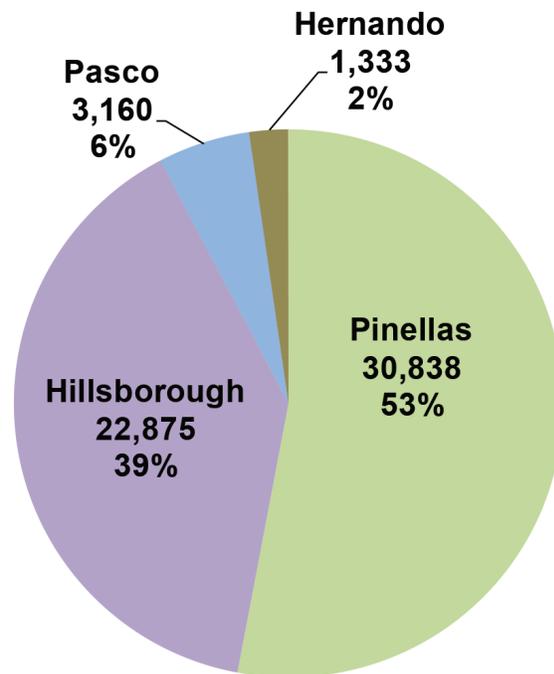


# Pinellas: Leading Tampa Bay in Manufacturing Employment

Over 30,000 manufacturing employees in Pinellas earn an average annual wage of \$54,652.



2011 Manufacturing Employment in the Tampa Bay MSA

Source: Florida Labor Market Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program

Recently released employment statistics from the Florida Labor Market Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program indicate that Pinellas is leading the region in manufacturing employment. Of the 58,206 manufacturing employees in the Tampa Bay Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), over 30,000, 53%, are employed in Pinellas County. Manufacturing employment in the county increased slightly from 30,419 in 2010 to 30,848 in 2011. The average annual wage of Pinellas County's manufacturing industry was \$54,652 in 2011, up from \$52,624 in 2010.

Strength in the Pinellas target industries of [Defense & National Security](#), [Medical Technologies](#) and [Aviation & Aerospace](#) has allowed Pinellas to increase employment. Notably, Fortune 500 company and global manufacturing services industry leader, Jabil Circuit, is headquartered in Pinellas. Corporate leaders with a significant presence in the county include: Honeywell, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Baxter Healthcare, Transitions Optical and Conmed Linvatec.

Strength in manufacturing employment is essential to growing the Pinellas economy, as an experienced manufacturing workforce is frequently cited as a deciding factor for employers considering major expansions or relocations. With these gains, Pinellas is well-situated for [diverse manufacturing operations](#) looking to onshore or expand their operations in the region.

Mike Meidel, Director of [Pinellas County Economic Development \(PCED\)](#), also noted that suppliers and smaller machine shops lend significant strength to the larger manufacturing employers in Pinellas, "A strong supply chain made up of independent operators is important for the manufacturing sector. In Pinellas, [entrepreneurs](#) are the backbone of our economy and these vendors are crucial to the success of our manufacturers. "

The industries encompassing manufacturing are supported by a number of associations in the region and the state, including the [Florida Medical Manufacturers Consortium](#) and [Florida Federal Contractors Association](#), both of which were founded in Pinellas, and the [Bay Area Manufacturers Association](#), which supports manufacturers and promotes economic development through manufacturing in the Tampa Bay Region.

This was the 6th year of the [Florida Defense & Technology Showcase](#), hosted, September 17-19, at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort on Clearwater Beach. This industry tradeshow provides an opportunity for FFCA member companies and other regional industry participants to present their capabilities to senior executives and supply chain representatives of some of the world's largest Department of Defense prime contractors, as well as to U.S. Government customers and members of the regional Congressional delegation. The show began as a joint effort with Pinellas County Economic Development and the Tampa Bay Innovation Center.

The [Tampa Bay Innovation Center](#), based at the [Young-Rainey STAR Center](#), is Florida's premier technology and manufacturing accelerator. The team there creates successful entrepreneurs, fosters the creation of high-tech jobs, and develops new sources of technology and manufacturing capabilities by nurturing early stage ventures as they grow and launch their products into the marketplace. Entrepreneurship in target industries, like manufacturing, is also a critical component of economic strategy in Pinellas County.

Companies ready to expand should [contact Pinellas County Economic Development](#) at (727) 464-7332 or [siteselect@pinellascounty.org](mailto:siteselect@pinellascounty.org). PCED is here to help your business grow in Pinellas.



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