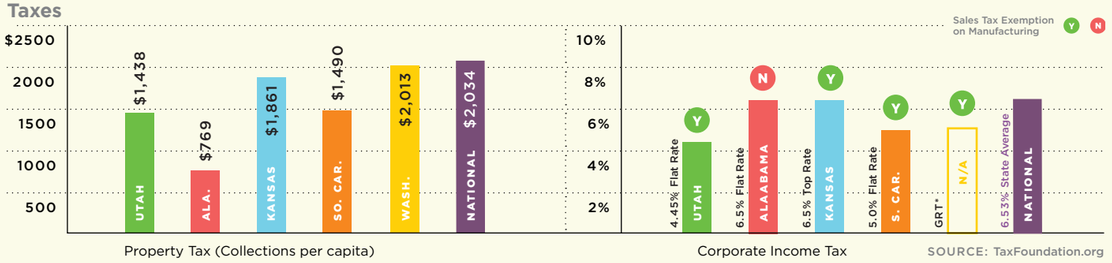
Real Estate



Utilities



Taxes



* GRT = Gross Receipts Tax. Businesses are taxed on ALL business sales transactions instead of corporate income.

Areas of Excellence

"Areas of Excellence" are industry sub-sectors in which Utah has a competitive advantage due to our infrastructure, trained workforce, historical expertise, and community support. The diagram below shows the collaboration and interrelationship of Utah's business accelerators, educational institutions, government initiatives, and companies within the aerospace and defense industry.

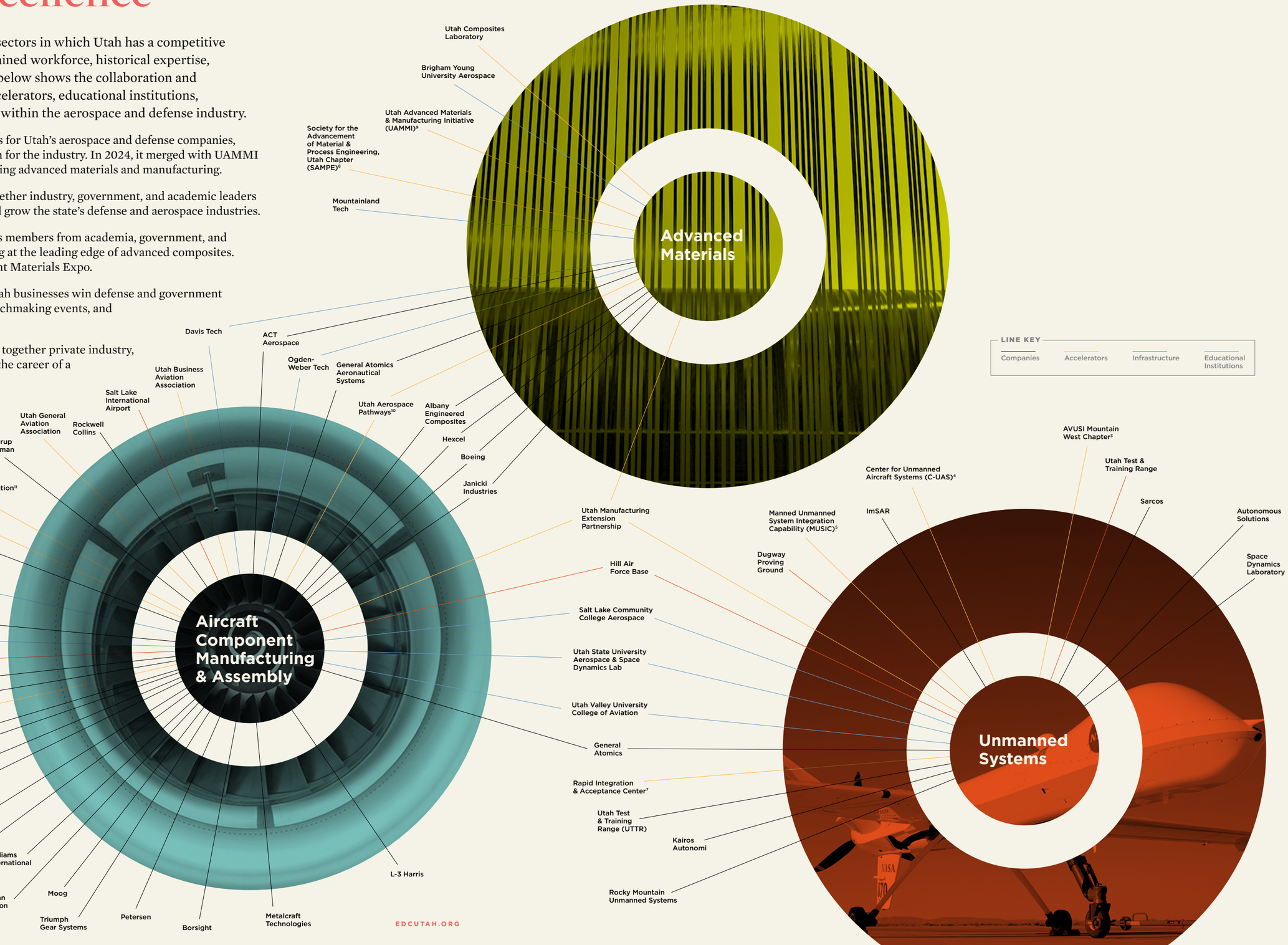
1 **47G** convenes, promotes, and advocates for Utah's aerospace and defense companies, building the world's premier ecosystem for the industry. In 2024, it merged with UAMMI to form the 47G UAMMI Institute, adding advanced materials and manufacturing.

2 The **Utah Defense Alliance** brings together industry, government, and academic leaders to support Utah's military missions and grow the state's defense and aerospace industries.

3 The **Utah Chapter of SAMPE** includes members from academia, government, and advanced materials companies working at the leading edge of advanced composites. SAMPE hosts the annual Wasatch Front Materials Expo.

4 The **Utah APEX Accelerator** helps Utah businesses win defense and government contracts through free counseling, matchmaking events, and teaming roundtables.

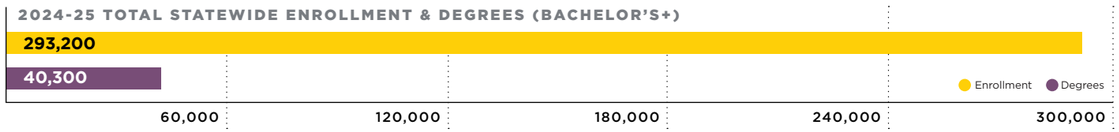
5 The **Utah Aerospace Pathways** brings together private industry, education and government to provide the career of a lifetime in aerospace.



Education & Labor

A State of Education

Utah is home to **12 major colleges and universities** and has an excellent talent pipeline of over **293,000** students. Bachelor's and graduate awards grew by **14% over the last five years**. Utah has an educated workforce, with over 93% of the population 25 or over with a high school diploma and 39.1% with a bachelor's degree or higher.



SOURCE: Utah System of Higher Education, NCES

TOP THREE INSTITUTIONS WITH AEROSPACE-RELATED DEGREES

Utah State University
DEGREE: Aerospace Engineering (MS, PhD)

Utah State University offers an MS and PhD in Aerospace Engineering. Its Space Dynamics Laboratory holds a $1 billion Air Force Research Laboratory contract to support space research and technology development for national defense.

Weber State University
DEGREE: Manufacturing Engineering: Plastics & Composites

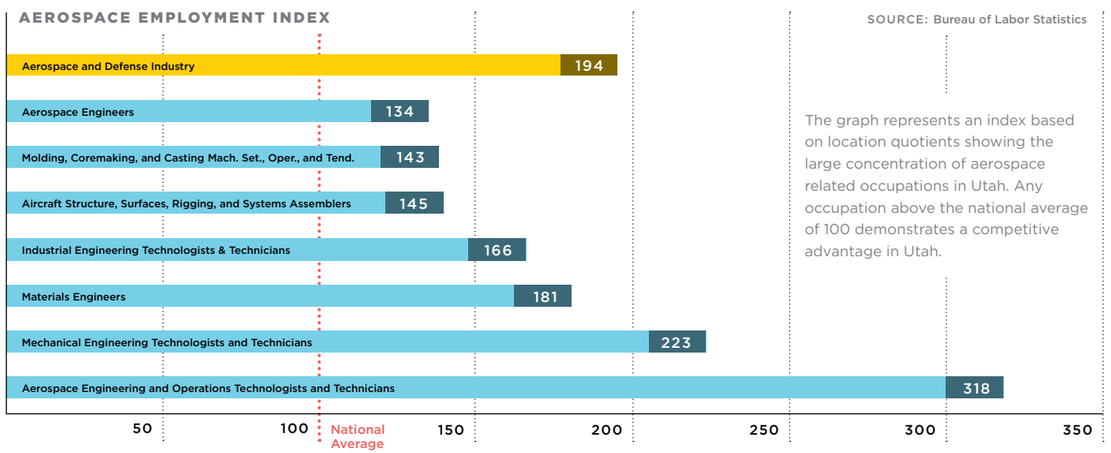
The ABET-accredited Manufacturing Engineering: Plastics and Composites degree teaches students firsthand the complex interdependence between plastic and composite process, materials, tooling, and part design. Composite materials are integral in the aerospace industry.

University of Utah
DEGREE: Aerospace Engineering (MS, Graduate Certificate)

The University of Utah offers an MS in Aerospace Engineering and a graduate certificate in aerospace engineering through its Mechanical Engineering department. These programs prepare students for careers in aerospace and aviation-related fields.

The Labor Picture

Utah's labor force is well educated, growing, and affordable. Utah **created over 24,000 jobs in 2025** and maintained one of the highest job growth rates in the nation throughout the year. Utah is the youngest state in the nation with a median age of 32.6 and has an average wage of $67,800, which is **4.4% lower than the nation**.



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

The graph represents an index based on location quotients showing the large concentration of aerospace related occupations in Utah. Any occupation above the national average of 100 demonstrates a competitive advantage in Utah.

Utah Public Technical Colleges



Bridgerland Tech
Bridgerland Tech has four campuses: Brigham City, Woodruff, and two in Logan. It has over 2,900 students enrolled in 40 programs. Primary programs include Health Professions & Related Programs and Transportation & Materials Moving.



Ogden-Weber Tech
Ogden-Weber Tech has one main campus in Ogden, plus three specialized locations in Ogden and Salt Lake City. Over 7,500 students are enrolled in 32 programs, including Health Professions, Materials Engineering, and Precision Production Programs.



Davis Tech
Davis Tech has four campus locations: Kaysville, Clearfield, Morgan, and Draper. It has over 7,000 students enrolled in 39 programs, including Health Professions & Related Programs, Homeland Security, and Culinary Services.



Tooele Tech
Tooele Tech has one campus location in Tooele. It has over 1,000 students enrolled in 22 programs. The primary programs include Health Professions & Related Programs, Precision Welding Technology, and Business Support Services.





Mountainland Tech
Mountainland Tech has five campuses: Lehi, Orem, Provo, Spanish Fork, Payson, and Heber. Over 6,000 students are enrolled in 38 programs, including Health Professions, Precision Welding Technology, and Mechanic & Repair Technologies.



Uintah Basin Tech
Uintah Basin Tech has two campus locations: Roosevelt and Vernal. Over 1,900 students are enrolled in 22 programs, including Engineering Technology, Health Professions & Related Programs, and Transportation and Materials Moving.



Southwest Tech
Southwest Tech has two campus locations: Cedar City and Kanab. It has over 1,00 students enrolled in 18 programs, including Primary programs include Health Professions & Related Programs and Transportation & Materials Moving.



Dixie Tech
Dixie Tech has one campus in St. George and over 1,400 students enrolled in 26 programs. Primary programs include Mechanic and Repair Technologies / Technicians, Health Professions & Related Programs, and Computer & Information Sciences.



EDCUtah questions?
Call Ryan Starks,
Executive Director:
801-458-5372



Project questions?
Call Spencer Layton,
Business Development
Manager:
385-522-3085



Research questions?
Call Michael Stachitus,
Director of Research:
801-323-4253

Have questions about the Aerospace industry in Utah? Call us at 1-800-574-8824.

EDCUtah ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTAH

201 South Main Street, Suite 2300, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
1-800-574-UTAH (8824) | **edcutah.org**