

Career Paths in Aerospace

Advanced Degree (6-8 years)

- Engineering Managers
wage range: \$44.60 → \$88.39/hr
- Physicists

Bachelor's Degree (4 years)

- Aerospace Engineers
wage range: \$36.14 → \$71.32
- Industrial Designers
wage range: \$20.11 → \$37.67
- Materials Engineers
- Mechanical Engineers
wage range: \$29.00 → \$62.51

Associates Degree (2 years)

- Aircraft Mechanics
wage range: \$20.33 → \$41.37
- Airplane Assemblers
- Engineering Technicians
wage range: \$19.93 → \$41.24
- Mechanical Drafters

Short-term or On-the-Job Training (2-12 months)

- Forklift Operators
- Metal and Plastic Processing Workers
- Quality Control Inspectors
- Welding Machine Operators
wage range: \$10.32 → \$30.23

Apprenticeship Path (2-5 years)

- Machinists
wage range: \$14.73 → \$37.47
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
wage range: \$18.41 → \$41.43
- Precision Assemblers
- Stationary Engineers
wage range: \$17.22 → \$39.15
- Welders/Solderers
wage range: \$15.67 → \$30.35

Foundational Skills:

Math

English

Science



King County has 56,474 aerospace jobs, not including another 75,000 that may not be exclusively aerospace-focused, but which serve the aerospace industry in machine shops, tooling companies and more support functions.

Even with negative growth projections, there will still be a significant number of aerospace job openings through 2024. With 65.3% of the aerospace industry workforce being 45 years old or older, many opportunities are projected to open up over the next 5-10 years. Over 12,373 replacement demand openings are projected through 2024. To ensure the continued health of this industry, it is crucial that career pathways are well-defined and available via training programs. Aerospace jobs range from entry-level to middle-skill trades to engineers with doctorate degrees.

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King County Aerospace
Industry Businesses

+0.1%
% jobs change (2014-2024)

12,373
Estimated replacement
demand openings*
(2014-2024)

\$134,201
Average Annual Earnings**
(2014)

