

A blue-tinted photograph of an industrial robotic arm in a factory setting. The arm is positioned over a metal table with several circular holes. On the table, there are several small, cylindrical metal parts. The background shows more industrial equipment and a control panel with a screen.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING REPORT 2023



**THE
RIGHT PLACE**
Advancing the West Michigan Economy

THE STATE OF MANUFACTURING

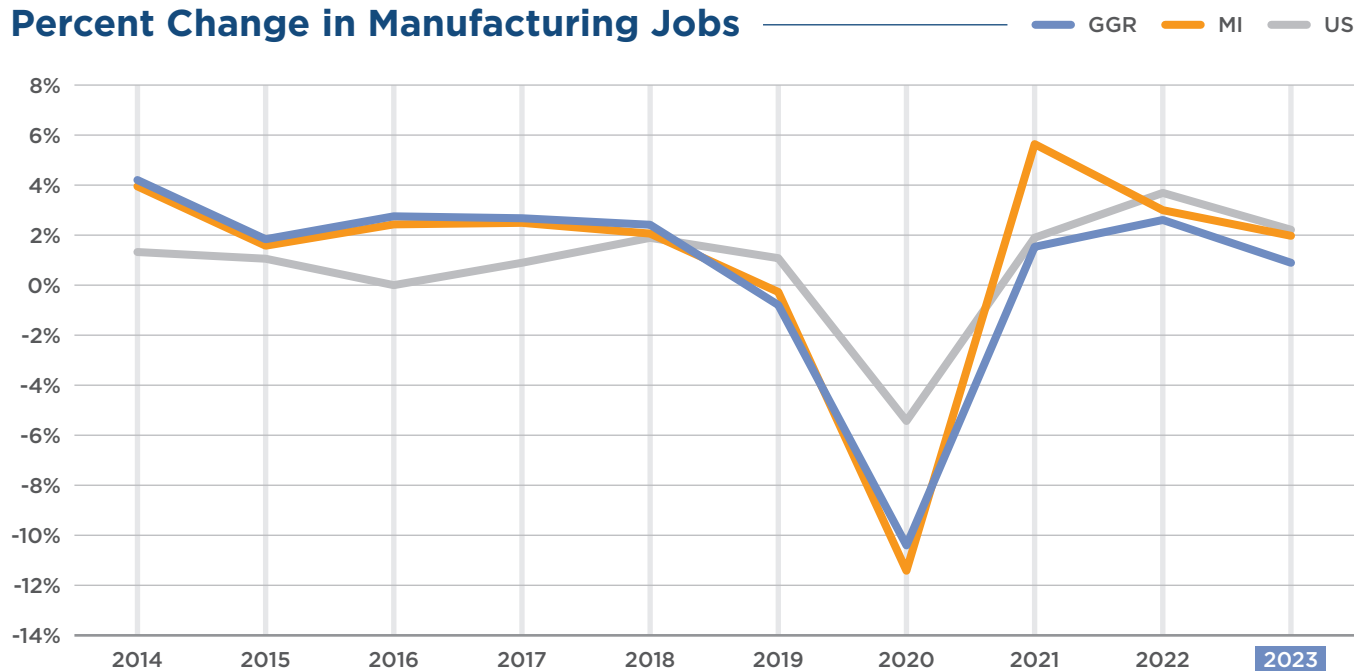
Greater Grand Rapids is built on a legacy of advanced manufacturing. From the world's hub for furniture production to strongholds for the automotive, food processing, aerospace, defense, and medical device industries, Greater Grand Rapids is a region that creates.

Note on the data: Greater Grand Rapids (GGR) refers to the eight-county region served by The Right Place including: Kent, Ionia, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo, and Oceana counties. All data reflects these counties unless otherwise noted.

JOB

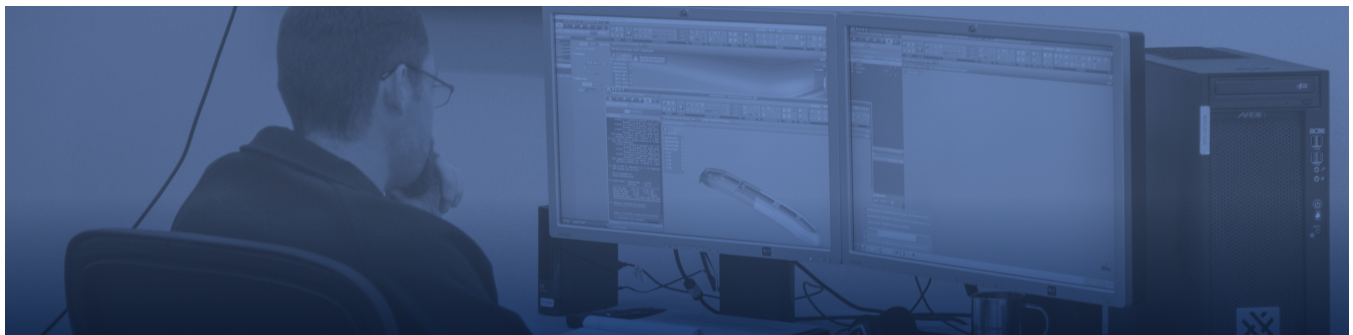
Manufacturing employment rebounded **5%** since the Covid-19 pandemic, adding nearly **4,000** workers since 2020. In 2023 manufacturing jobs topped more than **78,500**. Year-over-year, Greater Grand Rapids' manufacturing job growth has lagged slightly behind that of the state and nation as a whole.

Percent Change in Manufacturing Jobs



2013 **73,414** Manufacturing Jobs **7%** Growth **78,562** Manufacturing Jobs

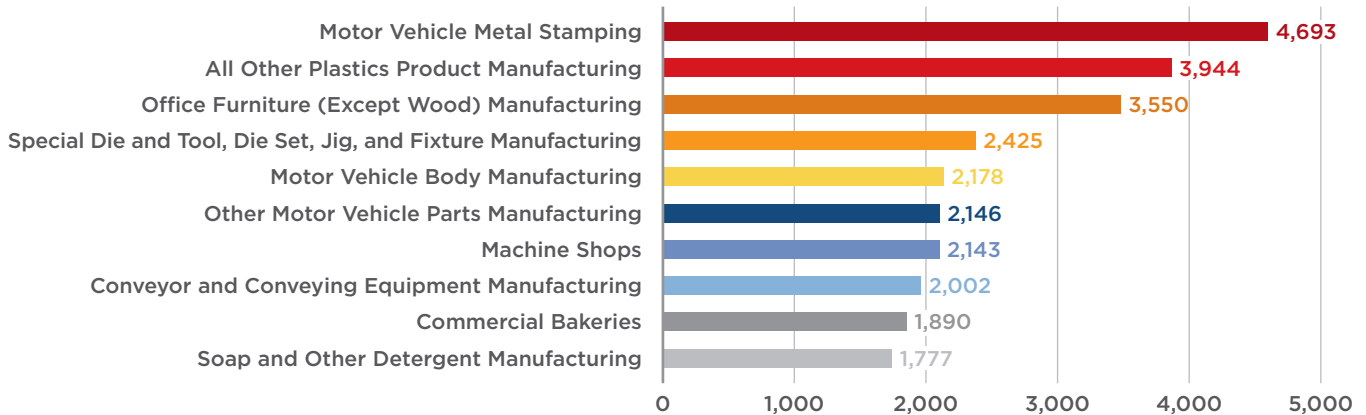
Source: Lightcast



INDUSTRY

Motor vehicle-related stamping, plastic product manufacturing and office furniture manufacturing represent the top three most prevalent industries in Greater Grand Rapids. These three industries comprise more than **12,000 jobs - or 15% -** of total manufacturing employment in the eight-county region covered by The Right Place.

Top Ten Industries by Jobs 2023

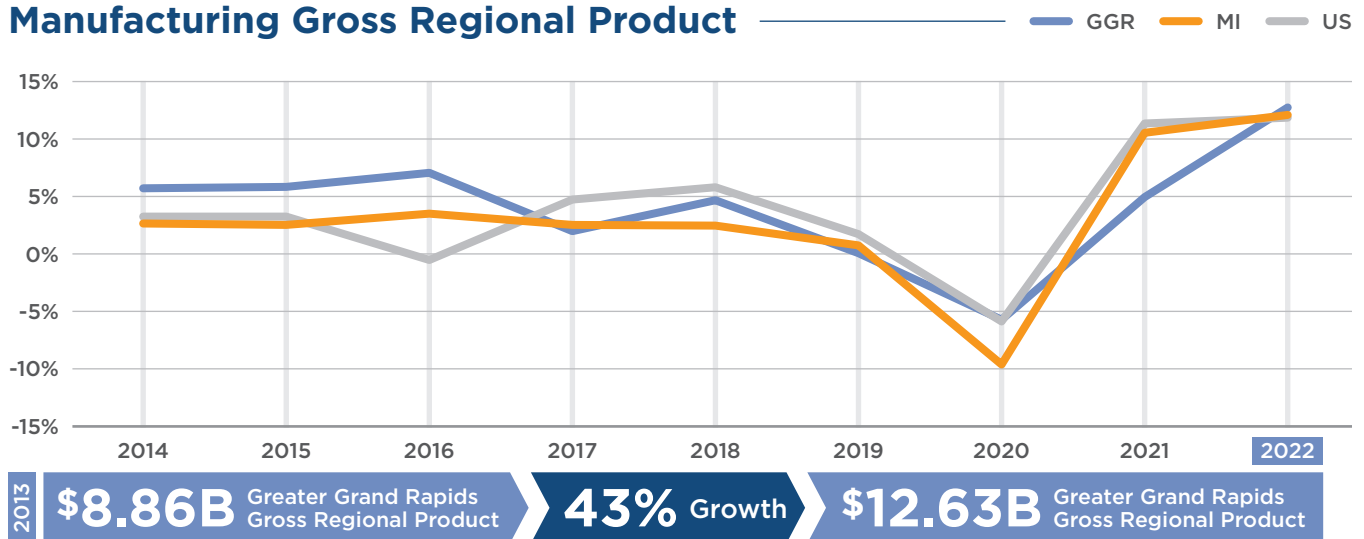


Source: Lightcast

GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT (GRP)

In 2022, manufacturing GRP accounted for **21.1%** of the total economy, a slight uptick from the **20.8%** it comprised a year prior. Manufacturing GRP has slipped lower in recent years compared to 2013 (**23.4%**) however, companies are more productive than ever, generating more than **\$12.6 billion**. Year-over-year GRP growth in Greater Grand Rapids has lagged slightly behind national and state numbers since 2020. However, from 2021 to 2022, Greater Grand Rapids outpaced both state and national manufacturing GRP growth, increasing nearly **13%**.

Manufacturing Gross Regional Product



Source: Lightcast

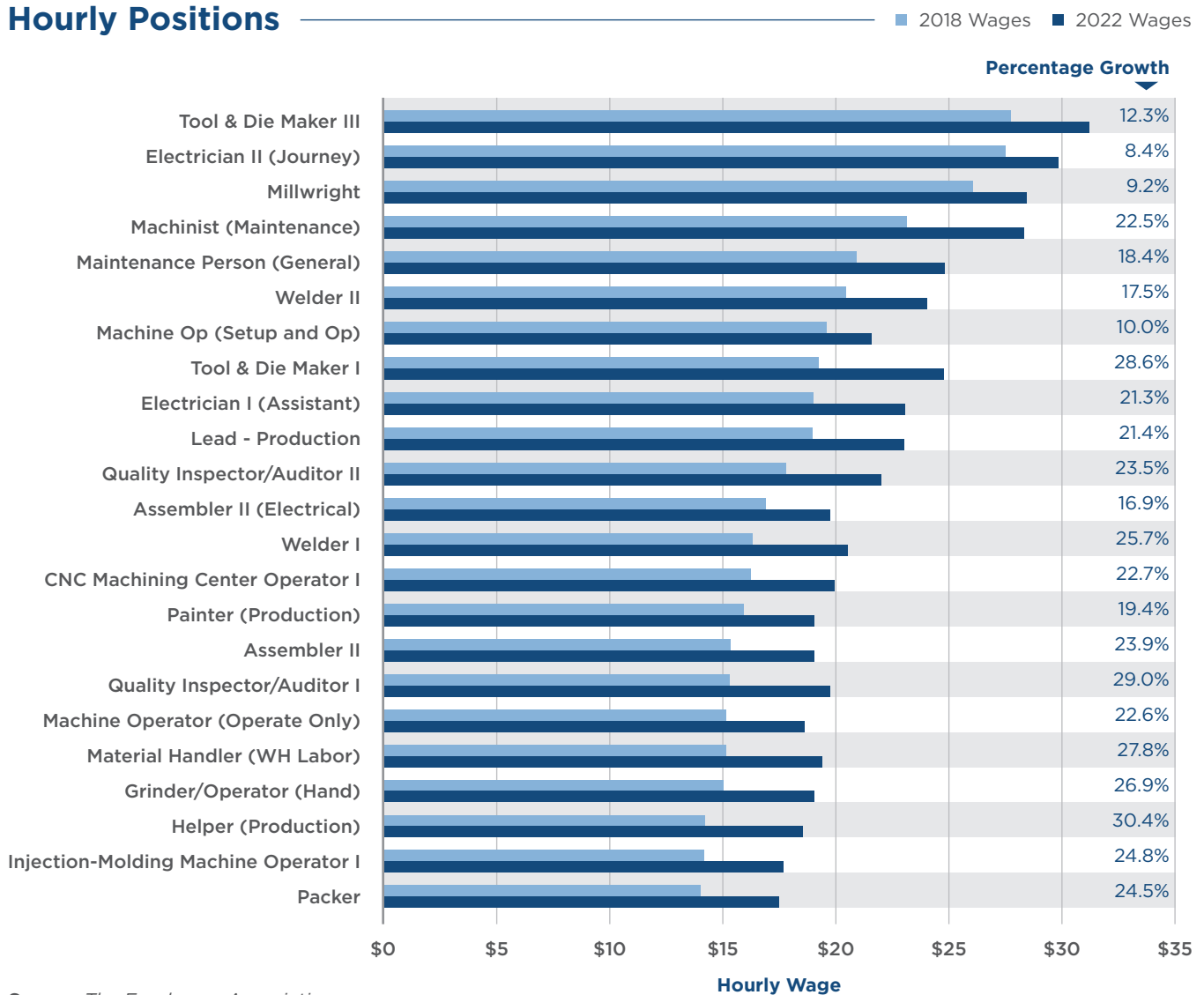
MANUFACTURING WAGES

Wages in both salaried and hourly manufacturing positions have increased overall since 2018, according to survey data collected from manufacturers across Greater Grand Rapids by the Employers Association. These wage gains may be attributed to an aging manufacturing workforce, ongoing supply shortage of qualified talent, volatility during and emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, and other factors.

HOURLY POSITIONS

Hourly occupations including production helpers (**30%**), quality inspectors (**29%**), entry-level tool and die makers (**29%**), and entry-level CNC machining operators (**26%**) saw some of the largest increases in wages during the past four years.

Hourly Positions

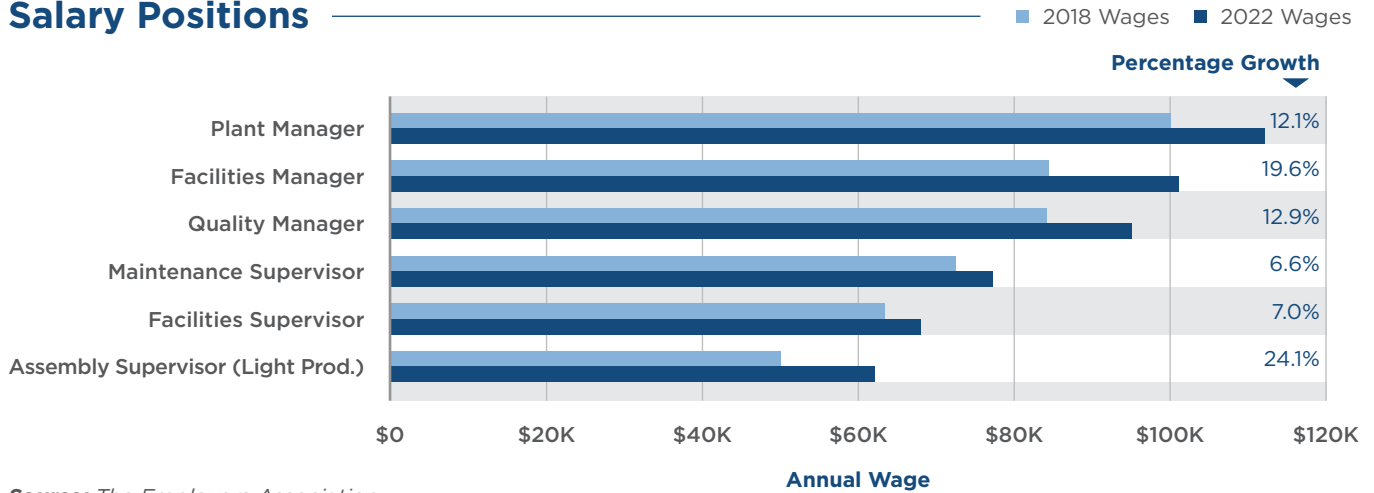


Source: The Employers Association

SALARY POSITIONS

Though increases in hourly wages outpaced those of salaried employees, annual incomes for those employees also saw growth across the board with assembly supervisors and facility managers experiencing the highest wage growth over the four-year period.

Salary Positions



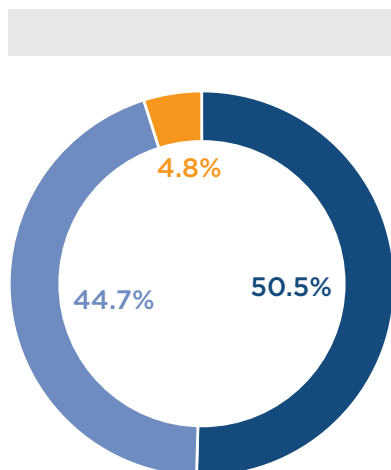
Greater Grand Rapids is
“One of the world’s manufacturing
centers of excellence.”
– The Economist

MANUFACTURING INSIGHTS

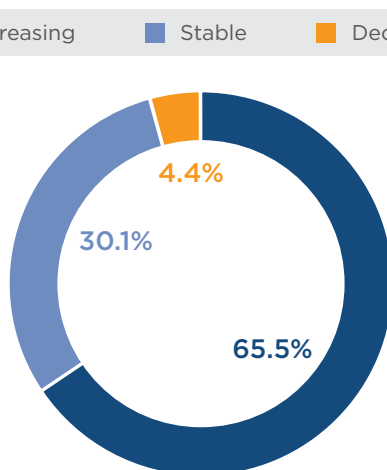
From November 2022 to the present, The Right Place met with over **200** manufacturing companies through in-person retention calls – structured meetings meant to gauge a company’s performance, identify pinch points, and connect them with the resources needed to thrive in Greater Grand Rapids. Through these conversations, we found the majority of manufacturers were seeing their staff grow, sales increase, with many predicting expansions in the coming years. The majority of companies are investing more dollars into training initiatives as a shortage of talent continues to impact the industry at large. Manufacturers identified talent attraction, development and retention, along with facility issues, as the primary barriers to growth.



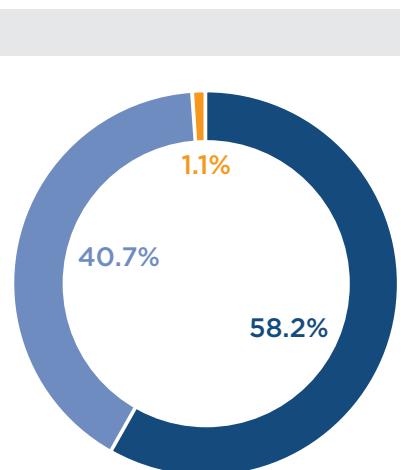
Greater Grand Rapids Employment Trends



Greater Grand Rapids Sales Trends

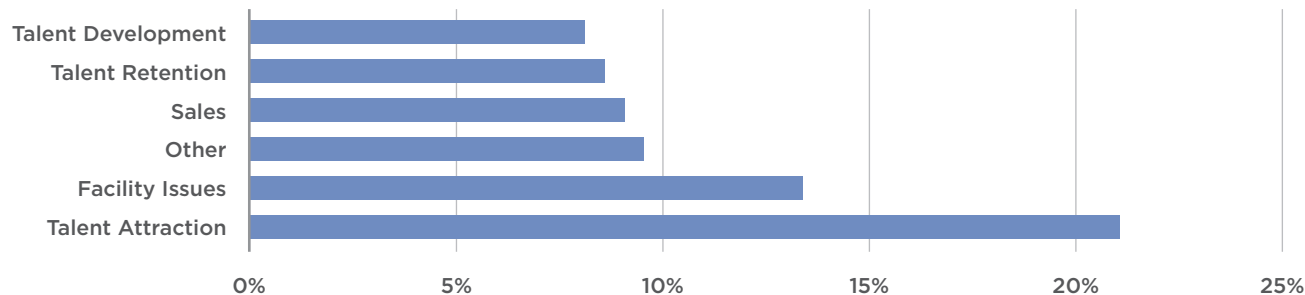


Investing In New Training



Source: RPI Retention Call Data

Manufacturing Headwinds



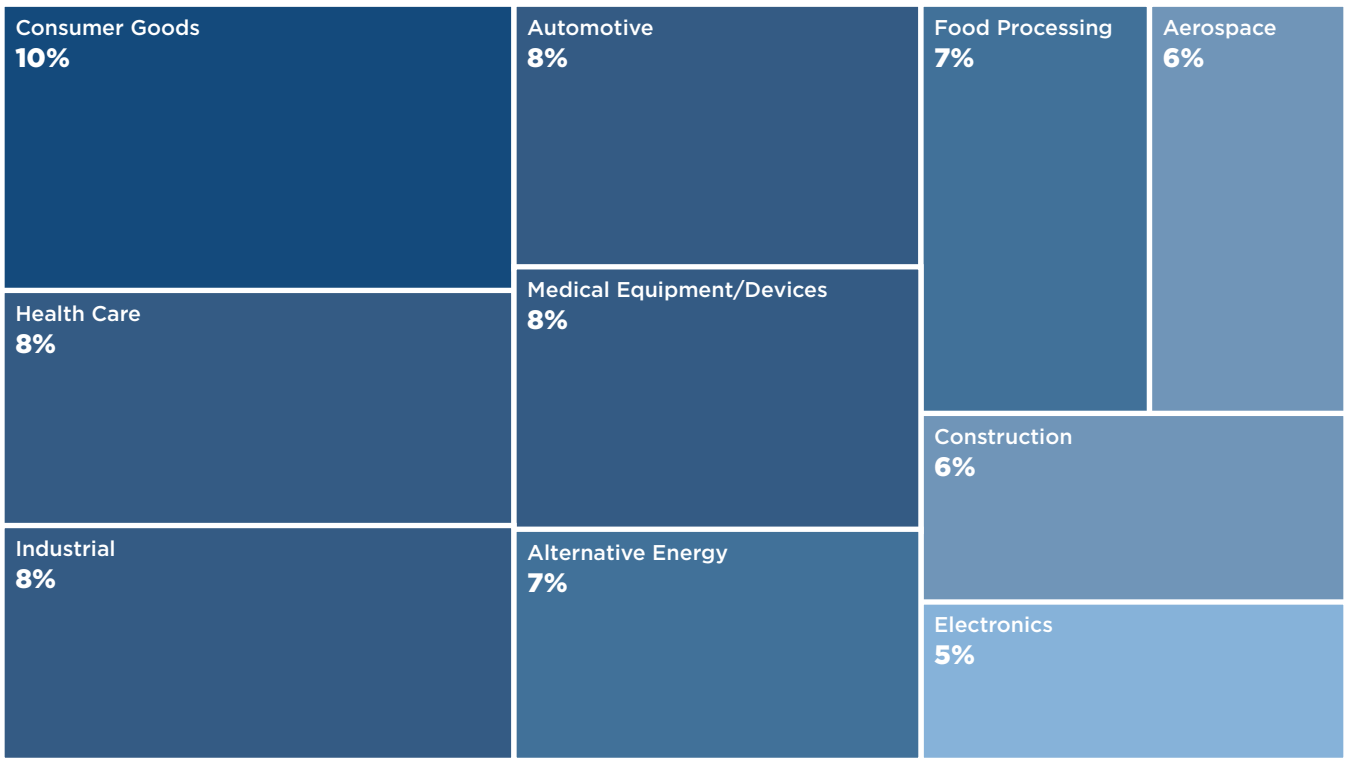
Source: RPI Retention Call Data

SUPPLY CHAIN

Greater Grand Rapids' position as global manufacturing leader is underscored by the wide array of markets served by manufacturing companies across the region. Global companies needing a well-tuned supply base seek out Greater Grand Rapids companies to grow alongside them.

The graphic below represents the top ten market sectors supplied by manufacturers across Greater Grand Rapids, according to data obtained through RPI's retention calls.

Greater Grand Rapids Markets Served

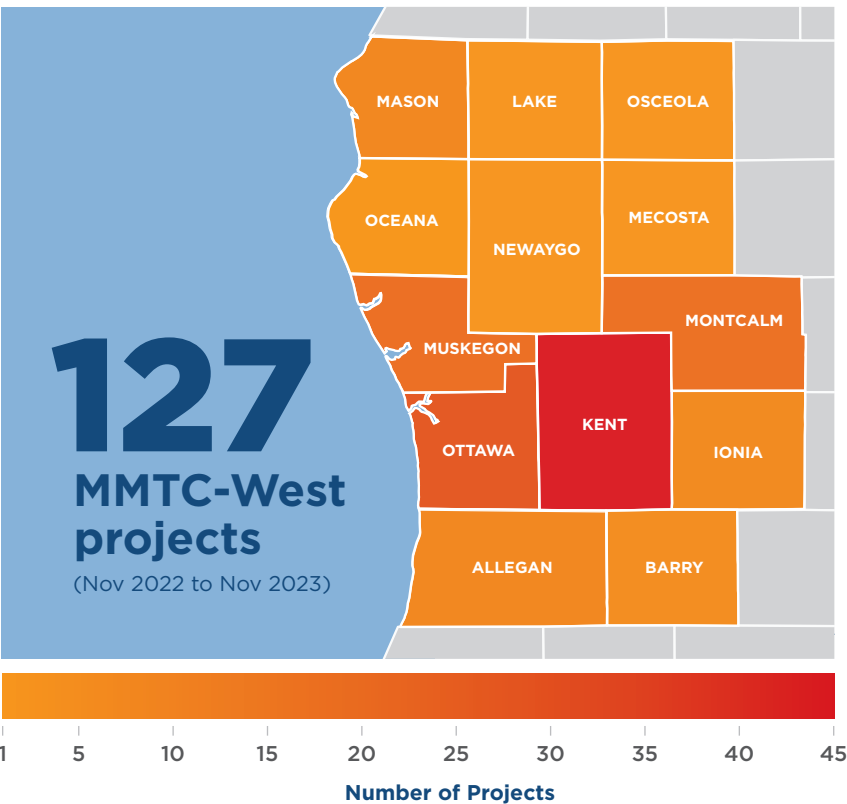


Source: RPI Retention Call Data

MICHIGAN MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY CENTER – WEST

The Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center – West (MMTC-West), based at The Right Place, offers personalized consulting services for manufacturers across Greater Grand Rapids and beyond. MMTC-West serves a 13-county region including: Kent, Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa counties.

MMTC-West Projects Around the Region



Source: MMTC-West Data from November 2022 to November 2023

MMTC-West Projects Breakdown

51 Industry 4.0 Assessments

19 Going Pro Projects

10 Supervisor Leader User Groups (SLUG)

8 Quality Audits

7 Geometric Dimensioning & Tolerancing (GD&T)

MMTC-WEST PROJECTS

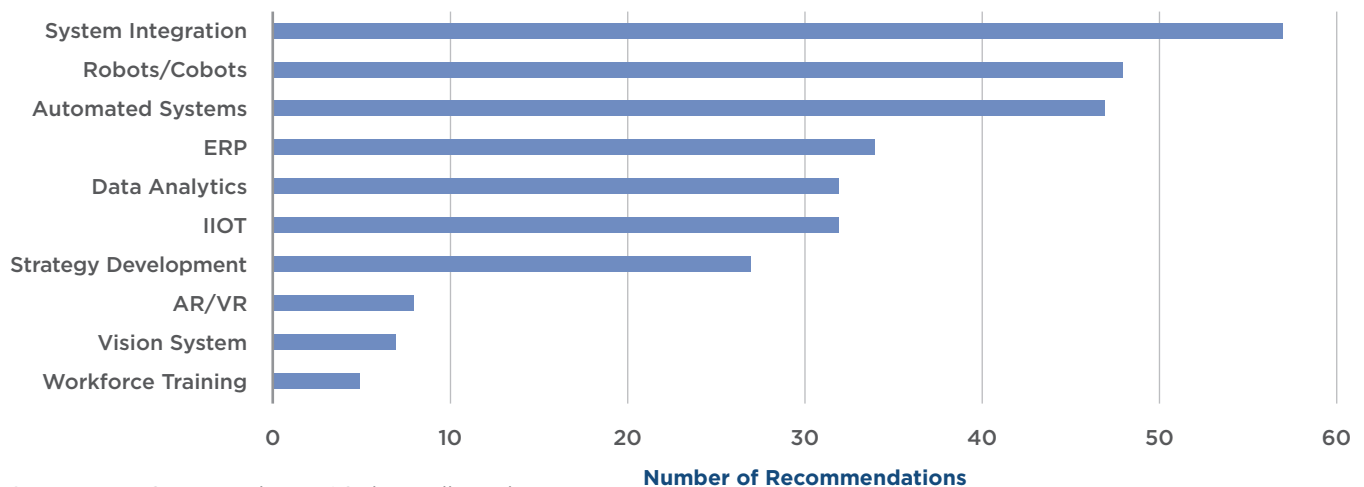
MMTC-West provides customized consulting and training services for manufacturers across Greater Grand Rapids. These programs are tailored to assist manufacturers across the spectrum — small to large, furniture to aerospace to food processing and beyond — in key areas including technology adoption, workforce training, quality assurance, and other consulting services. With talent attraction and retention at the forefront of many manufacturers' minds, MMTC-West provides customized workforce training plans aimed at improving employee retention, attraction, and even applying for grant opportunities such as the Going Pro Talent Fund. MMTC-West also holds monthly sessions of the Supervisor Leader User Group (SLUG), which provides participants with practical tools to be a more effective supervisor in today's fast-paced manufacturing environment.

INDUSTRY 4.0 ASSESSMENTS

INDUSTRY 4.0 ASSESSMENT

MMTC-West offers no-cost assessments aimed at helping regional manufacturers adopt Industry 4.0 and advanced manufacturing technologies into their operations. Since the launch, MMTC-West has issued more than **135** assessments to a range of manufacturers. The majority of the assessments recommended system integration (such as integrating ERP with data analytics and plant management), implementing robotic or cobotic equipment, and investing in other non-robotic automated systems or processes.

Industry 4.0 Assessment Highlights



Source: MMTC-West Industry 4.0 data collected from 135 assessments across Greater Grand Rapids

MICHIGAN
MANUFACTURING
TECHNOLOGY
CENTER

As a non-profit, objective manufacturing support program, your business success is our primary goal. Call **616.301.6247** or visit **thecenterwest.org** to discover how we can work together and tackle your biggest business challenges.

MANUFACTURING ECOSYSTEM

Data from 2022



4,300
attendees



3,460
K-12 participants in
robotics competitions



Nearly 10,000
students across 56 schools

114
manufacturers participated



\$11.7M awarded for workforce training across Greater Grand Rapids yielding:

2,937
new hires

619
new apprenticeships

2,644
classroom training sessions

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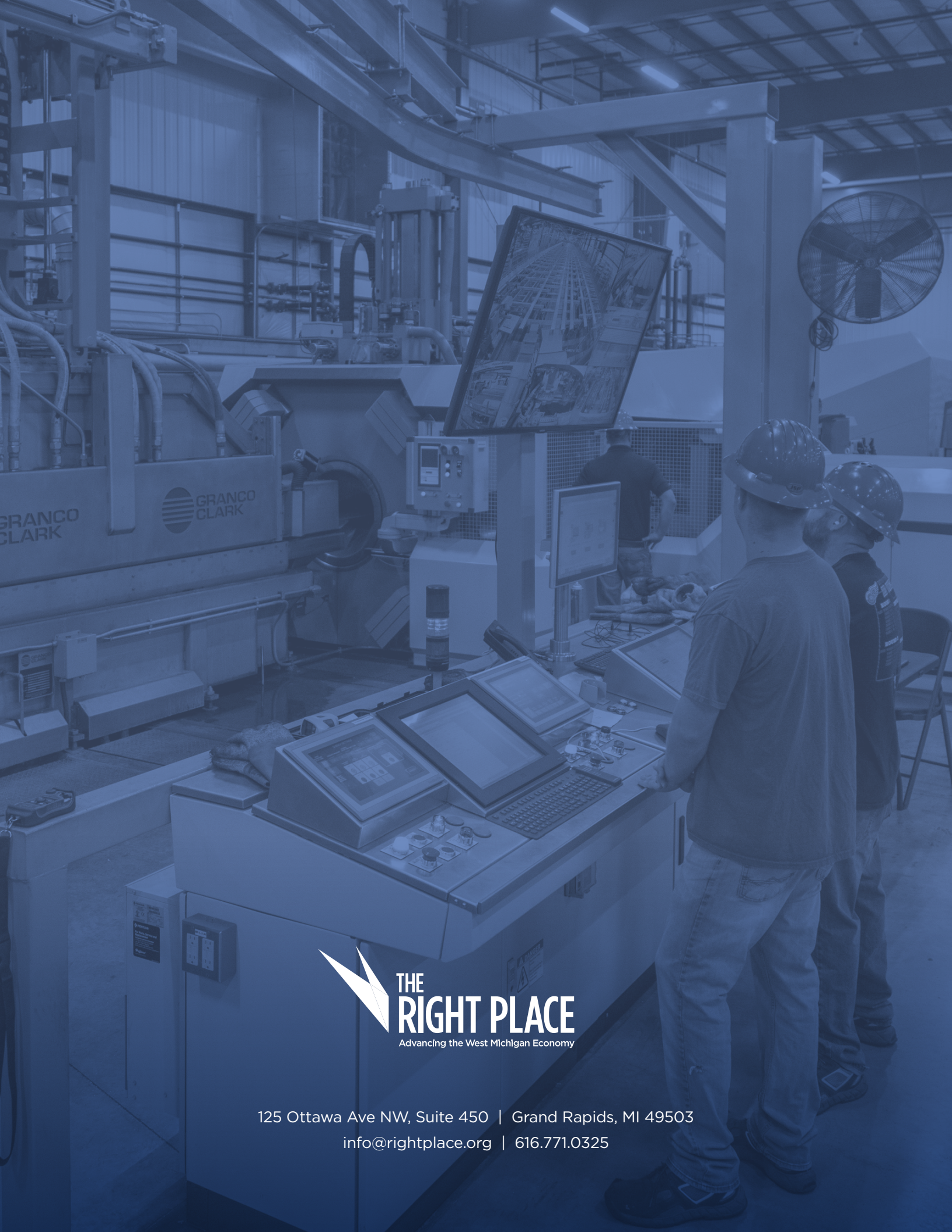
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GRANCO
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