LAKE COUNTY UPDATE | 2018
MANUFACTURING EDITION

MANUFACTURING IS BIG BUSINESS IN LAKE COUNTY

More than one in seven jobs in Lake County is in the manufacturing industry, which accounted for a total of 51,086 jobs in Lake County in 2017. In fact, Lake County manufacturers employ more people than any other private sector industry. In addition, there are 1,039 manufacturing companies in Lake County, which produce everything from medical and surgical equipment to components used by NASA. (EMSI 2018.4)

TOP JOBS IN MANUFACTURING

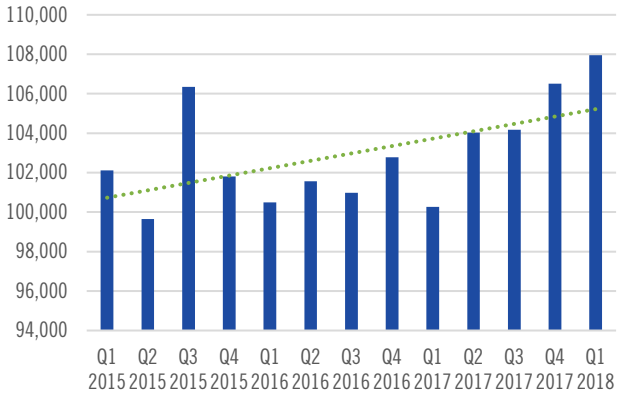
Manufacturing careers offer a unique mix of advantages. Many careers are available without a college degree. Shorter-term certificate programs allow graduates to jump into the workforce quickly, and credentials are often stackable, meaning that there are clearly delineated pathways from one credential to the next and those credentials tie to improved jobs titles and wages. Manufacturing jobs also offer good and growing compensation. (EMSI 2018.4)

Occupation	Lake County Jobs 2017	Annual Job Openings 2017-2022	Average Hourly Wage
Welders	878	102	$19.00
Computer Controlled Machine Tool Operators	566	65	$17.63
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	719	73	$25.57
Engineering Technicians	294	26	$28.67

MANUFACTURING DRIVES THE ILLINOIS ECONOMY

Manufacturers in Illinois account for 12.6% of the economic output of the state. Total output grew to $103.75 billion in 2017. Illinois' manufactured goods exports reached $60.31 billion in 2017, and increase of 30.3% since 2010. Small businesses made up 90% of Illinois' exporters in 2015. (NAM Center for Manufacturing Research, BEA)

IL GDP FROM MANUFACTURING (millions of current dollars)



BAXTER INNOVATION LAB AT THE COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY

The Baxter Innovation Lab at the College of Lake County offers space and equipment for the design and fabrication of prototypes with a variety of software, tools and equipment. It is modeled on MIT's Fab Foundation charter and is a member of the U.S. Fab Lab Network.

The lab offers CLC students, businesses, community members, K-12 students and their teachers the opportunity to learn and foster practical design skills through hands-on fabrication, testing and collaboration. The lab has equipment for 2D and 3D CAD design, woodworking, metalworking, plastic working, electronics, programming and other skill sets required in the modern manufacturing workforce.