

Defense & Aerospace Industry



IN GREATER GRAND RAPIDS

Greater Grand Rapids is a key player in the defense and aerospace industry, renowned for its strong workforce, comprehensive supply chain, and cost-effective living. With the highest concentration of engineers in the nation and over 4,800 STEM degrees awarded annually, the region supports over 8,700 aerospace jobs and contributes \$1.8 billion to the local economy. With its extensive manufacturing capabilities and access to quality talent, Greater Grand Rapids is an ideal location for aerospace and defense companies to thrive.

Key Industry Stats

\$1.8B **8,728**

GROSS REGIONAL
PRODUCT

JOBS IN THE
AEROSPACE SECTOR

\$110,239

AVERAGE EARNINGS PER JOB

389

DEFENSE AND AEROSPACE
MANUFACTURING
ESTABLISHMENTS

Data Source: Lightcast

Michigan has the highest concentration of engineers in the United States.

Data Source: DBUSINESS



Defense & Aerospace Workforce Development & Training Partners



West Michigan Aviation Academy (WMAA) is a tuition-free public charter high school (grades 9-12) preparing students for aviation and STEM careers.



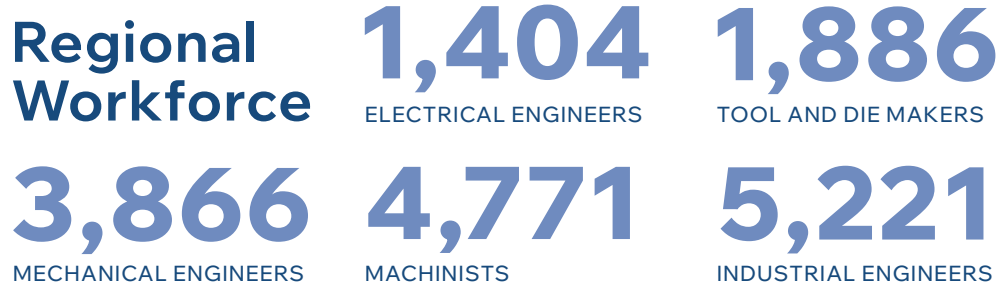
Housed at Gerald R. Ford International Airport, the Kent Career Technical Center's Aviation Maintenance Program allows students (grades 11-12) to explore aviation careers and earn certifications and college credit.



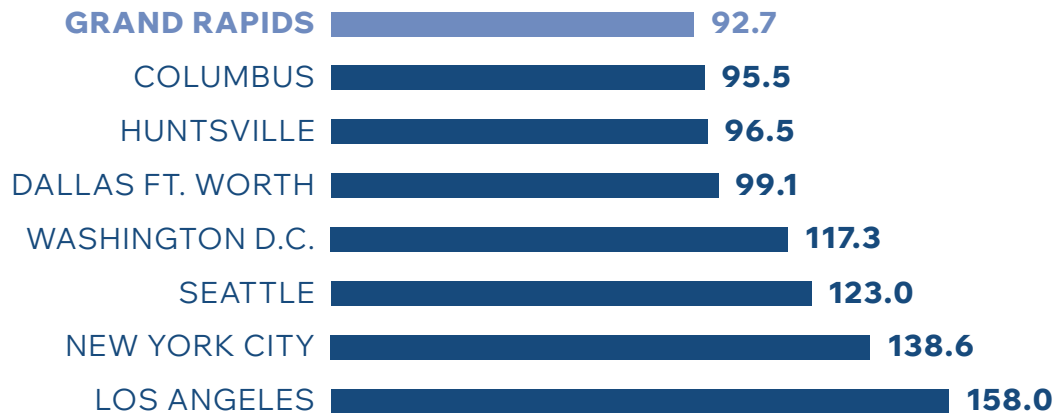
The Ford Launchpad for Innovative Technologies and Entrepreneurship (FLITE) program provides grants and pilot-testing opportunities for companies developing emerging air travel technologies.

International Airport & Connectivity

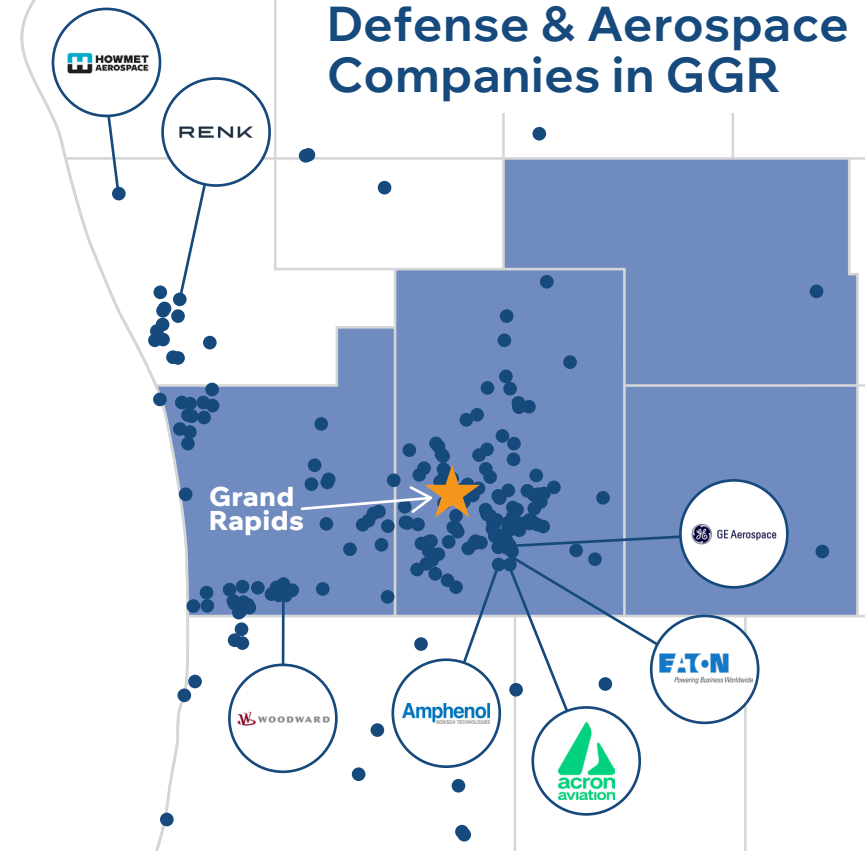
The Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) is undergoing a \$600 million multi-phase expansion — the largest capital expansion in the United States for a small-hub airport. The FAA has named GRR among the fastest-growing airports in the U.S.



Cost of Living Comparison Data Source: Lightcast



Defense & Aerospace Companies in GGR



Defense & Aerospace Supply Chain

