



Detroit
Regional
Partnership

[Link to Interactive Cluster Story Map](#)



Detroit Region is the Top Advanced Manufacturing Hub

DRP INDUSTRY CLUSTER: Advanced Manufacturing

August 2025

Advanced Manufacturing Industry Cluster: Profile Sections

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1) Advanced Manufacturing Ecosystem

Industry Cluster Snapshot and Highlights

Move Here, Move the World.

Building the Future in the Detroit Region.

The Detroit Region is a world leader in innovating how goods and products are made, leading the integration of new technology into advanced manufacturing. This location is powered by high-skilled talent with institutional knowledge and a vast business network in manufacturing.

As the leading location for auto manufacturing, mobility talent, and a growing aerospace sector, all powered by Industry 4.0 technology, **the Detroit Region is the place for cutting-edge advanced manufacturing.**



Advanced Manufacturing: Industry Cluster Snapshot



DETROIT REGION INDUSTRY METRICS, 2025:

278,752 Industry Jobs

1.5 Jobs Density / Location Quotient

7,567 Business Locations

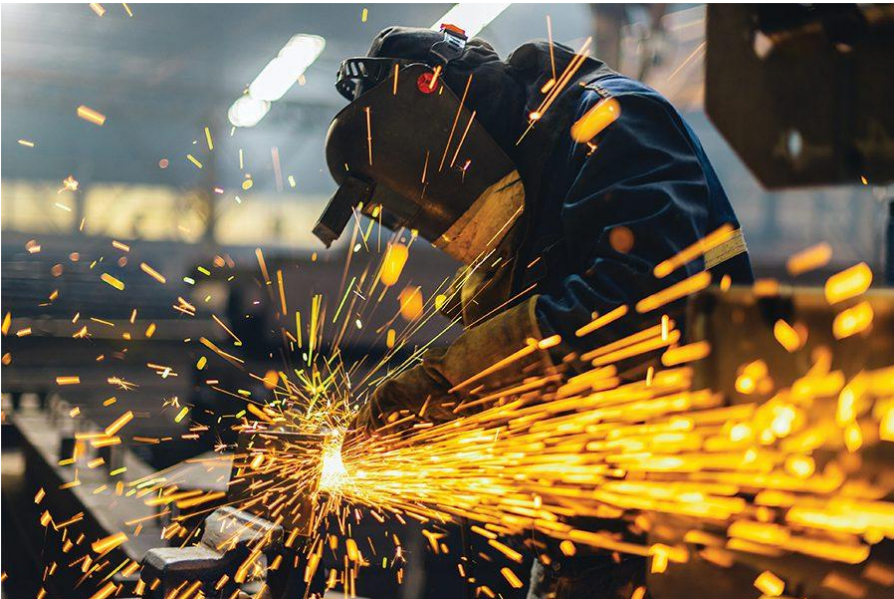
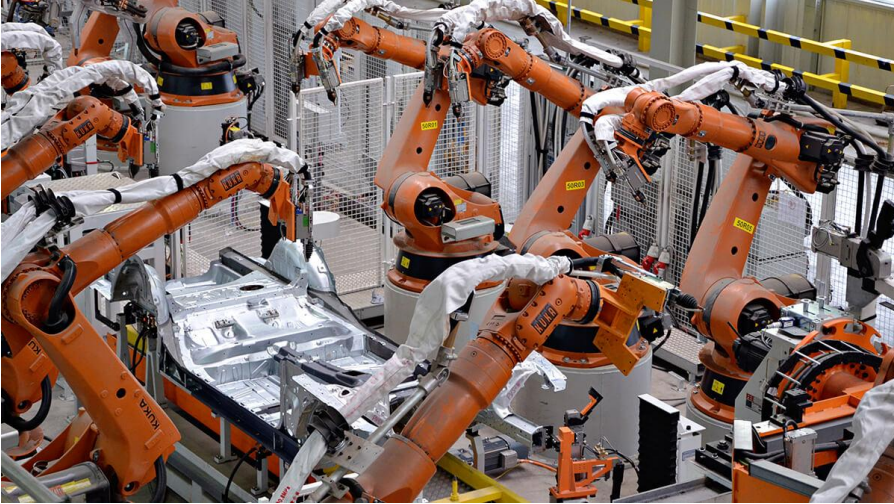
\$59 Billion Gross Regional Product

\$88,452 Average Wages

Sources: Lightcast. Note: Industry cluster definition is the Manufacturing Two-Digits 31-33



The Detroit Region is a Top Advanced Manufacturing Hub



DETROIT'S MANUFACTURING TALENT ADVANTAGE, 2025

Top Five Metro for Total Manufacturing Talent

More than 278,000 manufacturing talent in the broader Detroit Region.

#1 Location for Assemblers and Fabricators

More than 73,000 workers in the region with one of the lowest turnover rates.

Total Tool & Die Makers and Density #1 Hub

Seven-times more tool & die makers density here than the average U.S. region.

Detroit Leads for Manufacturing Tech. Talent

Talent density ranking out of the top U.S. Technology markets by CBRE.

#1 Nationally For Deployed Industrial Robots

8.5 Robots Per 1,000 Workers, Three Times More than the National Average, 2018

Source: Lightcast, CBRE, & Brookings. Note: Rankings are based on the Detroit Metro (MSA), which is a 6-County area in the 11-County Detroit Region.

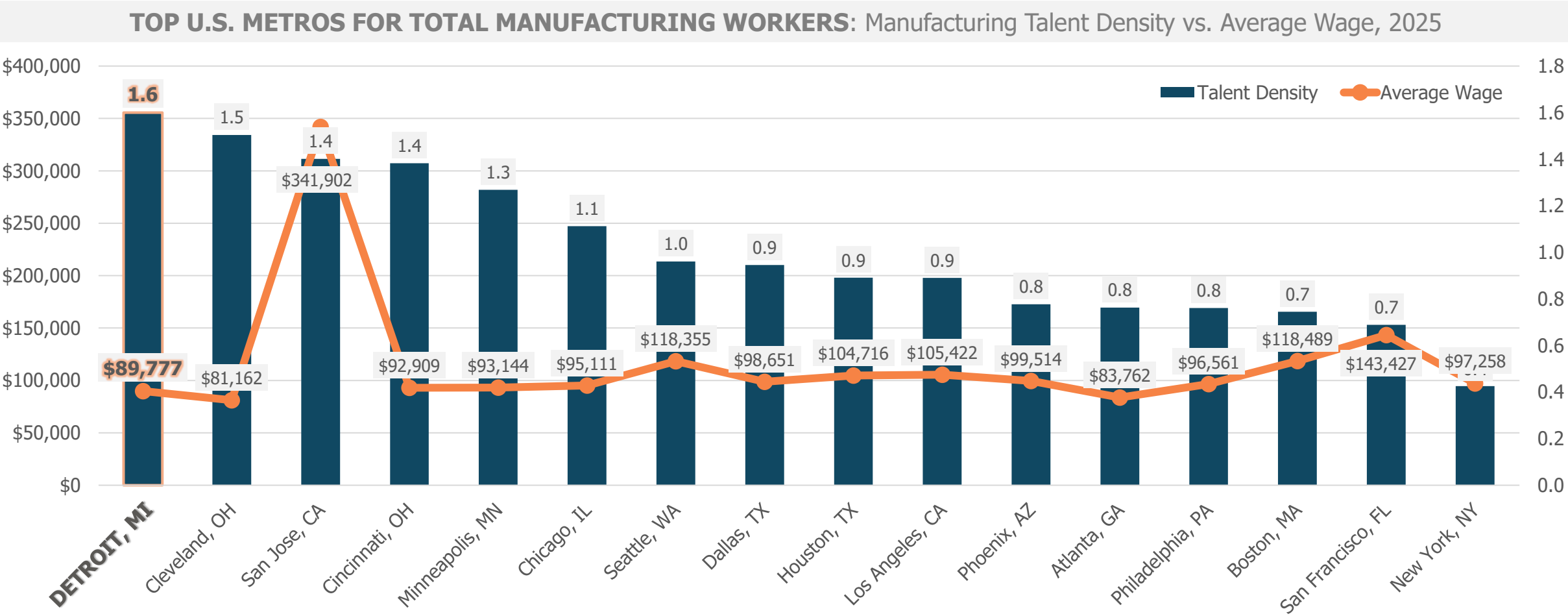
Detroit Combines Manufacturing Scale with Talent Density

#5 FOR TOTAL MANUFACTURING TALENT

Detroit Metro with more than 240,000 manufacturing workers.

#1 FOR MFG. TALENT DENSITY & #3 FOR AFFORDABILITY

Two-times more talent than U.S. avg. & four-times more affordable than San Jose.



Source: Lightcast. Note: Top metros (MSA) have manufacturing jobs (two-digit NAICS) greater than 120,000 in 2024 and the Detroit MSA is 6-counties within the 11-county Detroit Region.

The Industries of Tomorrow Are Being Powered by the Region

Top Ten State for Aerospace Attractiveness

Based on concentration of electrical and mechanical engineers, as well as manufacturing friendly laws.

#1 Globally for High-Growth Drone Companies

Michigan has the fastest and accessible design production cycle.

Two Top Ranking Metros for the AI Economy

Ann Arbor ranked #15-star AI hub and Detroit ranked #35 emerging AI center, out of 190 U.S. metros in 2025.

Detroit is in the AI Talent & Innovation Cohort

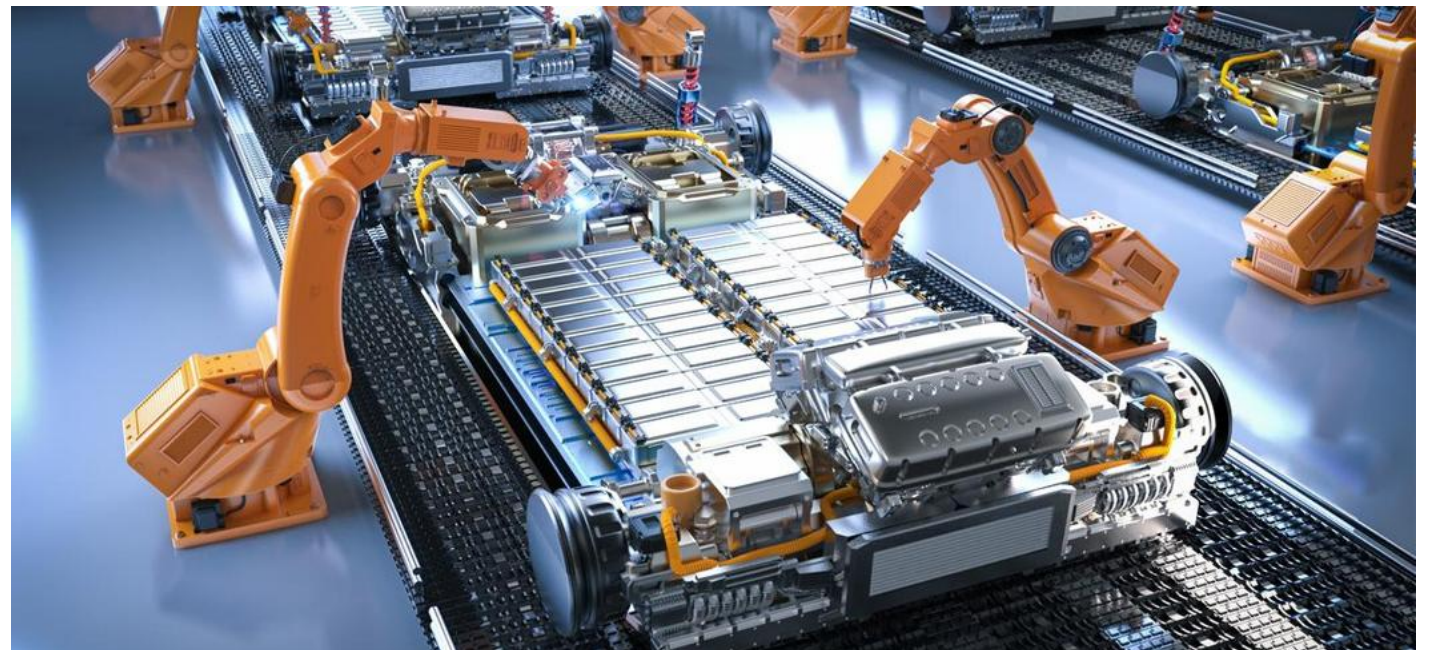
One of ten metros that rank in the nation's top echelon AI talent (computer science degrees) density is higher than U.S. rates and contain influential institutions in AI research.

Top Location for Semiconductor Talent Pipeline

The University of Michigan program global ranking in 2024.

Michigan is a Leader for Battery Capacity

Michigan is the top state for battery capacity, growing from nearly 70 GWh/year in 2026 to an estimated 166 by 2030.



Sources: Michigan Economic Development Corporation and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Brookings Metro, and the U.S. Department of Energy

The Region's Manufacturing The Future Of Mobility & Tech



Automotive & Mobility Manufacturing

25 OEM VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS

Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) located in Michigan.

95 OF THE TOP 100 SUPPLIERS

65 have their North American Headquarters in Michigan.

2,200+ SUPPLIERS & TECHNOLOGY

Facilities or center are in Michigan, mostly in the Detroit Region.

MAJORITY OF U.S. AUTO R&D INVESTMENT

From private companies is in Michigan at \$17.5 billion, 2023.

#1 LOCATION FOR VEHICLE PRODUCTION

1.6 million vehicles produced in the Detroit Region, 2025.



Technology Hub Supports Manufacturing

#1 FOR FASTEST GROWING STARTUPS

More than 690 deals valued at \$4 Billion amongst 34 firms in 2024

ONE BILLION VC INVESTMENTS IN MICHIGAN

Venture capital investments increased by 50% from 2019 – 2024.

97,000 REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY TALENT

Including more than 34,000 software developers, 2025.

#3 TECHNOLOGY TALENT COST VS QUALITY

Detroit Metro ranking from top U.S. tech markets, 2024.

TOP STATE FOR TOTAL ISSUED PATENTS & AI

More than 7,900 issued and registered annually in Michigan.

2) Advanced Manufacturing Talent

Regional Workforce, Robust Talent Pipeline, and Related Programs

The Largest & Highly Skilled Production Talent Hubs in the U.S.

209,380

PRODUCTION WORKERS, 2025



73,714 ASSEMBLERS & FABRICATORS

#1 for Assemblers, Nearly Three-Times More Talent



12,610 PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

Wages More Affordable than National Rates



54,615 METAL & PLASTIC WORKERS

Two Times More Talent Density than U.S. Average



40,242 OTHER PRODUCTION WORKERS

Affordable Wages & Low Turnover Rates



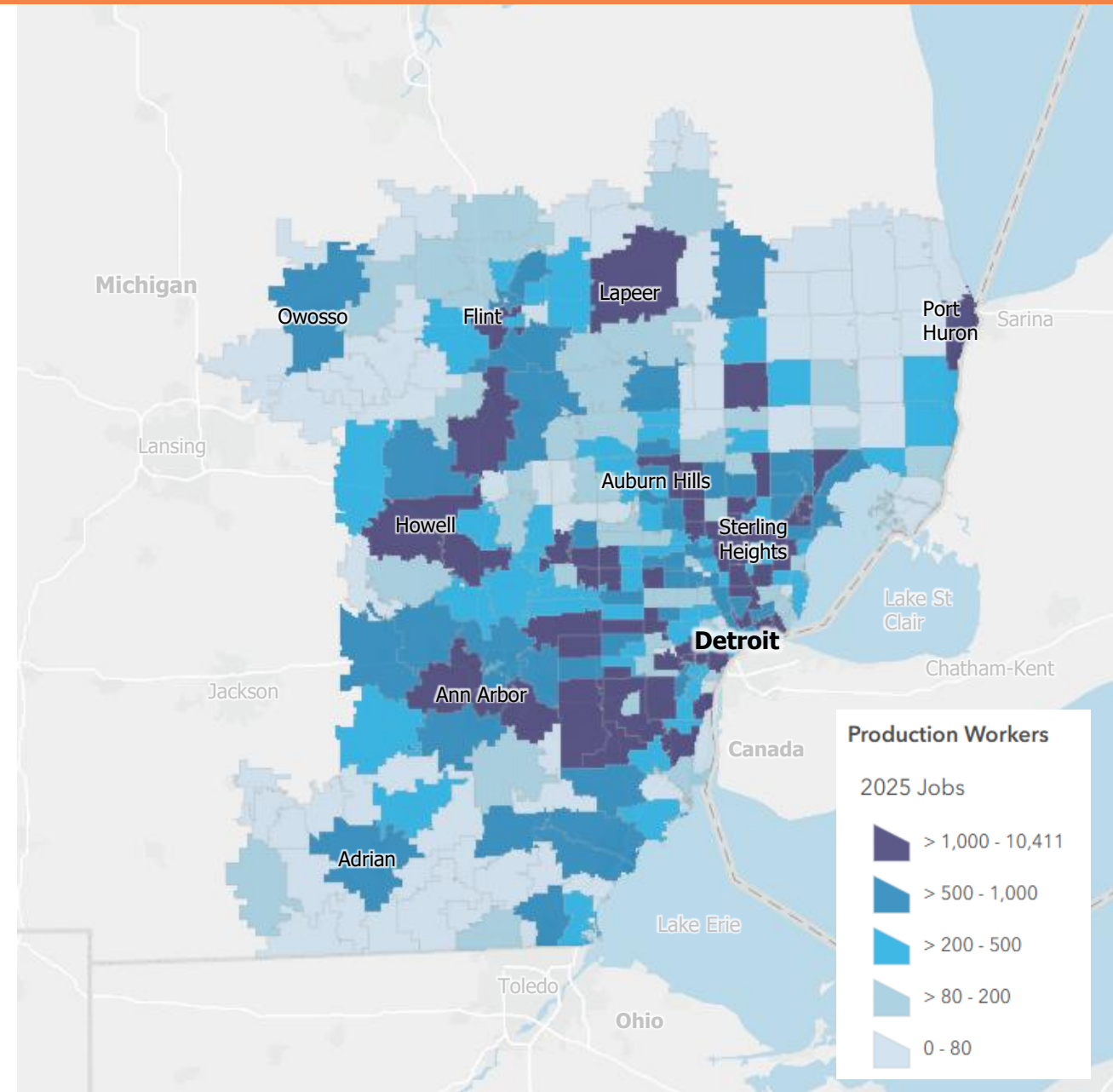
6,695 Electrical Mechanics & Repairers

Affordable Wages & Low Turnover Rates

Source: Lightcast.

Note: Includes 33 occupations related to production and assembler mobility and automotive talent.

Note: Location ranking is based MSA, using the 6-County Detroit MSA within the Detroit Region

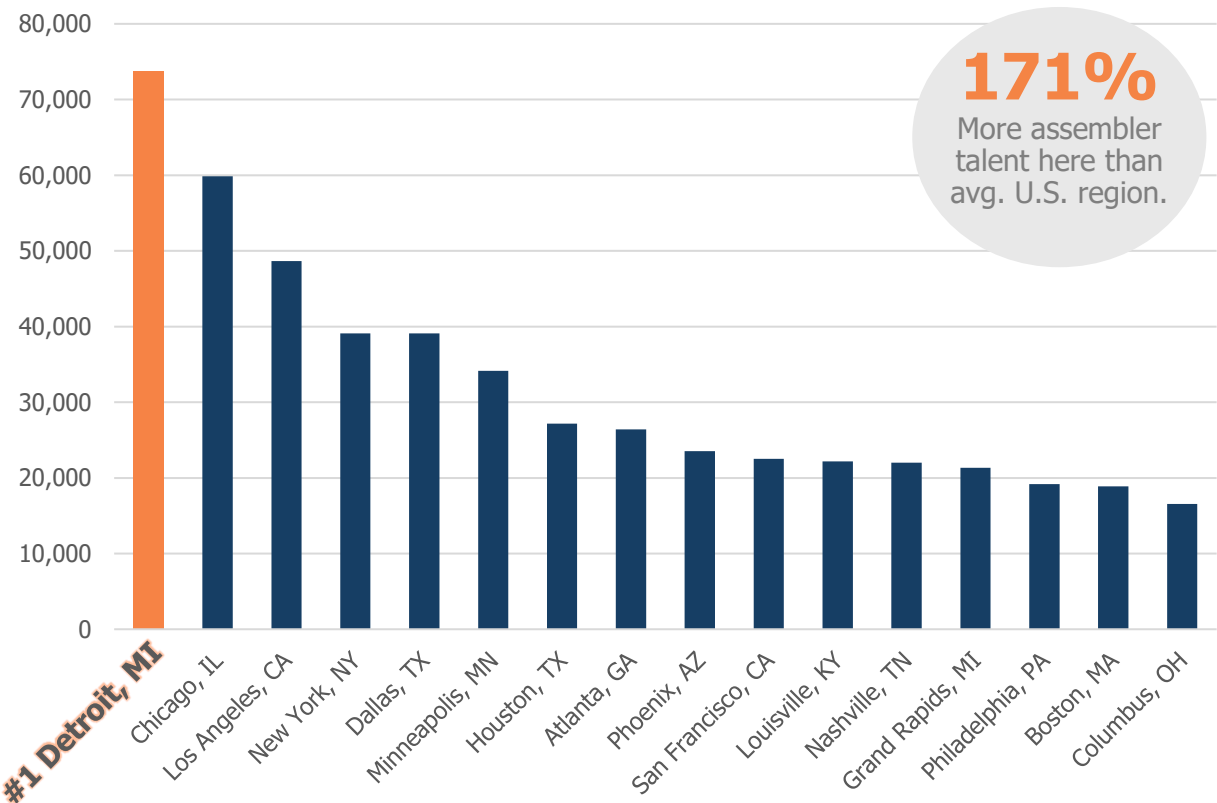


Detroit's Assembler & Auto Manufacturing Talent is Unmatched

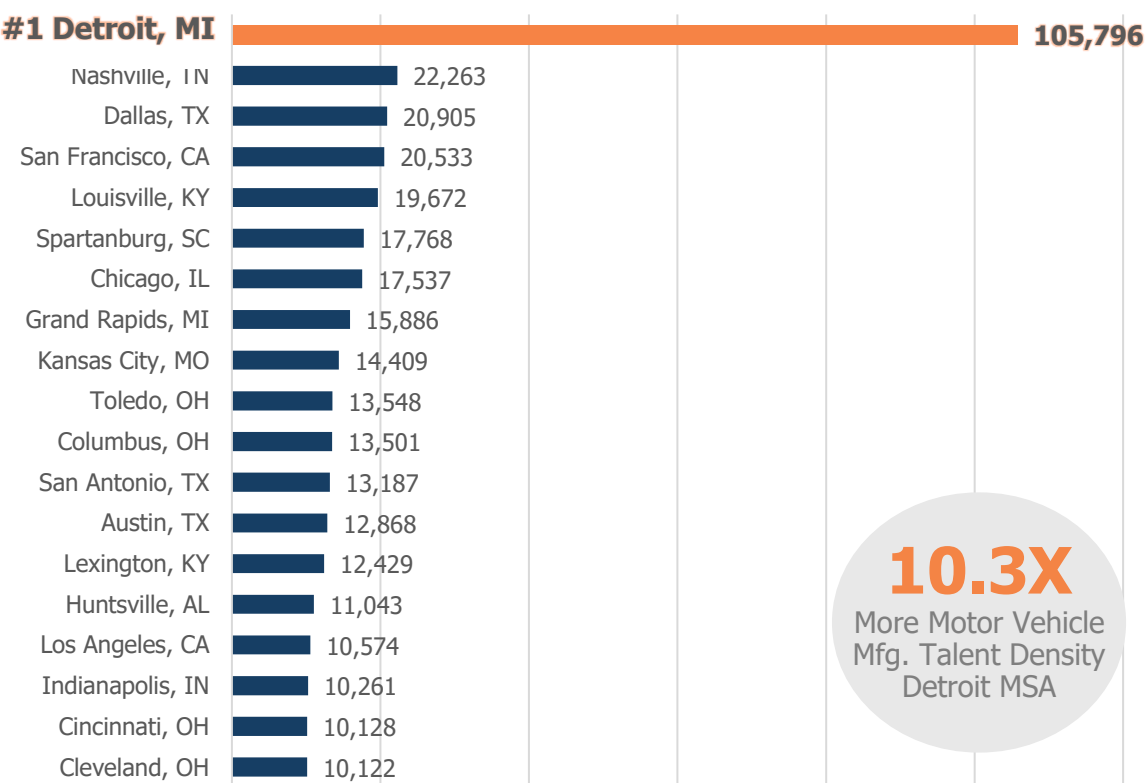
Assembler and Fabricators – Detroit ranks the #1 U.S. Metro for total workers and has one of the highest concentrations of workers with nearly three-times more than the U.S. average.

Motor Vehicle MFG. – Detroit is by far the top U.S. Metro for total workers, having one of the largest density (LQ) for this talent being 10.3 times more than the U.S. average.

ENGINE, ELECTRICAL, & MISC. ASSEMBLERS / FABRICATORS, 2025



MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURING. INDUSTRY WORKERS, 2025



Source: Lightcast. Note: Metros defined as MSA's. Assemblers occupations include all under 512 NAICS and motor vehicle industry is defined by all 336 NAICS excluding non motor vehicle industries.

Engineering Excellence – Top Ranking Region for Engineers

110,242

ENGINEERS & TECHNICIANS, 2025



24,746 MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

#1 Nationally, Nearly Six-Times More Talent



19,174 INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

#1 Nationally, Nearly Four-Times More Talent



10,045 ENGINEER MANAGERS

#2 Nationally, Grew by 23% Past Five-Years



9,588 ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

#3 Nationally, Nearly Three-Times More Talent



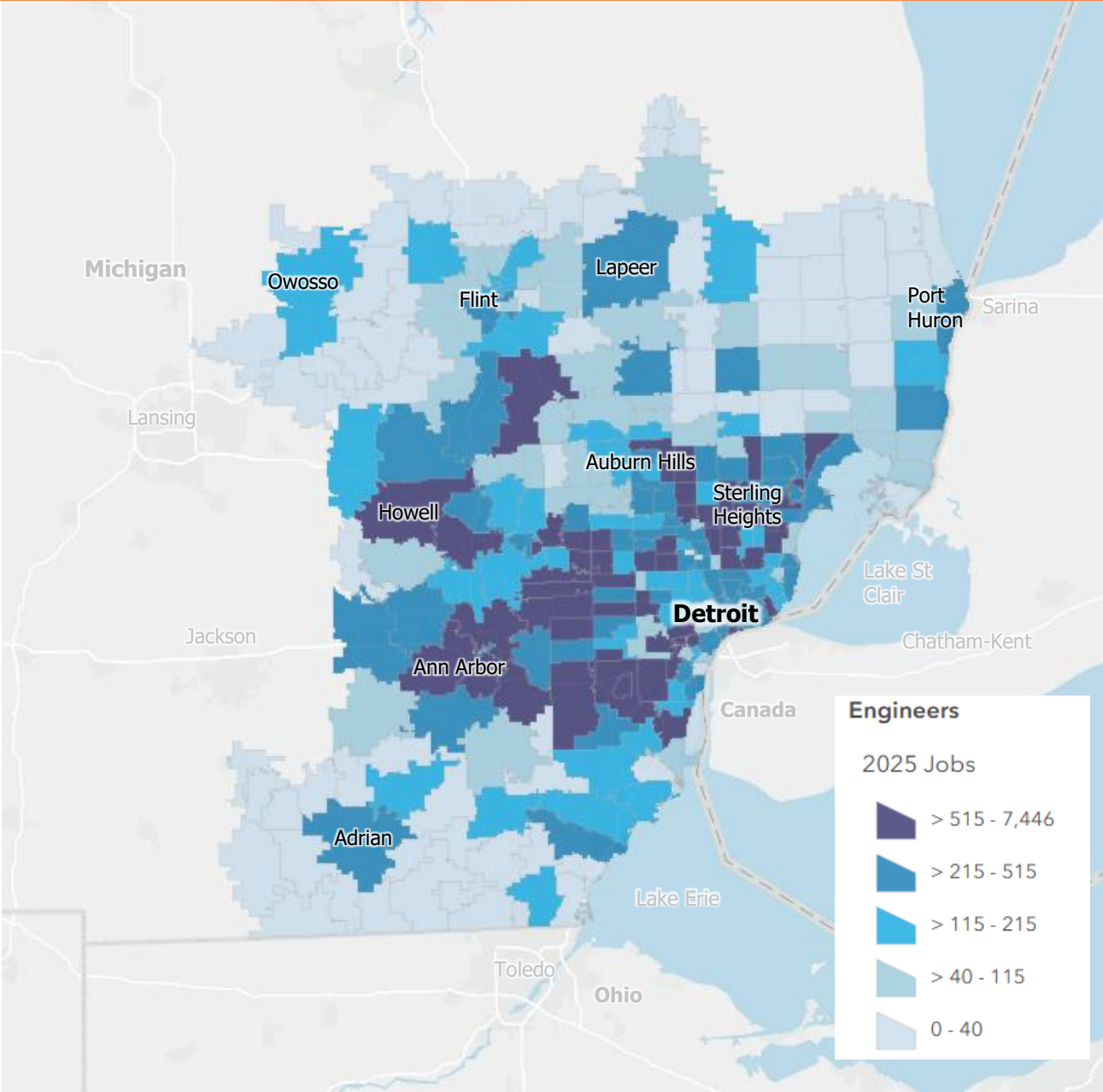
6,230 OTHER ENGINEERS

#4 Nationally, Grew by 20% Past Five-Years

Source: Lightcast.

Note: Includes all 26 occupations related to engineering under the 17-digit NAICS.

Note: Location ranking is based MSA, using the 6-County Detroit MSA within the Detroit Region



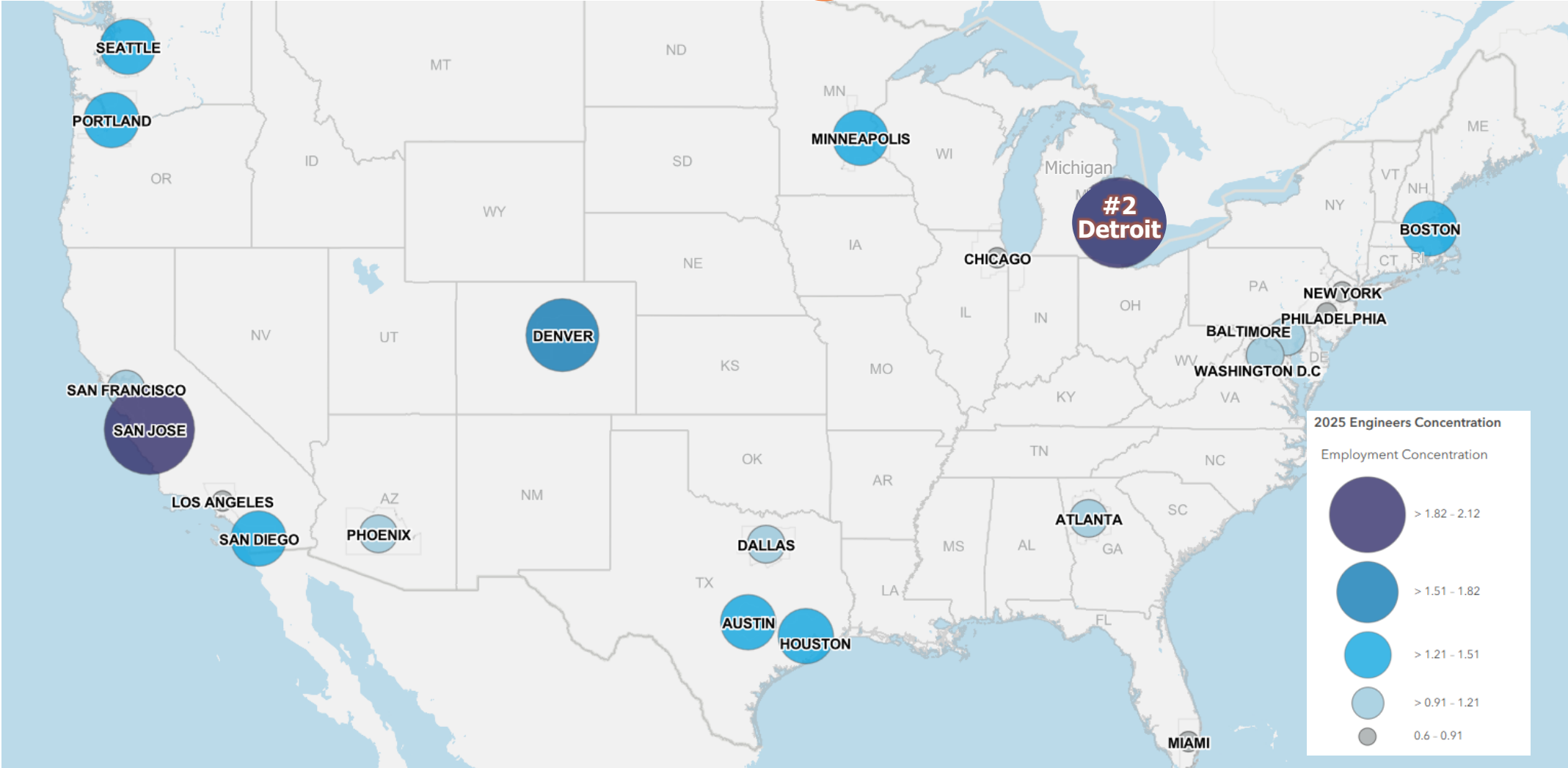
Detroit Leads the Nation in Engineering Density and Volume



THE DETROIT METRO HAS 94,957 ENGINEERS.
Ranking the fifth largest for engineering talent in 2025.



THE DETROIT METRO #2 FOR ENGINEERS PER CAPITA.
With more than two-times more talent than the U.S. average.



Source: Lightcast, Location Quotient (LQ) measures concentration, 1 is the U.S. average
Map Note: Top 21 Metros (MSAs) for 2025 Engineers & Detroit MSA is 6 counties within the 11-county Detroit Region

The Region Offers Affordable and Quality Technology Talent

97,916 TECHNOLOGY WORKERS, 2025



34,060 SOFTWARE DEV. & PROGRAMMERS

Increased by 16% in the Past Five-Years



12,135 COMPUTER SPECIALISTS

Low Turnover Rates & More Affordable Wages



9,680 COMPUTER & IT MANAGERS

Workers Increased by 23% Past Five Years



9,074 COMPUTER ANALYSTS

Talent Density 20% More than U.S. Average



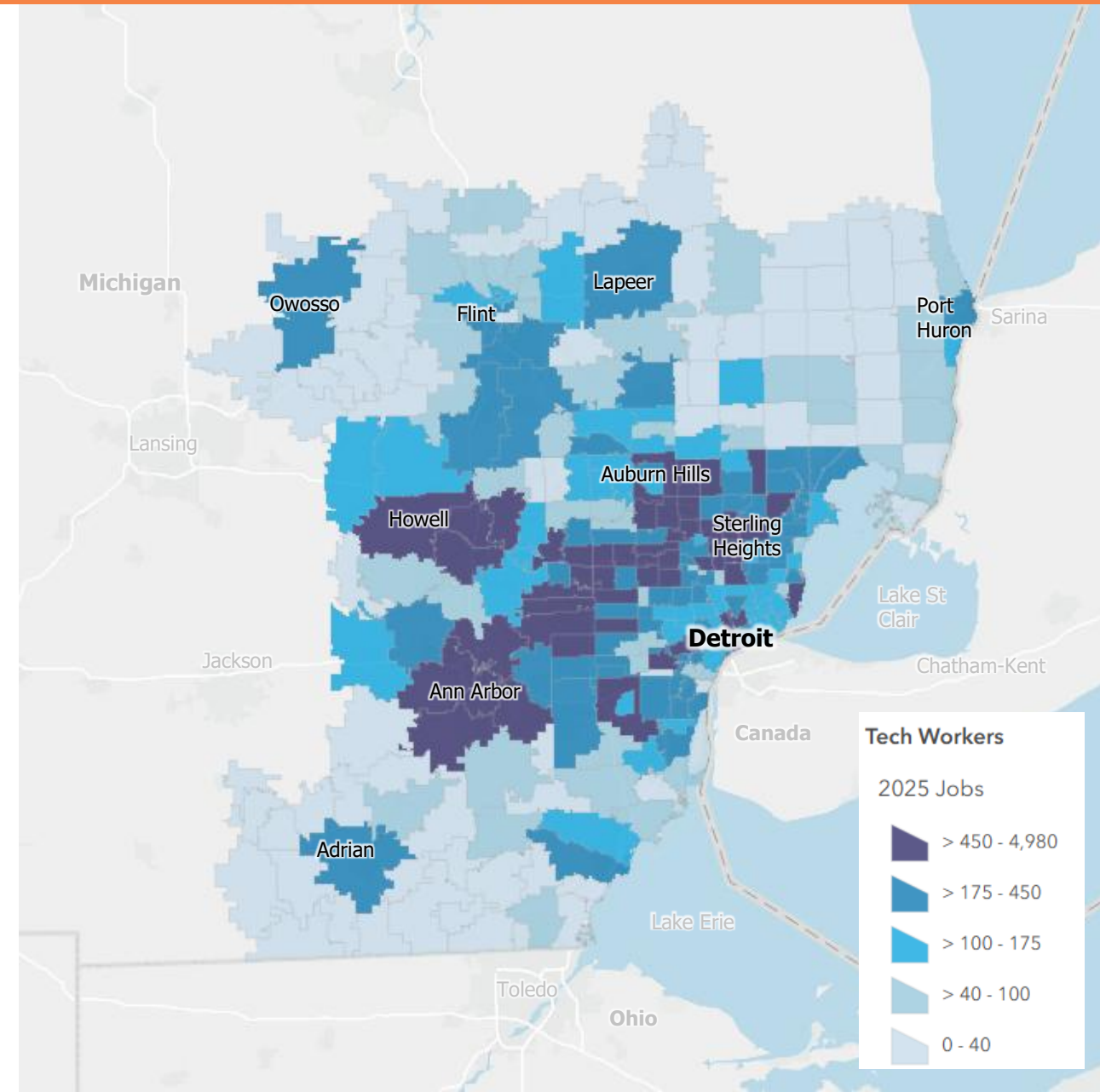
5,015 OTHER COMPUTER OCCUPATIONS

Increased by 15% in the Past Five-Years

Source: Lightcast.

Note: Technology definition defined by 21 five-digit occupations by CBRE.

Note: Location ranking is based MSA, using the 6-County Detroit MSA within the Detroit Region.



The Detroit Region Offers Deep Manufacturing Expertise

There were more than 2.1 million profiles / resumes throughout the 11-County Detroit Region that were updated in 2025-2026.

Advanced Mfg. Skills Total Regional Profiles:

- Lean Manufacturing = 57,000
- Continuous Improvement Process = 52,000
- New Product Development = 34,000
- Project Management = 34,000
- Six Sigma Methodology = 30,000
- Process Improvement = 28,000
- Manufacturing Engineering = 27,000
- Root Cause Analysis = 25,000
- Failure Mode & Effects Analysis = 25,000
- Production Part Approval Process = 23,000
- Kaizen Methodology = 22,000

Source: Lightcast.



Robust Advanced Manufacturing Regional Higher Education

							
University of Michigan	University of Michigan - Dearborn	Wayne State University	Lawrence Technological University	Oakland University	Macomb Community College	Henry Ford College	SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE & WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (WCCCD)
 Electric Vehicle Center  Battery Lab  Mcity  UMTRI  Automotive Research Center	 Automotive & Mobility Systems Engineering (MSE)  Energy Systems & Sustainability Engineering  Electric Energy Technology  Energy & Sustainability Certificates	 Electric-Drive Vehicle Engineering  Smart Grid & Power Electronics  Autonomous Vehicles  Robotics & Mobility Systems  Battery Research  Advanced Manufacturing	 Electric-Drive Vehicle Certificate  Automotive Engineering  Robotics Engineering  Intelligent Systems  Industry 4.0  Sustainable Engineering	 Mechatronics  Embedded Systems  Connected Vehicle Technologies  Advanced Manufacturing  Robotics  Electrical Engineering	 EV Technology Associate Degree  Electric Vehicle Certificate  Battery Systems  Advanced Manufacturing  Robotics & Automation  EV Workforce Training	 Battery Technology Curriculum  EV Manufacturing Track  Automotive Service Track  Battery Handling Track  Automotive Cybersecurity Track	 Automotive Technology  EV Service Technician Training  Mechatronics  Robotics  Advanced Manufacturing
 20+  1,200+							
Undergraduate & Graduate Courses related to batteries, EVs, manufacturing & grid systems	Annual Students Engaged through the Electric Vehicle Center						

Sources: Henry Ford College, Lawrence Technological University, Macomb Community College, Oakland University, Schoolcraft College, University of Michigan, Wayne County Community College District

Community Colleges Build a Strong, Industry-Aligned Workforce

The Detroit Region's nine community colleges provide an employer-connected talent pipeline through customized training, career & technical education and earn-while-you-learn apprenticeships—helping employers develop a skilled workforce.

86,000+ Students Enrolled at Nine Community Colleges

Located in the Detroit Region which have more than 17,000 annual completions.

More than 100 Employer Driven Training Programs

Direct partnerships with employers to train workers for new or expanded jobs.

530+ Career-Focused Associate Programs Available Here

Broad pipeline of applied, career-focused programs aligned to workforce needs.

Michigan Ranks #4 for Active Registered Apprentices

More than 23,000 active apprentices throughout Michigan in 2025, which completions have increased by 16% in the one-year & 8,600 new applications.

Sources: Lightcast, Michigan Center for Data & Analytics.

Note: Completions include certificates and degrees. Logo graphic not comprehensive of all employer driven partnerships.

NINE REGIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES



BROAD EMPLOYER DRIVEN PARTNERSHIPS



3) Manufacturing Industries

Subcluster Highlights and Local Industry Resources

Detroit Region's Robust Manufacturing Ecosystem

AUTOMOTIVE & SUPPLY CHAIN

 general motors			 Crafting the Core		 CORPORATION	 Invented for life		
		 The Future in Motion					 A SAMSUNG COMPANY	
		 The Power of Dreams						

DEFENSE

								
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DRONE & UNCREWED SYSTEMS

								
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AEROSPACE & AVIATION

CLEAN TECH & SEMICONDUCTOR

Note: Not a Comprehensive List

Midwest & Michigan is the Manufacturing Epicenter

One-Fourth of U.S. Total

Manufacturing businesses and workforce are in the 11 Midwest states.

#1 Midwest Mfg. State

Michigan is the top Midwest location and #4 overall for mfg. businesses and workers.

20,000+ Mfg. Businesses

Located throughout Michigan and the majority are in the Detroit Region.

400,000+ Mfg. Workforce

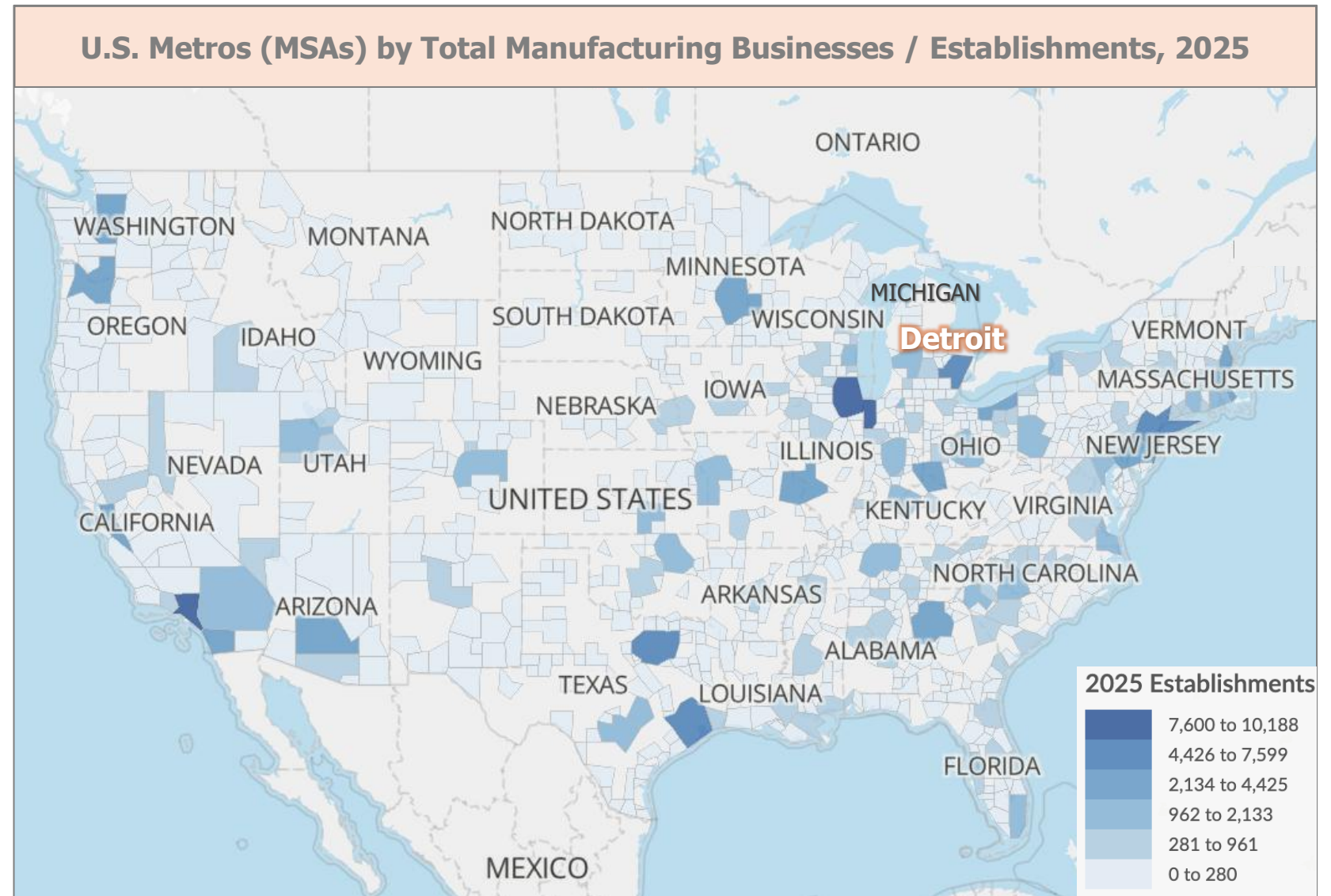
Located throughout Michigan and the majority work/live in the Detroit Region.

#4 for Total Mfg. Businesses

Detroit ranking out of all U.S. MSAs.

Source: Lightcast.

Note: Manufacturing defined by NAICS (31-33) and all data is for 2025.



Detroit and Michigan Ranks the Top Spots for Industrial Robots



ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATION COMPANIES

FANUC

ABB

KUKA

OMRON
adept

MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC

DÜRR

STÄUBLI

SIEMENS

NACHI
NACHI-FUJIKOSHI CORP.

Kawasaki
Kawasaki Robotics (USA), Inc.

DASSAULT
SYSTEMES

UNIVERSAL
ROBOTS

YASKAWA

COMAU

The Detroit Region's robotics industry is made up of globally known companies, innovative start-ups and world-class integrators. Making it a national leader for intelligence and innovation. The ecosystem is increasingly expanding beyond traditional automotive applications into AI-enabled manufacturing, autonomous systems, human-robot collaboration, digital twins and smart factories



DETROIT IS A TOP LOCATION FOR INNOVATION

Ranked in the top ten metros (MSAs) for artificial intelligence and machine learning patents issued at more than 1,000 patents in 2024.



DETROIT'S #1 METRO FOR INDUSTRIAL ROBOTS

More than 15,000 robots deployed, which at 8.5 per 1,000 worker is three times more than the national average density in 2018.



28,000+ INDUSTRIAL ROBOTS IN MICHIGAN

The state leads the nation for deployed robots and is national hub, making up 12% of the nation's total industrial robots in 2018.

Detroit Region's Advanced Manufacturing Resources

IACMI / LIFT, SCALE-UP RESEARCH FACILITY (SURF) - LIFT, operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII), is nonprofit 501(c)3 public-private partnership between the U.S. Department of Defense, industry and academia, part of the national network of manufacturing innovation institutes, driving the U.S. manufacturing revolution. LIFT's mission is to advance technology and talent development – driving rapid implementation of smarter manufacturing. [Website](#)

ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCING AUTOMATION (A3) - A leading global trade association representing more than 1,400 organizations across robotics, machine vision and imaging, AI, motion control, and industrial automation. A3 plays a key role in advancing smart manufacturing and robotics adoption through industry standards, workforce training, market intelligence, technology education, and its major AUTOMATE events—helping connect manufacturers, technology providers, integrators, and researchers across the ecosystem. [Website](#)

CENTREPOLIS ACCELERATOR – Located at Lawrence Technological University, is an industry 4.0 commercialization and manufacturing innovation resource, including support for emerging technologies and manufacturers. The accelerator has serves more than 100 companies annually which have generated more than \$160 million revenue. [Website](#)

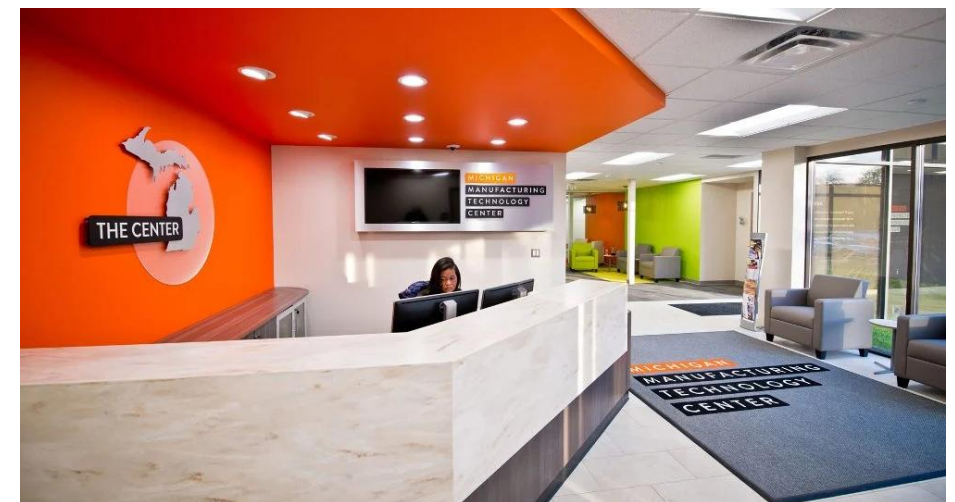
AUTOMATION ALLEY - A World Economic Forum Advanced Manufacturing Hub (AMHUB), is a nonprofit Industry 4.0 knowledge center headquartered in Troy, Michigan, with satellite offices across the Detroit Region. Industry 4.0 adoption, automation, digital transformation, technology demonstrations, training and connections to technology providers. [Website](#)



MICHIGAN MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY CENTER (MMTC) - Statewide manufacturing resource providing employers with hands-on support in advanced technology adoption, robotics, Industry 4.0, workforce training, operational excellence, quality and supply-chain development. MMTC helps manufacturers move from technology assessment to implementation while strengthening productivity, workforce capabilities and competitiveness. [Website](#)

HOW MMTC SUPPORTS ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN MICHIGAN

- **Operational Excellence:**
 - Lean manufacturing and Six Sigma, Process improvement, Quality management, Productivity and cost reduction
- **Advanced Technology:**
 - Industry 4.0 assessments, Automation and robotics, AI and digital technologies, Advanced manufacturing technology adoption, Technology opportunity assessments
- **Workforce Development:**
 - Technical skills training, Leadership development, GD&T and blueprint reading, Welding and manufacturing fundamentals, Customized employer training
- **Growth & Supply Chain:**
 - Supplier connections through CONNEX, Product/process innovation, Market diversification, Regulatory and certification support, Business growth and capacity expansion
- **MMTC 2025 Impacts:**
 - 335 manufacturing clients, \$25 million in cost savings, 182 technology opportunity assessments completed for mfg. technology adoption, 100+ manufacturing events hosted, sponsored, or supported in Michigan.



4) Defense & Aerospace Mfg.

Defense Ecosystem and Non-Defense Aerospace Manufacturing

Detroit is Known as the Arsenal of Democracy – Defense Mfg.

During World War II, Detroit accepted the call to become the “Arsenal of Democracy” providing weapons and vehicles necessary for victory. Today, the Detroit Region is **one of the few locations with demonstrated expertise in taking new ideas fully from concept to production.**

Top Ten State for Aerospace Attractiveness

Based on concentration of electrical and mechanical engineers, as well as manufacturing friendly laws.

More than \$65 Billion in DOD Contracts

Department of Defense (DOD) contracts awarded to companies in the Michigan Defense Corridor from 2014-2024, **more than 4,800 contracts awarded** just in 2024.

4,900+ Aerospace and Defense Companies

In the Michigan Defense Corridor, majority (4,000) are defense related companies and remaining (900) aerospace.

More than 166,000 Defense Workers

Workforce in defense, aerospace, or homeland security industries in Michigan, majority in the Detroit Region.

#4 Best Aerospace Engineering Program

In the country is at the University of Michigan.



REGIONAL AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE COMPANIES

AM General

BAE SYSTEMS

**GENERAL
DYNAMICS**

bmt
aerospace

GE GE Aviation

gm DEFENSE

ASCENT AEROSPACE

KBR

SAPA TRANSMISSION

FUTURAMIC

L3
Technologies

NAVISTAR
DEFENSE

Raytheon
Technologies

OSHKOSH
DEFENSE

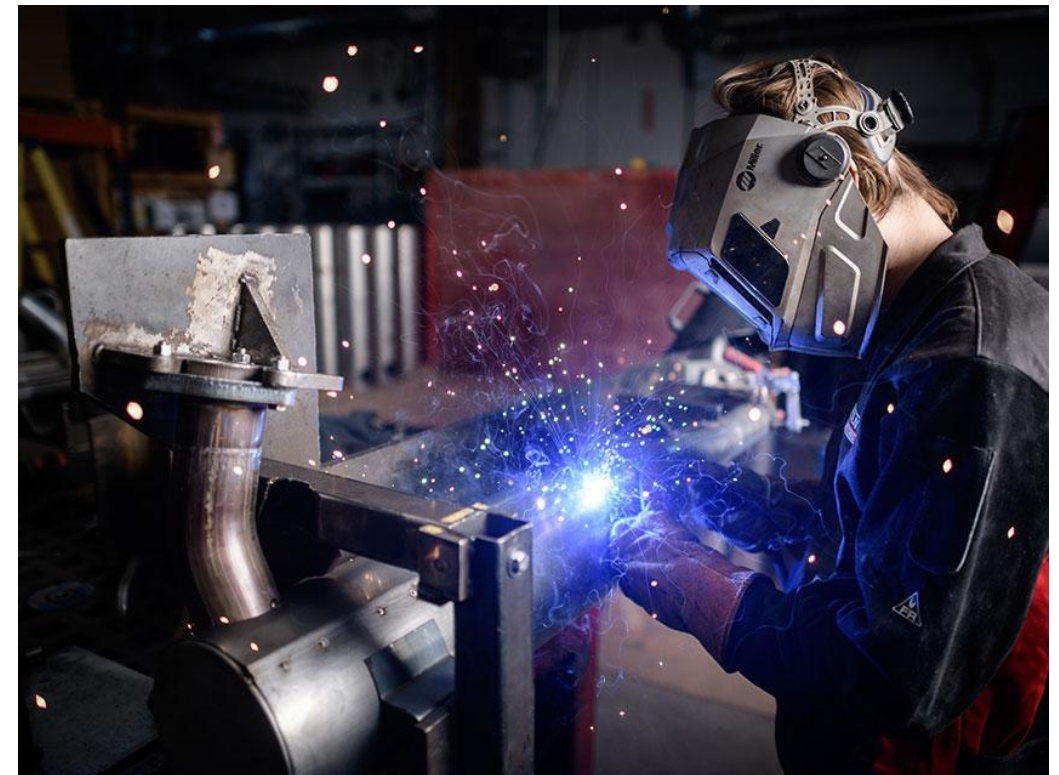
NORTHROP GRUMMAN

MB
AEROSPACE

Michigan's Robust Aerospace and Defense Industry Partners

There are 17 commands, military organizations and installations deliver critical capabilities to support U.S. military readiness and innovation for long-term advantage located in Michigan. The following are some key industry partners that support the defense and aerospace industry:

- **Michigan Defense Resiliency Consortium** - The Department of Defense has selected the Michigan Defense Resiliency Consortium as a defense manufacturing community, an initial step in its competitive Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program (DMCSP). Led by the Economic Growth Institute at the University of Michigan, consortium members are addressing defense needs in energy storage and battery manufacturing.
- **Office of Defense and Aerospace Innovation** – ODAI goal is to build on the storied legacy of the Michigan Defense Center, increasing awareness of Michigan's capabilities, supporting attraction and expansion of businesses that champion Department of Defense-related activities, and enhancing commercial and defense-related aerospace segments poised for growth.
- **Macomb Regional APEX Accelerators** – Enhance the national defense strategy and grow Michigan's economy by assisting Michigan businesses sell their products and services to federal, state and local units of government. Works with businesses to become successful as a defense contractor.
- **Macomb Community College, Maritime Manufacturing (M3)** - The program is providing skilled workers in CNC Machining and Welding. They are graduates from the 17-week program with 600 hours of classroom and hands-on training in CNC or Welding. The students will have a certificate and be ready to earn certifications from the American Welding Society, the National Institute for Metalworking Skills and Amatrol.
- **Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs)** - Michigan's PTACs aim to enhance national defense and economic development by assisting Michigan businesses in obtaining federal, state, and local government contracts.



Aerospace and Defense Key Assets in the Detroit Region



The Detroit Arsenal (DTA) - TACOM: Army Contracting Command responsible for the acquisition support many of the Army's major weapon systems and ensures warfighting readiness.

- The U.S. Army Detroit Arsenal, located in the Michigan Defense Corridor, is home to two Army Commands and several related organizations.
- One is the Army Contracting Command-Detroit Arsenal, which handles contracting for 70% of everything the Army buys



CCDC: The U.S Army Combat Capabilities Development Command - Ground Vehicle Systems Center operates the United States Armed Forces research and development facility for advanced technology in defensive ground systems.

- The Ground Vehicle Systems Center (GVSC), the nation's laboratory for advanced military automotive technology.
- More than 1,000 researchers and engineers develop and maintain vehicles for all U.S. Army Forces, federal agencies and 60+ countries.



Selfridge Air National Guard Base – Home to the Michigan Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and Coast Guard and is one of the largest joint Reserves Forces in the U.S.

- Selfridge Air National Guard Base will be home to one of the newest aircraft in the U.S. Air Force, the F-15EX and host a new KC-46A tanker mission, announced in January 2024.



Advanced Aerial Mobility (AAM) Foundational Assets in Michigan

#1 Concentration of AAM Testing & Deployment

Project are Happening in Michigan than the Rest of the U.S.

Most Competitive Location for AAM Talent

In the Nation is in Michigan and the Detroit Region

#1 Globally for High-Growth Drone Companies

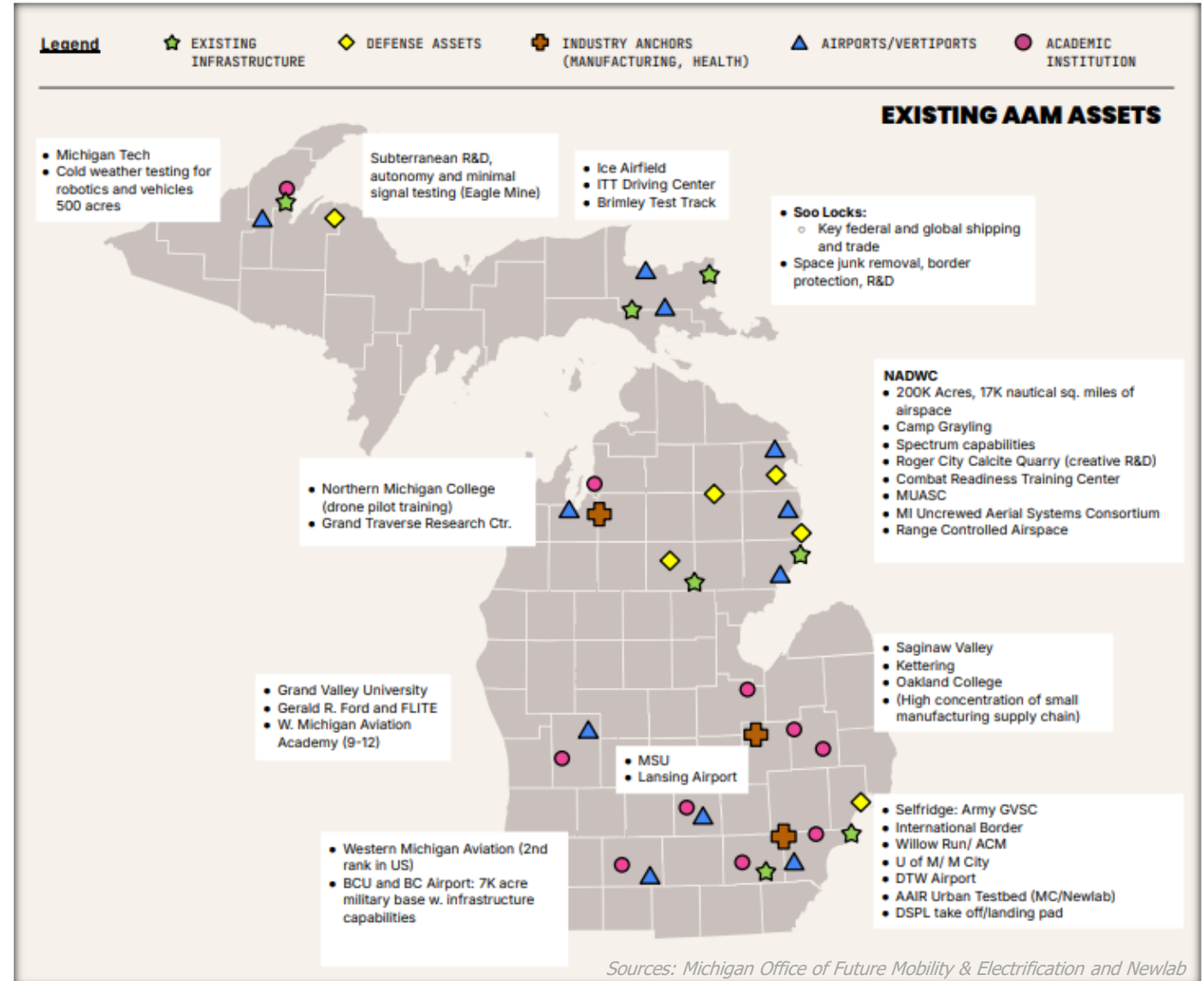
Network Corridor to Support Scaled Drone Operations

Fastest Design Production Cycle is Here

Michigan has the Most Accessible International Border for Drones

AAM Southeast Michigan Projects: \$62.4 Million

- UAS Feasibility Study
- Advanced Aerial Innovation Region (Michigan Central / MDOT)
- UAS Communications Mesh
- eVTOL Charging Network (Beta)
- Drone Development Testing
- UAV Ground Control Station Development
- Drones as First Responders
- Drones for medical delivery (Beaumont Health)
- Drone Simulation Lab (Sterling Heights)



From the Motor City to Drone City – Detroit is Leading Mobility

Drone Pilot Academy – Based in Detroit, they provide a one-day "Drone 101" course and a more in-depth, four-session commercial drone pilot course designed to prepare students for the FAA Part 107 exam.

- The academy also collaborates with organizations like the University of Michigan and Henry Ford College on drone-related educational initiatives.

Michigan Advanced Air Mobility Initiative – Advanced air mobility (AAM) is an innovative concept that aims to transform transportation by integrating new, highly automated aircraft into existing airspace.

- Goals are to facilitate the advancement of emerging aviation technologies in Michigan, the Office of Aeronautics is promoting safe and efficient standards for new aviation facilities, advocating for policy changes to streamline operations, and serving as an educational leader in the AAM space.

M-Air, University of Michigan – 40-mile stretch of skyway that will be the centerpiece for a new public-private partnership, launched by the University of Michigan, for advanced air mobility testing called M-Air.

- The M-Air flight corridor will be a prime location for testing drones and electric aircraft and is under the U-M Transportation Research Institute.
- Funded through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, with support from the Michigan Department of Transportation and a \$2 million investment from the state of Michigan and the University of Michigan.

Uncrewed Triple Challenge (UTC) – Groundbreaking, state-sponsored competition of autonomous drones across water, air, and land.

- The rigorous course includes 10 miles on the water from the Alpena harbor into Thunder Bay and back, 58.5 miles through the skies to Camp Grayling, and 23.5 miles across rugged terrain to the finish line.
- The first ever challenge occurred in spring 2025 that brought teams from eight states and three countries to test unmanned technologies in Michigan.



Innovative Drone Startups & Collaborative Mfg. Partnerships

Airspace Link – Founded in Detroit in 2018, the AirHub Platform is a low-altitude digital system designed to support the safe scaling of drones with more than 20 employees at the HQ within Newlab.

- The company stated “**Michigan could take the lead in the as being one of the top drone integration states.**”
- Partnered with Newlab to create the Detroit’s **Advanced Aerial Innovation Region** a three-mile radius that provides infrastructure to enable commercial drone development.

Blueflite – Headquartered in Brighton is a cargo drone OEM and has fast-tracked development of its advanced drone platform for last-mile delivery to focus on delivering automotive parts to Ford dealerships by air in Southeast Michigan.

- “At a time when mobility is being redefined, this collaboration **showcases how Michigan’s automotive roots and aerospace future are coming together to shape a smarter, faster, and more connected supply chain.**” – Frank Noppel, CEO of Blueflite
- \$740,000 grant from Michigan Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Activation Fund and support from Make It in Michigan Prototyping Grant Program.

Ondas Robotics & Detroit Manufacturing Systems – Ondas, a leading provider of commercial drones entered into a strategic partnership with Detroit Manufacturing Systems (DMS) that will lead their U.S.-based manufacturing supply chain. All production of Ondas’s drones will take place at DMS’s advanced manufacturing facilities in Wixom (Oakland County) to leverage high quality American production.

- “We’re proud of our **advanced manufacturing operations that will strengthen the U.S. defense industrial base to secure reliable production of aerospace technologies.**” - Bruce Smith, CEO of DMS

REGIONAL DRONE COMPANIES



Source: Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Note: Not a Comprehensive List

5) Semiconductors & AI

Semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Related Mfg. Technology

The Semiconductor Industry is Set Up for Success in Detroit

The Detroit Region's ability to support the semiconductor industry extends from deep knowledge as a customer of the sector, as the global epicenter of the automotive industry.

- Michigan's automotive industry purchased nearly **\$403 million in products and services from semiconductor companies in Michigan**, building on the state's leadership in semiconductor R&D and testing.
- The Region is home to the **largest producer to polysilicon in the U.S.**
- **Top institute for semiconductor training**, is the University of Michigan.
- **Semiconductor Career and Apprenticeship Network (SCAN)** will accelerate workforce development in the Detroit Region and state.
- **Michigan's Semiconductor Talent Action Team (TAT)** a collaborative, public/private partnership aimed at making Michigan a top state for semiconductor talent solutions and growth.
 - The effort already includes seven higher education partners, 15 semiconductor employers and two industry associations that are working with the state to focus on key semiconductor roles.
 - The program has already recruited more than 30 Michigan university students who are eligible for up to \$10,000 in scholarships and has more than 200 students actively participating in networking and programming with industry leaders.
 - The educational consortium will develop semiconductor education curricula and flexible training models to jump-start career paths to in-demand job roles and launch / expand K-12 semiconductor engagement and awareness efforts such as skills boot camps.



Semiconductor Companies in the Detroit Region

KLA+

HSC[®] HEMLOCK SEMICONDUCTOR

WACKER

SK siltron

ANALOG DEVICES

DOW

CORNING

FUJITSU

infineon

NXP

Calumet
Electronics Corporation

indie

Note: Not a Comprehensive List

Higher Education: Semiconductor Talent Programs & Initiatives

Semiconductor Talent and Technology for Automotive Research (MSTAR) initiative created a global semiconductor center of excellence which the state announced a \$10 million investment into the program in 2024.

- The MSTAR initiative is a public-private partnership with semiconductor company KLA, technology innovation hub Imec, the University of Michigan, Washtenaw Community College, and General Motors.
- The center will focus on advanced research for vehicle electrification and autonomous automotive solutions, collaborating with learning institutions, training and re-training programs for modern chip manufacturing / assembly roles, and creating a physical collaboration lab and training space.

Lurie Nanofabrication Facility, a world-class laboratory at the University of Michigan supports advanced semiconductor research, education, and regional economic development.

- Over the past five years, 95 companies and 150 U-M faculty members have utilized it, as well as researchers from 40 other US universities.

MAVERIC, the Michigan Advanced Vision for Education and Research, is a semiconductor collaborative that is pulling together efforts from across the university to support a secure, resilient and innovative domestic semiconductor sector.

- The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) pledged \$4.6 million in grants and matching funds to support eight local higher education institutions' [semiconductor education and training programs](#) to help build the workforce needed as the industry grows.



APPLE MANUFACTURING ACADEMY – Mfg. & AI Workshops

COLLABORATION OVERVIEW:

- The Apple Manufacturing Academy, which is being administered by Michigan State University, opened in August 2025 offers workshops on manufacturing and artificial intelligence to small and medium-sized businesses.
 - Sessions focus on machine and deep learning in manufacturing; automation in product manufacturing; leveraging manufacturing data to improve quality; applying digital technologies to enhance operations; and more.
 - The academy will also offer virtual programming, with a skills development curriculum that teaches project management and manufacturing process optimization.
- This is part of the company's **plans to spend more than \$500 billion in the U.S.** over the next five years, investing in products, programs and companies.
- Apple has 18 developer academies around the world, the only developer academy in the U.S. is also based in Detroit, which enrolls about 200 students annually.

WHY THE REGION:

- "With this new programming, we're thrilled to **help even more businesses implement smart manufacturing** so they can unlock amazing opportunities for their companies and our country." - Sabih Khan, Apple's Chief Operating Officer



One of the Top-Ranking Regions Ready for the AI Economy

Two Top Ranking Metros for the AI Economy

Ann Arbor ranked **#15 star AI hub** and **Detroit ranked #35 emerging AI center**, out of 190 U.S. metros in 2025

Detroit is in the AI Talent & Innovation Cohort

One of ten metros that rank in the nation's top echelon AI talent (computer science degrees) density is higher than U.S. rates and contain influential institutions in AI research.

6,000+ Profiles / Resumes with AI Skills

Online worker profiles with AI related skills in the region.

More than 100 Startups Focused on AI

Located in the region creating AI-driven products.

More than 200 AI Publications Regionally

AI research papers published at top AI conferences.

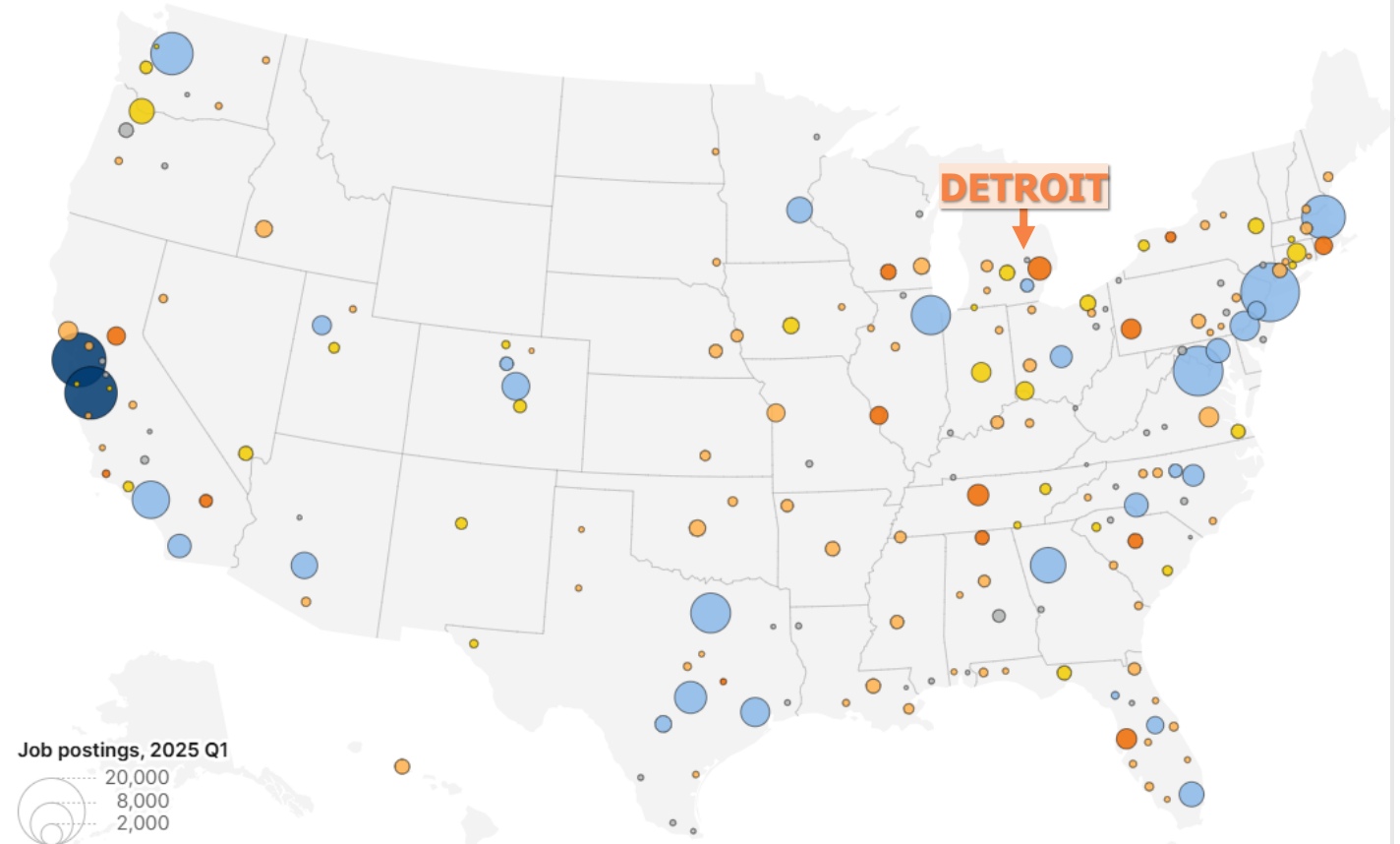
More than 100 Patents Granted Related to AI

Filed from regional residents, majority in Ann Arbor.

U.S. Metros by Job Postings Related to Artificial Intelligence (AI), Q1 2025

AI cluster type

■ Superstars ■ Star Hubs ■ Emerging Centers ■ Focused Movers ■ Nascent Adopters ■ Others



Sources: Mapping the AI Economy by Brookings Metro. Note: Detroit Region includes the Ann Arbor and Detroit Metros (MSAs).

6) Clean Tech & Mobility Innovation

Clean Technology Energy Manufacturing and Future Technologies

Michigan has emerged as one of North America's leading battery manufacturing and battery technology hubs by leveraging its automotive heritage, advanced manufacturing workforce, engineering talent, and established mobility supply chain. While some announced EV projects have been delayed or restructured, the industry continues to diversify into energy storage, commercial vehicles, defense, and battery recycling.

More than 2,7000 Battery Manufacturing Workforce

In Michigan across the more than 25 mfg., R&D, and assembly plants.

One-Third of U.S. Battery Production and Development

Extensive network of battery suppliers & adv. manufacturing in Michigan.

Michigan's Battery Circularity Program Launched in 2026

Increasingly investing in end-of-life battery collection, recycling, materials recovery, and reuse part of a statewide circular economy strategy.

Sources: Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Michigan Governor's Office, Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council.
Note: Not a comprehensive list of battery related companies.

MICHIGAN'S BATTERY ECOSYSTEM

BATTERY CELL MANUFACTURING

- LG Energy Solution — Holland & Lansing
- Clarios — Holland (low-voltage lithium-ion)
- Ford — Marshall

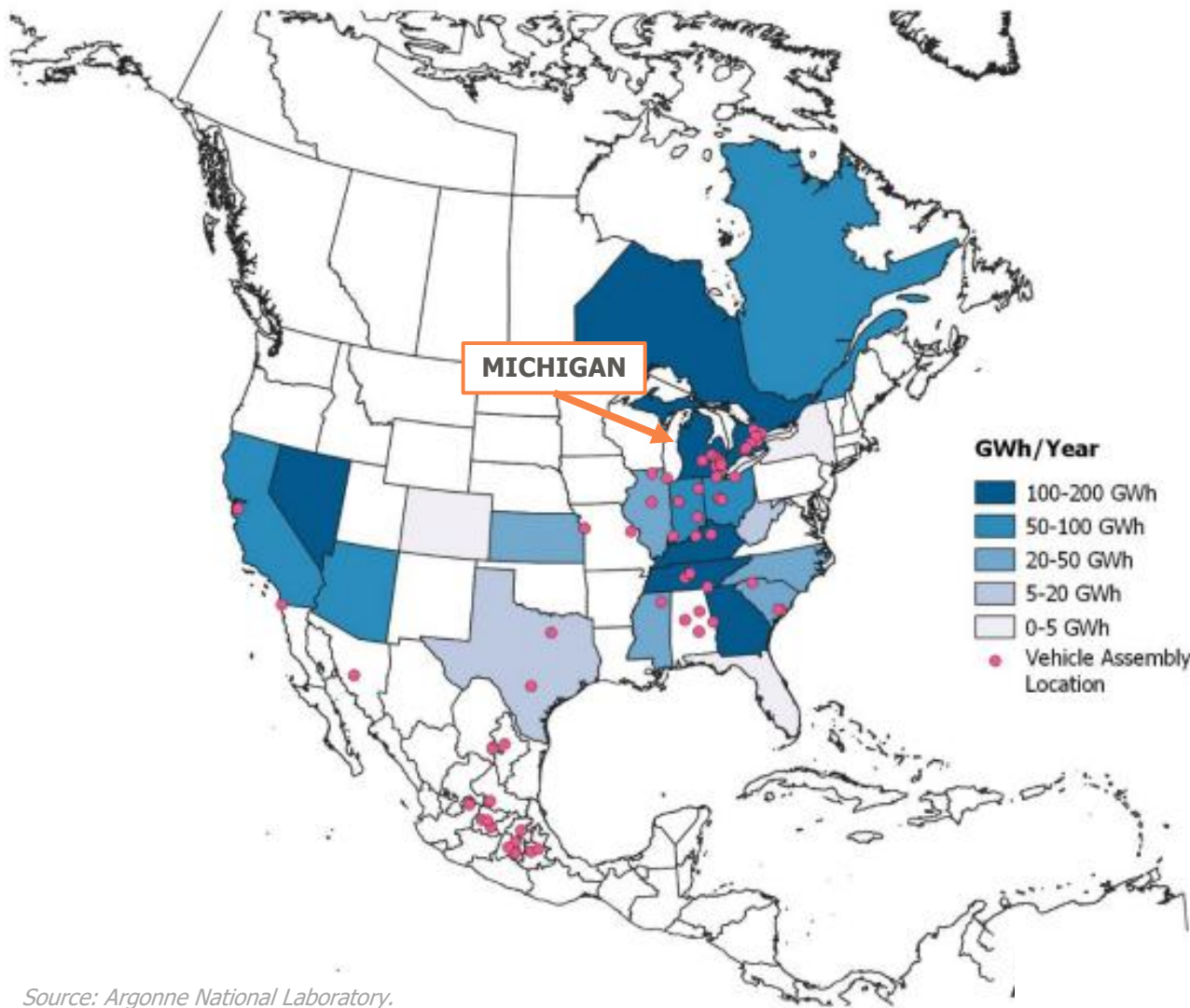
BATTERY PACK MANUFACTURING

- Ford — Rawsonville
- General Motors — Brownstown Township
- BorgWarner (formerly AKASOL) — Hazel Park
- American Battery Solutions – Lake Orion
- Navitas Systems – Ann Arbor

BATTERY R&D / ENGINEERING

- Samsung SDI — Auburn Hills
- A123 Systems — Novi
- Our Next Energy — Novi
- Solid Power – Ann Arbor
- UL Solutions – Auburn Hills
- TÜV SÜD America – Auburn Hills

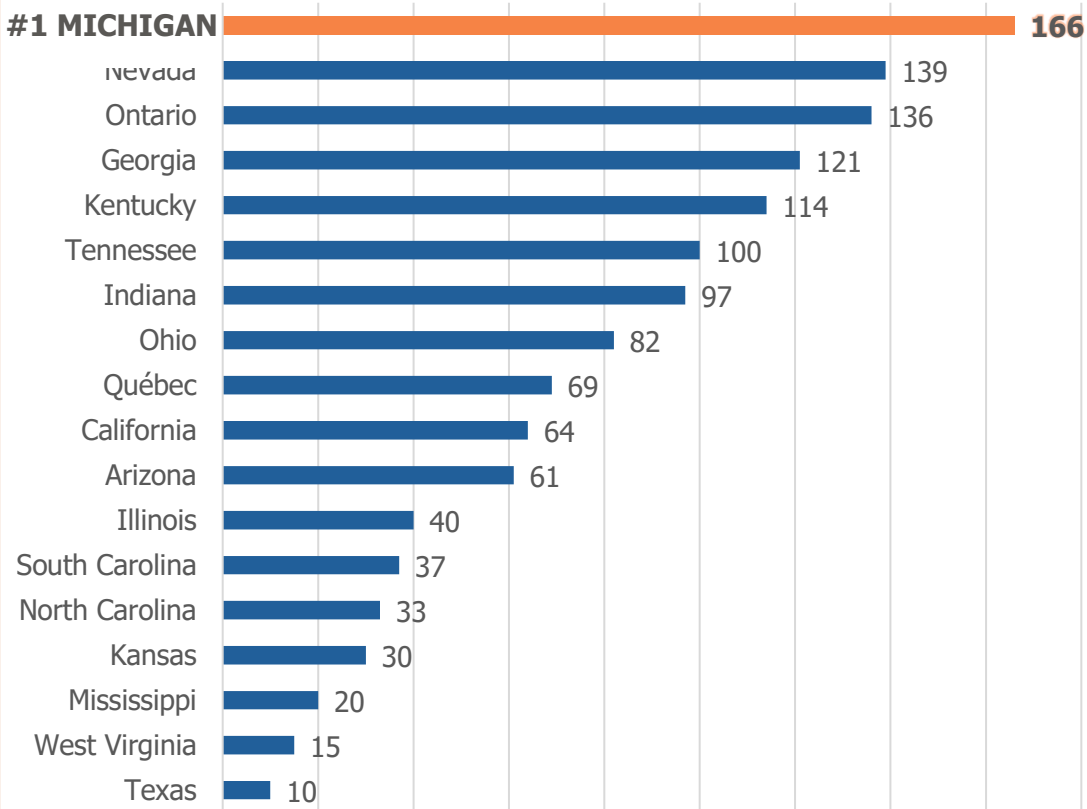
Michigan is Leading the Way for Battery Capacity & Manufacturing



LEADER FOR BATTERY CAPACITY

Michigan is the top state for battery capacity, growing from nearly 70 GWh/year in 2026 to 166 by 2030.

2030 Projected Lithium-ion Battery Capacity by State (GWh/year)



Clean / Alternative Energy is Powering the Future of Mobility

Michigan is a Top Location for Clean Energy Jobs

Ranking #6 U.S. state for a large clean energy technology workforce more than 127,000 workers in 2025.

Clean Energy Workers Grew Twice as Fast

Compared to overall employment in Michigan, even **outpacing the traditional energy sector** in the past year.

\$27.8 Billion Investments in Clean Energy

Tied to federal programs in Michigan, which will **support more than 21,000 good-paying-jobs** in the state.

Leadership in Domestic Battery Supply Chain

The region is home to five EV battery manufacturing plants.

\$22 Million for Clean Hydrogen Infrastructure

Midwest Alliance awarded Michigan to plan hydrogen supply chains and develop a future hydrogen truck stop in Detroit.

Produces 346 Million Gallons of Ethanol Annually

Ranking among the nation's larger ethanol-producing states.



8) BUSINESS CLIMATE & CONTACT

Tax Environment, Verified Industrial Properties (VIP), & DRP Contact

Detroit Region's Key Industry Clusters

DRP has seven targeted industry clusters that was identified to support and diversify the economy, while creating jobs for all in the 11-county Detroit Region.

The story maps contain regional data trends, local expertise insights, case studies, and has a complimentary downloadable business case PDF – [**DRP GIS Portal Website**](#).



MOBILITY & AUTOMOTIVE



ADVANCED MANUFACTURING



CORPORATE & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, & DESIGN



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY



LOGISTICS



FINANCIAL SERVICES

Thank You

DRP is an economic development 501(C)(3) nonprofit that offers confidential, no-cost assistance to domestic and international companies seeking to explore and invest in the 11-county Detroit Region.

DRP SERVICES

- A Single Point of Contact
- Regional Data
- Connections to Key Partners
- Incentives and Talent Assistance
- Building and Site Analysis

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