



Manufacturing



If you want a job offering good pay and benefits and career paths to move up, you may find it in manufacturing.

The region's manufacturing sector hired 1,600 people in 2019. It has shown remarkable strength. While U.S. manufacturing jobs fell 14 percent in the last 15 years, the region's manufacturing jobs rose 45 percent. The region's manufacturing sector is projected to add over 1,000 jobs in the next eight years.

The largest number of openings are for entry-level assembly, sawmill, and other manufacturing jobs.

The hardest-to-fill manufacturing jobs are skilled trades – including electricians, welders, machinists and CNC operators, and millwrights and industrial machinery mechanics – and engineering occupations – including technicians and drafters. These jobs require associate degrees.



Employers

Nearly 200 manufacturers employ more than 8,300 people.

Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories designs and makes devices to manage electrical power grids. It employs more than 2,500 people in Pullman, 600 in Lewiston, and will open a plant in Moscow in a few years.

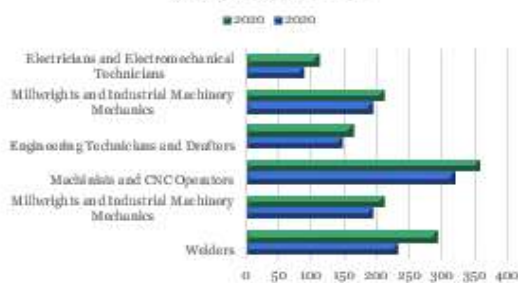
Clearwater Paper employs more than 1,300 people in Lewiston.

The Vista Outdoor ammunition plant in Lewiston employs 1,200. Nightforce Optics, a maker of rifle scopes in Orofino, and Seekins Precision, a maker of rifles in Lewiston, are the largest gun manufacturers.

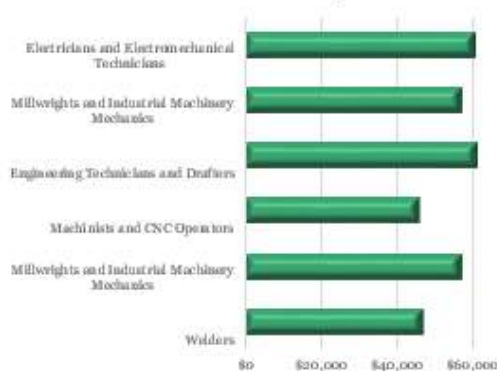
Thirty wood product and furniture manufacturers employ 1,000 people. The largest are Idaho Forest Group in Lewiston and Grangeville; Bennett Lumber in Princeton, Empire Lumber in Kamiah; Guy Bennett Lumber near Clarkston, and Pacific Cabinet near Ferdinand.

A dozen jet boat builders in Clarkston, Lewiston, and Orofino employ 250 people.

Projected Job Growth



Median Earnings



To explore career possibilities

Idaho JobScape

<https://www.labor.idaho.gov/JobScape/>

Washington State Learn about an Occupation

<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/learn-about-an-occupation#/search>

Occupational Outlook Handbook

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>