



MONTHLY MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Space Coast Aerospace & Defense Hiring Report

Brevard County, Florida • August 2026 Edition

Tracking who is hiring, what they pay, the contracts shaping demand, and where the Space Coast aerospace and defense workforce is headed — compiled monthly for employers, job seekers, and the regional community.

Prepared by Intrepidus Talent Solutions — specialist aerospace & defense staffing for Florida's Space Coast.

In this issue

1. Why this report
2. The Monthly Pulse
3. Space Coast Openings Index
4. Contracts & the Demand Signal
5. What the Market Pays
6. This Month on the Space Coast
7. Monthly Spotlight
8. National Context: U.S. vs. the Space Coast
9. Get the Report Every Month
10. Appendix & Methodology

Why this report

If you hire, recruit, or work in aerospace & defense on the Space Coast, this report is built for you. Each month, it answers the questions that matter most in this market, using public, verifiable data: Who is hiring right now, and for what roles? What does the market actually pay here? Which federal contracts will create the next wave of jobs? Is the local market expanding or contracting?

Hiring managers and HR teams use it to benchmark pay and see who they're competing with for talent. Recruiters use it to spot where demand is moving. Job seekers — including transitioning military — use it to find who's hiring and what it takes to qualify.

This is Issue No. 3. The Openings Index now carries two consecutive month-over-month readings, tracked against the same fixed employer list — with methodology changes disclosed where they occurred (this month: SpaceX and Collins Aerospace; see the Index section) — plus its first true stress test: one tracked employer replaced its entire careers platform mid-month, and we explain exactly how we handled it (Index section and appendix). Methodology and sourcing for every number are consolidated at the back of the report.

Get every issue free — [subscribe at intrepidus-ts.com](https://intrepidus-ts.com).

The Monthly Pulse

The Space Coast aerospace and defense market put up its strongest posting growth yet this month. Our Openings Index — a same-date count across a **fixed 23-company watch list, 20 of which currently have Brevard operations** — recorded **~1,630 open roles**. On the comparable basis (excluding Lockheed Martin, whose careers-site migration broke its data series this month — see below), tracked openings rose **about 179 roles, or +12.5%, from July** — and still roughly **+11%** after netting out a counting improvement on one employer. Both readings remain **provisional**, as every early-series reading is; as always, the Index is a defined sample built for comparability, not a county-wide census (scope notes in the appendix).

Three themes stand out this month. **The production boom is broadening:** Blue Origin added 102 tracked openings (to 636 — now roughly 39% of the entire Index) as it rebuilds toward New Glenn's return to flight, and L3Harris jumped 78 (+33%), with Palm Bay and Melbourne driving the gain. Underneath the headline counts, the sharpest signal in the data is **the second shift**: across at least five tracked employers, dozens of postings now explicitly carry second-shift, weekend, or night-shift tags — Embraer, Amazon Leo, Collins Aerospace, Leonardo DRS, and SpaceX are all staffing around the clock. That around-the-clock turn is this month's **Spotlight**. And **Titusville's manufacturing bench is deepening**: Relativity Space named a Titusville-adjacent site as the target for a \$350M rocket-manufacturing campus, Extant Aerospace broke ground on its \$75M Melbourne plant, and **Beyond Gravity's Titusville satellite-panel factory posted its first job openings in our tracked sample** — a facility our prior issues under-recorded, and we correct the record inside.

One tracked employer needs an asterisk this month, and we give it a full explanation rather than a footnote-mumble: **Lockheed Martin replaced its careers website mid-August**, taking all legacy job listings offline. Its new site showed just 16 Brevard openings at our pull date — a reading almost certainly dominated by the migration rather than by hiring — so we report the measured 16, mark the series broken, and exclude Lockheed from this month's change math. On the downside watch, **no Space Coast A&D layoff (WARN) notices were filed this period** — the third consecutive clean month; the signal in the tracked sample remains expansion-leaning.

This month at a glance¹

This month at a glance — sources in footnote 1.

Indicator	Reading	Note
Open A&D roles in the Index (23-company watch list)	~1,630 ▲	+179 vs July (+12.5%) on the comparable (ex-Lockheed) basis — provisional
Top-5 share of tracked roles	~91%	Blue Origin, Northrop, L3Harris, SpaceX, Amentum (Lockheed's exit from the top 5 is a data artifact)

Indicator	Reading	Note
Biggest movers (tracked)	Blue Origin +102, L3Harris +78; Leonardo DRS -13	Production primes up; supplier mix shifting
Major award headlines	NSSL Lane 1 launch-contract ceiling raised to \$17B (Jul 17); Northrop ~\$1.2B Navy E-2D order (Jul 22)	Blue Origin among Lane 1 providers; E-2D design/engineering home is Melbourne
National aerospace mfg. employment	591,600 (Jun, prelim.) ▲	+4.4% year over year — a fresh decade-plus high
Cape launch cadence	52 YTD (through Aug 16)	Roughly a quarter behind 2025's record pace
Major WARN / layoff notices (Brevard A&D)	None this period	Third straight clean month
Hiring outlook (tracked sample)	Expansion-leaning ▲	Double-digit comparable Index growth; no Brevard A&D WARN

Space Coast Openings Index

The Openings Index is this report's primary monthly metric — a same-date count of open aerospace & defense roles across a fixed list of 23 Space Coast employers — compiled primarily from official company sources, with disclosed aggregator-based methods where official systems were unavailable (each employer's method is listed in the appendix count sheet).

Scope note: the Index is a **fixed 23-employer sample built for month-to-month comparability — not a census of every A&D opening in Brevard County**. Three tracked names (Space Perspective, Rocket Lab, Terran Orbital) currently have no Brevard operations — they contribute zero roles, and the effective local sample is 20 employers pending the September list review. (A fourth, Beyond Gravity, was wrongly in that group — it has operated a Titusville production facility since at least 2024; its first tracked openings appear this month, and we correct the record below.) All share and concentration figures below describe the tracked sample, not the whole local market. Full scope detail and methodology are in the appendix.²

This month's count

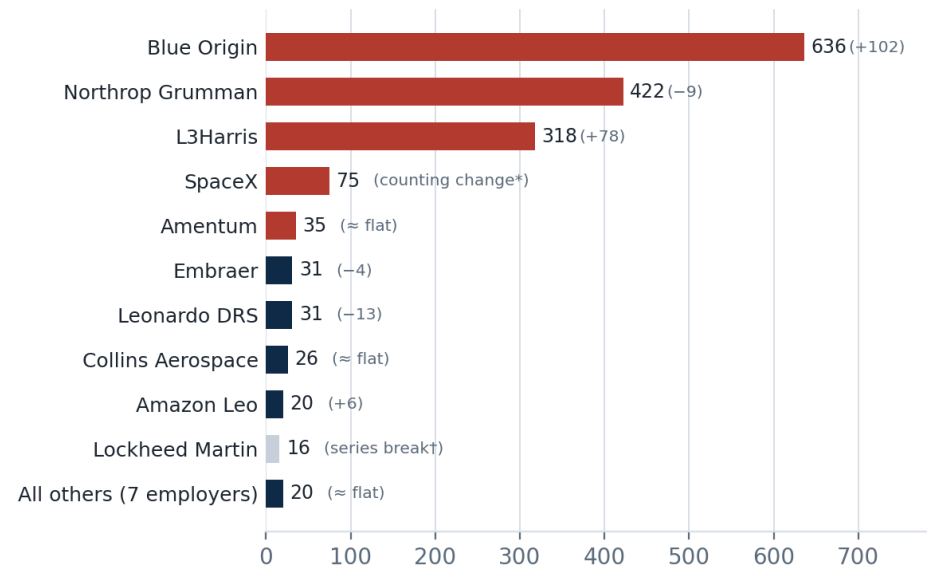
~1,630 open A&D roles across the 23 tracked employers (counted August 20, 2026). On the comparable basis — excluding Lockheed Martin from both months — tracked openings rose **from 1,435 to 1,614: up about 179 roles, or +12.5%**. One counting improvement flatters that figure slightly: a better data path onto SpaceX's careers system added roughly 22 roles that better counting, not new hiring, explains. Netting that out too, the like-for-like move is roughly **+157 roles (+11%)** — the Index's strongest month yet on any treatment. Both readings are **provisional**, as all early-series readings are.

The Lockheed series break, in plain terms. In mid-August, Lockheed Martin retired its old careers website and launched a new one on a different platform. Every legacy job listing was taken offline, and the job boards that syndicate Lockheed's postings (Indeed, Glassdoor) were purged and re-seeded starting August 14. At our August 20 pull, the new site showed **16 Brevard openings** — versus 112 in July — with counts visibly rising in daily batches as requisitions reload (several of the 16 are re-posts of roles we counted in July). The official board and Glassdoor showed 16, while Indeed showed 14 — close corroboration of a partially repopulated board — so 16, the official board's own figure, is the number we print — but we treat the reading as **dominated by the platform migration and not suitable for month-over-month interpretation**: an 86% single-month collapse at a company simultaneously stacking Artemis III hardware at KSC, with no layoff filings, would be extraordinary — though we cannot fully rule out some real softening underneath the migration until the new board finishes repopulating. Lockheed is therefore **excluded from this month's change math** and will be re-baselined in September, when the new board should have finished repopulating. This is the Index's first careers-site platform migration; the same transparent treatment will apply to any future one.

By employer (top of the list)

Open A&D roles by tracked employer — August 2026

Openings Index: ~1,630 roles across 23 tracked Space Coast employers, +12.5% vs July excluding Lockheed (change in parentheses). *SpaceX reflects improved counting. †Lockheed's careers-site migration broke its series — not comparable to July.



Source: official company careers sites (aggregator-based where official systems were unavailable — see appendix count sheet), counted August 20, 2026.

Openings Index by employer — compiled primarily from official company careers sites, with disclosed aggregator-based methods where noted (see appendix count sheet); counted August 20, 2026.

Employer	Aug	July	Change	Primary Space Coast site
Blue Origin	636	534	▲ +102	Merritt Island (New Glenn)
Northrop Grumman	~422	~431	≈ flat	Melbourne (B-21, space & missile systems)
L3Harris	318	240	▲ +78	Palm Bay + Melbourne
SpaceX	~75*	~53	* counting change	Cape Canaveral (Starship)
Amentum	~35	~37	≈ flat	KSC base operations + Eastern Range
Embraer	31	35	▼ -4	Melbourne (executive jet assembly)
Leonardo DRS	31	44	▼ -13	Melbourne (electro-optical/infrared)
Collins Aerospace	26	~27	≈ flat	Melbourne (avionics)
Amazon Leo (form. Kuiper)	20	14	▲ +6	Merritt Island (satellite processing)
Lockheed Martin	16†	112	† series break	Cape Canaveral + Titusville + KSC
Boeing	7	8	▼ -1	Titusville

Employer	Aug	July	Change	Primary Space Coast site
Custom Aerospace	3	3	—	Palm Bay
Jacobs	3	2	▲ +1	Cape Canaveral
Leidos	3	3	—	Cape Canaveral
Beyond Gravity	2	0	▲ +2	Titusville — first tracked postings
KBR	1	3	▼ -2	Patrick SFB (Space Force support)
Sierra Space	1	1	—	Kennedy Space Center

*The remaining tracked companies (Redwire, Bechtel, and several smaller suppliers) posted no Brevard openings this month. *SpaceX's rise reflects an improved count of its careers system (an official per-office data source we could not read in prior months), not necessarily more hiring — treat the level as the new baseline. †Lockheed's careers-platform migration took all legacy postings offline mid-August; 16 is the measured count on the new site at pull time and is not comparable to July (see "The Lockheed series break" above).*

What's driving the number

Blue Origin is now two-fifths of the Index. Another +102 tracked openings (534→636; company-wide postings rose 1,216→1,429) as the company hires through its New Glenn grounding rather than around it. The mix is telling: New Glenn structures and stage work, shift-based Blue Moon lunar-hardware manufacturing, and launch-site operations — test-and-launch technicians on all shifts — consistent with a workforce being staffed for the return-to-flight push and the two-pad rebuild of Launch Complex 36 (see *This Month on the Space Coast*).

L3Harris posted its biggest jump in the Index's short history. +78 tracked roles (240→318), with Palm Bay up 41 and Melbourne up 29 on the site's own location counts; the company's Florida total rose from 264 to 334. The growth is real on every check we ran, though we note (as always) that multi-location posting practices can shift; the direction is corroborated by the company's expanding missile-defense and space order book (see Contracts).

Northrop held steady — at a very high level. The Melbourne default-view count eased from 428 to 413 while company-wide postings *rose* about 6%, so Melbourne's share of Northrop's hiring slipped slightly — but ~420 tracked roles keeps Melbourne among the busiest A&D hiring campuses in the country, and this month brought a first: Northrop's first Kennedy Space Center-tagged posting (an energetics engineer), alongside six Cape Canaveral openings. The new ~\$1.2B Navy E-2D order assigns its largest single work share to this campus (see Contracts).

The supplier tier turned over rather than down. Leonardo DRS gave back 13 of July's +16 (44→31) — the July count included intern postings that closed with the season, so part of the decline is calendar, not demand; the remaining mix is still supply-chain- and program-heavy. Embraer eased 35→31 but kept the strongest trades skew in the sample — and **14 of its 31 openings are second-shift or weekend roles** (see Spotlight).

Collins held effectively flat at 26 — and this month's count is fully verified against RTX's official hiring system, upgrading it from last month's estimate; its openings turned over visibly, with several fresh August postings (electrical design, FPGA, 2nd-shift test technicians) replacing filled ones. Amazon Leo added 6 (14→20, all Merritt Island), nine of them explicitly second-shift satellite-processing roles.

Boeing's local posture has changed in kind, not just count. The 7 remaining openings contain **no Starliner or X-37B titles** — the production and program roles we tracked in prior months have closed — and five of the seven are national Summer-2027 internship postings that list Titusville/KSC among ~30 locations. The dedicated local professional openings are down to one or two. With Starliner-1 slipping again (see *This Month*), Boeing's Brevard hiring signal is the weakest among the anchors.

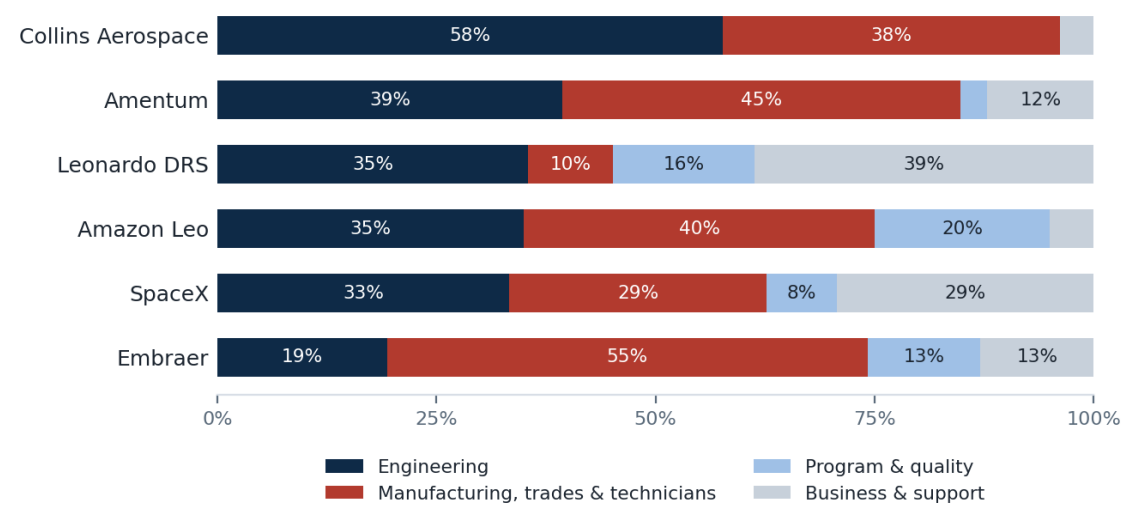
The contractor tier has found its new level. After July's sharp drop, the base-and-range tier came in at 42 tracked roles (vs 45): Amentum held at ~35 — confirming the June collapse (117→37) as a **structural reset** tied to KSC contract consolidation, not a blip; its board shows healthy churn, with six-plus fresh August postings. Jacobs shows no return of KSC work (its 3 roles are ports and municipal-utilities jobs), and KBR slimmed to a single verified Patrick SFB opening. The tier's next milestone is the KSC ground-systems (COMET) option decision expected around the end of September.

And a correction that adds a dot to the map: Beyond Gravity — the Swiss space supplier we had flagged for possible removal for lack of Brevard operations — in fact operates a **Titusville satellite-panel production facility**, and has since at least 2024: the company announced its third automated production machine there in November 2024. Our prior issues recorded zero for Beyond Gravity because its careers site showed no Brevard openings; this month it posted two (a quality engineer and an HR specialist), its first in our tracked sample. The count was right — our “no local operations” note was not, and we say so plainly. Details in *This Month on the Space Coast*.

By role family

Who's hiring hands-on vs. engineering talent — August 2026

Share of each employer's Space Coast openings by role family — the six tracked employers publishing usable category data this month (Collins joins, fully verified; L3Harris per-site categories still unavailable). Sorted by engineering share.



Source: official careers-site postings, August 20, 2026 — six employers with usable category data.

Six tracked employers published usable role-category detail this month — Collins Aerospace joins the chart now that its postings are individually verified; L3Harris's per-site category data remains unavailable (site limitation) and stays rotated out until it returns.

Across the employers whose postings break down by category, demand splits into the same four broad families:

- **Engineering** remains the largest category at the big primes — Blue Origin's Space Coast postings include ~285 engineering-keyword roles, Northrop's Melbourne campus is engineering-dominant by design, and Collins's verified list is 58% engineering (avionics systems, electrical/FPGA, software).
- **Skilled trades & technicians** stay broad: a majority of Embraer's openings, 8 of Amazon Leo's 20, ~22 of SpaceX's ~75 (welders, electricians, launch-pad and fabrication technicians), ~60 technician-keyword postings at Blue Origin, and roughly 45% of Amentum's count.
- **Program & quality** — program managers, planners, schedulers, and quality/mission-assurance specialists — appear across nearly every employer; DRS's list remains notably program- and supply-chain-heavy.
- **Manufacturing, operations & supply chain** round out the mix — and carry this month's sharpest signal: the **shift tags**. At least 30 tracked postings across five employers explicitly advertise second-shift, weekend, or night-shift schedules. That around-the-clock turn is this month's Spotlight.

Likely among the hardest to fill this month: experienced assembly/avionics technicians and test technicians willing to work non-standard shifts, certified A&P mechanics, and cleared engineers. This reflects recurring requirements in tracked postings and Intrepidus's recruiting experience rather than measured time-to-fill data.

Contracts & the Demand Signal

Federal contract awards are a directional signal of future hiring — work awarded today is staffed over the following quarters. Tracking awards performed on the Space Coast, from public federal records, is one of this report's differentiators.³

Every figure below is checked for **where the work is actually performed** — we count Brevard-performed work as the local signal, and we say so plainly when a local company's win will be executed elsewhere. Standing caveat: a Brevard place of performance establishes local relevance, but it does **not** by itself prove incremental local hiring. Existing staff, subcontractors, remote workers, or non-labor spending may absorb part of the work.

The scale: 2,525 active federal contract records carried a Brevard County place of performance with FY2026 activity as of our June pull (this census figure is refreshed quarterly; the next refresh arrives with the September flagship). They span Navy aircraft, ballistic-missile production, NASA spaceflight, and the day-to-day operation of the spaceport itself.

The anchor programs (largest active prime-award records)

Largest active Brevard prime-award records — USASpending.gov, June 2026 pull (carried forward; refreshes September).

Awardee	Program	Obligations on record	Where
Northrop Grumman	E-2D Advanced Hawkeye aircraft (U.S. Navy)	\$8.5B + \$5.4B	Melbourne — design/ engineering; final production in St. Augustine
SpaceX	Commercial Crew transportation (NASA)	\$3.0B	Kennedy Space Center
Lockheed Martin	Trident II D5 / D5LE2 missile production (U.S. Navy)	\$2.9B	Titusville
L3Harris	NOAA & FAA ground and communications systems	\$1.8B	Palm Bay / Melbourne
Amentum	KSC Base Operations & Spaceport Services (BOSS)	\$608M	Kennedy Space Center
Boeing	Commercial Crew / Starliner (NASA)	\$361M	Kennedy Space Center

This table is **carried forward unchanged from the June 2026 analysis** (the census refreshes quarterly). Each line is a single USASpending **prime-award record**, shown as total obligations to date on that record as of that pull. Large programs often span multiple award records — a program's full value can be far larger than any one line here. These figures show where federal money is anchored — they are **not** program totals, ceilings, or single-year local spend. Record-level award IDs will be published with the September quarterly contract refresh.

Award headlines — the forward signal

This was a month of launch-contract ceilings and steady production orders rather than one giant local award — and two of the freshest wins went to Brevard's smaller names:

- **The Space Force nearly tripled the ceiling on its flexible launch-contract pool — with Blue Origin inside it (announced July 17).** Pentagon contract modifications raised the National Security Space Launch Phase 3 "Lane 1" ceiling by \$11.4 billion, to **\$17 billion**, across seven launch providers including **Blue Origin (Merritt Island)** and SpaceX. No money moves until task orders are issued — but a much larger pool of national-security missions is now available to compete for, and Blue Origin already holds one Cape-launched NRO task order under this program. More Lane 1 task orders mean more Cape launch, integration, and ground work this decade.
- **Northrop Grumman — up to ~\$1.2B Navy order for three more E-2D Advanced Hawkeyes (awarded July 22).** The E-2D is **designed and engineered at Northrop's Melbourne campus — the same site whose ~420 tracked openings anchor the Index — with final aircraft production in St. Augustine.** Melbourne carries the contract's largest single work share (29.88%, vs 17.68% for St. Augustine, per the award announcement). With ~\$583M obligated at signing, this not-to-exceed \$1.19B undefinitized award extends the region's largest active aircraft program into the 2030s — the clearest new contract-to-local-workforce line of the month.

- **Lockheed Martin — \$15.9M Trident II (D5) production long-lead (awarded July 24), 14% performed in Titusville.** Small next to April's \$850M D5LE2 modification (covered last issue), but it starts the FY2027 production cycle — steady fuel for the Titusville missile-production buildout.
- **Extant Aerospace — \$14.2M Navy order for F/A-18 components, performed in Melbourne (awarded August 12).** Fresh federal work for the aerospace-electronics maker that broke ground on its \$75M, 200-job Melbourne expansion just five weeks earlier (see *This Month*). Extant is not yet in the Index sample; it is on the September list-review agenda.
- **Mainstream Engineering (Rockledge) — \$10.4M defense-logistics contract (awarded July 28) —** a reminder that Brevard's federal work extends into its small-manufacturer bench.
- **All Points (Merritt Island HQ) — a \$250M Space Force spacecraft-processing award (announced July 29) and a NASA KSC processing-contract on-ramp (announced August 18).** Read the fine print with us: the \$250M award's new processing capacity will be built at **Vandenberg Space Force Base in California** — not Brevard — but the company is headquartered in Merritt Island, is separately building a ~260,000-sq-ft processing facility at KSC (target ~2027), and the NASA on-ramp opens KSC task-order work. Corporate growth with a local center of gravity, even where this contract's work is performed out of state.
- **Cape infrastructure keeps getting funded:** a \$13.4M award (August 5) to underground the aging "R-line" electrical distribution at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station — unglamorous range-modernization work that supports every launch program on the Eastern Range.
- Also of note: SpaceX was announced (July 29) for **~\$1.6B in Lane 1 task orders covering 18 Falcon 9 launches** — but those missions fly from **Vandenberg, California**, so we log it as a national signal, not a local one.

A correction-in-advance on last month's biggest headline: July's reported ~\$955M L3Harris award for 18 "Golden Dome" missile-tracking satellites remains real — but subsequent reporting confirms the satellites will be **built in Fort Wayne, Indiana**, with Palm Bay's role running through L3Harris's integration and related space-sensor work. We framed Palm Bay as the integration signal last month and keep that framing: the local read is L3Harris's rising Palm Bay posting count (+41 this month), not the satellite assembly line itself.

Why it matters for hiring: this month's forward signal is *capacity* — a bigger national-security launch pool (Lane 1), a longer E-2D program and engineering runway benefiting Melbourne, fresh component work at two smaller Melbourne/Rockledge manufacturers, and continued range modernization. Industry experience suggests awards translate into related postings over subsequent quarters; this report does not yet measure that local award-to-posting lag.

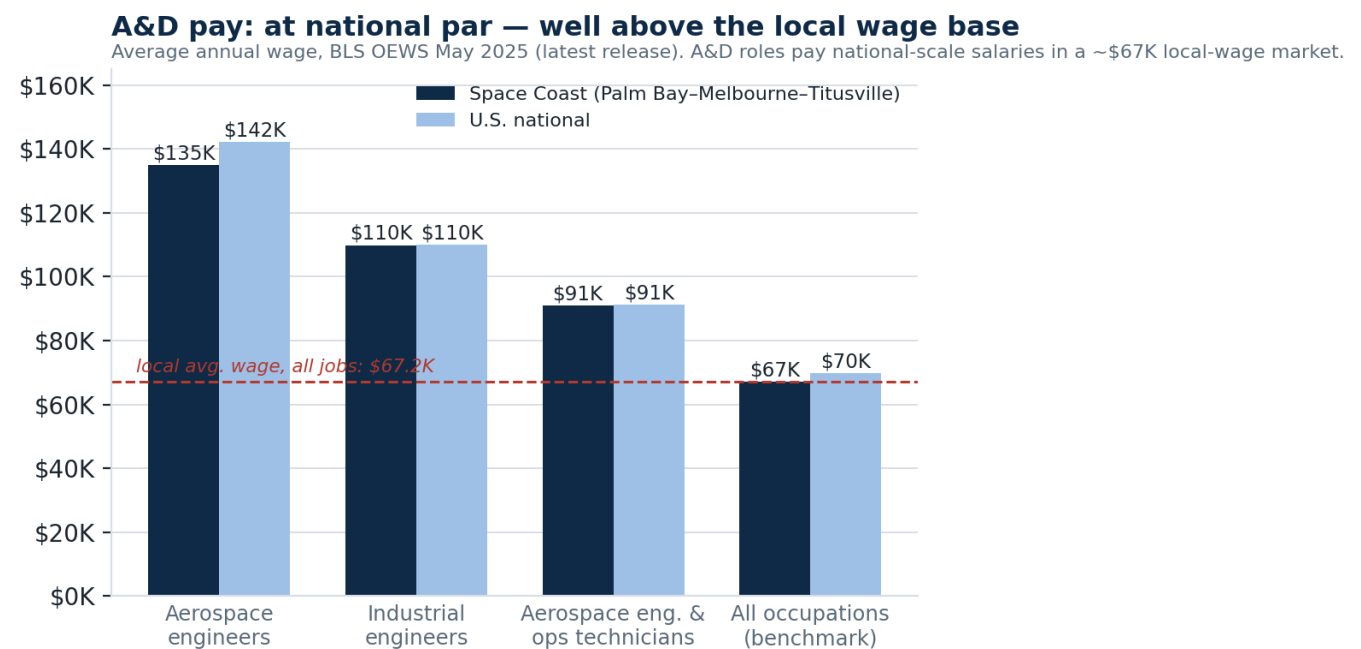
Out for bid — the earliest signal

The quarterly solicitation review returns with the September flagship. The date that matters most right now: the current KSC ground-systems contract (**COMET**, held by Amentum after absorbing Jacobs' KSC unit) reaches the end of its current period on **September 30** — the government's option decision is the single biggest near-term marker for the contractor tier of the Index. Public contract records show a contract modification logged **August 12** whose contents are not yet public; no protest filings or announcements had surfaced by our pull date. We'll report the outcome next issue. NASA KSC's support-services recompetes (engineering services, fire, and protective services) remain in evaluation.

What the Market Pays

Salary benchmarks are among the data most requested by both job seekers and hiring managers.⁴

All figures here are the official BLS Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics for the **Palm Bay–Melbourne–Titusville metro** (May 2025 — still the latest release; the next annual update arrives in spring 2027), shown as the **average annual wage** and compared to the **national** average for the same occupation. These benchmarks are unchanged from July because the official data is unchanged — not because we didn't look. One timing note: the county wage series (QCEW) releases its **Q1 2026** update on **August 28, 2026** (per the [BLS release calendar](#)) — after this issue's pull date — so the September flagship will carry the fresh county wage reading.



Source: [BLS Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics](#), May 2025 — Palm Bay–Melbourne–Titusville metro and U.S.

Average annual wages — BLS OEWS, May 2025 (Palm Bay–Melbourne–Titusville metro vs U.S.).

Occupation	Local avg. wage	National avg.	Local employment
Computer hardware engineers	\$149,930	—	500
Aerospace engineers	\$134,950	\$142,060	1,360
Electronics engineers	\$125,770	—	970
Industrial engineers	\$109,840	\$109,900	2,030
Aerospace engineering & operations technicians	\$91,030	\$91,310	480

Occupation	Local avg. wage	National avg.	Local employment
Aircraft mechanics & service technicians	\$71,960	—	660
Machinists	\$57,500	—	560
All occupations (local benchmark)	\$67,210	\$69,770	245,170

The standing story: premium *jobs*, not just premium pay

For readers new to the report, the central wage finding bears restating. Space Coast aerospace wages are **not** dramatically higher than the national average for the same jobs — local aerospace engineers (\$134,950) run a touch *below* the national mean (\$142,060), and aerospace technicians (\$91,030) and industrial engineers (\$109,840) sit essentially *at* the national average. What makes this a premium market is the comparison **against the local economy**: the mean wage across all local jobs is **\$67,210**, so an aerospace engineer earns about **2×** the local average, an industrial engineer about **1.6×**, and an aerospace technician about **35% more**. The premium is not uniform across the trades — an aircraft mechanic (\$71,960) sits modestly above the local mean while a machinist (\$57,500) sits below it — and the county's overall wage base is rising fast (average weekly wage +6.7% year over year at last reading). One honest boundary, repeated on purpose: wages are not a cost-of-living measure, and this report does not yet publish one (a regional-price benchmark is planned).

A wage angle with fresh legs this month: shift differentials. With at least 30 tracked postings now explicitly advertising second-shift, weekend, or night schedules, differential pay — typically a percentage or flat-dollar premium over base — is becoming a real part of local take-home math for technicians. Public postings rarely state differentials, so we can't benchmark them yet; the Spotlight discusses how to think about them.

vs. national — the benchmark line

The U.S. average wage is **\$142,060 for aerospace engineers** and **\$91,310 for aerospace engineering & operations technicians** (BLS, May 2025). The Space Coast pays right in line on both — competitive enough to recruit nationally, in a market whose overall wage base sits well below those salaries.

This Month on the Space Coast

A fast-moving roundup of the developments that move the local labor market — refreshed every issue so the report always has news, not just numbers.⁵

The month's defining story: the newcomers are choosing Titusville

For a decade the Space Coast growth story has been told through its giants. This month, the most interesting news clusters at the north end of the county — new flags being planted, and one existing flag we were overdue in marking:

- **Relativity Space targets Titusville for a \$350M manufacturing campus.** Announced by the Governor's office July 20 and localized a day later: the 3D-printing-forward rocket maker — now building its 284-foot Terran R — has identified **Space Coast Regional Airport in Titusville** as the target site for a manufacturing and R&D campus ([Space Coast EDC announcement](#)), backed by \$350M in Space Florida conduit financing and up to \$134M in state spaceport-infrastructure funds per state and local reporting, with officials projecting **thousands of jobs through 2034**. One honest flag: the site is "identified," not yet contractually finalized — Titusville's own mayor is still saying "I really hope it is in Titusville." If it lands, it is the largest new-employer commitment here since Blue Origin's arrival.
- **Beyond Gravity's Titusville satellite-panel plant is hiring — and we owe the record a correction.** In prior issues we described the Swiss space-hardware maker's U.S. operations as Alabama-only. In fact, its [Titusville structural-panel factory has been producing since at least 2024](#) — the company announced its third automated production machine there in November 2024, with capacity of up to 36 panels per week and roughly \$20M in panel orders that year. What *is* new this month: the site's first job openings in our tracked sample (a quality engineer and an HR specialist) — the signature of a production site adding depth. Constellation-panel work is exactly the kind of steady-rate manufacturing that builds technician headcount — worth watching.
- **Extant Aerospace broke ground July 16 on its \$75M Melbourne plant** — 376,000 sq ft at the Harbour Logistics Center, taking the aerospace-electronics maker from ~250 toward ~450 local jobs — and followed it within a month with a fresh \$14.2M Navy component order performed in Melbourne (see Contracts). Announcement to groundbreaking to new federal work in under three months is the kind of execution pace worth noting.

Add Blue Origin's \$600M "Project Horizon" upper-stage plant (announced May, ~500 jobs) and Lockheed's Titusville missile facility (~300 jobs, 2027 target), both still in build-out, and the county's committed new-capacity pipeline now runs well past a billion dollars.

Program watch: the three clocks

- **New Glenn: cause found, fix small, clock still ticking toward year-end.** Blue Origin announced August 6 that the May 28 pad explosion traced to the **main oxygen valve on one of the booster's seven BE-4 engines** — a component-level issue with a retrofittable fix, with updated hardware targeted by end of August (ULA's Vulcan, which flies the same engines, gets the fix too). Launch Complex 36 is being rebuilt with a **two-pad** layout and a new horizontal-integration flow; return to flight is still targeted **before the end of 2026**, with the next mission's payload not yet announced. The hiring signal stayed unambiguous all month: Blue Origin's tracked Space Coast openings rose another 102, to 636.

- **Starliner-1 slips again — and Boeing's local postings tell the story.** Boeing's latest financial filing moves the uncrewed cargo flight to **no earlier than Q4 2026** — the third slip since the mission was converted from a crew rotation — and NASA declines to commit to a 2026 date, citing thruster-fix verification and a crowded station schedule. Our Index adds the local texture: Boeing's Brevard postings now contain **no Starliner titles at all**, down from a Starliner-flavored list as recently as June. No layoff filings accompany the wind-down of postings; but of the anchors, Boeing is the one whose local hiring signal is quietest.
- **Artemis III is now a Brevard jobs program in motion.** At KSC this window: solid-rocket-booster stacking began in the VAB in early July, the final RS-25 engine arrived July 21, and the Orion crew and service modules were **mated July 30** — with the crew named in June and the mission targeting 2027. This is precisely the ground-systems and processing work performed by the contractor tier of our Index (Amentum's COMET team stacks the boosters), which makes the September COMET option decision matter well beyond one company's org chart.

Hiring & expansion notes

- **SpaceX keeps building toward Florida Starship operations:** an August 14 environmental filing for "**Project Ignition**" — a Starship static-fire test stand near its Roberts Road/Gigabay complex at KSC — extends the buildout, and six of SpaceX's freshest Cape postings (August 19) are cryogenics/industrial-gas supply-chain roles that fit the same picture. Starship infrastructure titles now run through roughly 30 of SpaceX's ~75 tracked openings — welders, electricians, pad technicians, tower-and-launch-mount engineers.
- **Amazon Leo's Merritt Island processing facility is staffing a second shift** — 9 of its 20 openings say so explicitly — as the constellation (now past 375 satellites, enough to begin service per Amazon) shifts its Cape launch future onto Vulcan and New Glenn.
- **A practical note for job seekers: Lockheed Martin's job board moved.** The company retired lockheedmartinjobs.com in mid-August for a new AI-powered careers platform (lockheedmartin.eightfold.ai/careers). Old links and saved searches are dead, and listings are still repopulating — if you had applications or alerts on the old site, rebuild them on the new one, and check back over the coming weeks as requisitions reload. Fresh Cape Canaveral, Titusville, and KSC roles (Orion test and integration engineers, HVAC technicians, an office coordinator) were already posting daily at press time.

Launch cadence

The Cape logged 52 orbital launches year-to-date through August 16 — 5 in this issue's window, all SpaceX Falcon 9, including an NRO mission (July 30) and a Globalstar constellation-replenishment flight (August 15) that set a company record: **38.5 minutes** between that Cape liftoff and another Falcon 9 departing California. Against 2025's record 109, the Cape is running **roughly a quarter behind last year's pace** — New Glenn has been grounded since May, ULA has not flown since its final Amazon Leo Atlas V on July 1, and SpaceX continues to spread Starlink work across both coasts. The back half of the year is where the cadence story could turn: the **Roman Space Telescope on Falcon Heavy (NET August 30)**, **Crew-13 (NET September 12)**, New Glenn's return to flight, and ULA's first Dream Chaser flight (Q4) are all on the manifest.

Launch tempo is generally associated with demand for integration, ground-systems, mission-operations, and trades roles — the kind of work concentrated in the contractor tier of the Openings Index — though this report does not measure that relationship directly.

Layoff / WARN watch

No Space Coast aerospace or defense layoff (WARN) notices were filed this period — the third consecutive clean month. Florida's WARN list shows no Brevard filings of any kind in the window (the nearest defense-sector filing was a 97-person services reduction at Eglin AFB, well outside the region). Watch items, none of them layoffs today: the **COMET option decision** (end of September), **Boeing's post-Starliner local posture**, and the **Lockheed board repopulation** — by next issue we'll know whether Lockheed's true posting level came back in the 100s, or whether the migration masked a real step-down.

Monthly Spotlight

THIS MONTH: The Second-Shift Boom — the Space Coast Goes Around the Clock

Each issue features one rotating deep-dive on a topic that shapes local A&D hiring. This month: the fastest-spreading signature in our postings data — the second shift — and what around-the-clock production means for pay, hiring, and careers.⁶

Read enough job postings and the market tells you things no press release will. This month it is practically shouting one thing: **the Space Coast is adding shifts**. Not headcount in the abstract — *hours*. Across the Index sample, at least **30 tracked postings at five different employers now explicitly advertise second-shift, weekend, or night-shift schedules** — the classic signature of factories and processing floors that have run out of first-shift capacity and are extending the clock instead.

The evidence, employer by employer:

- **Embraer (Melbourne): 14 of 31 openings** carry a second-shift or weekend tag — A&P technicians (one with a sign-on bonus), assembly technicians across flight controls and interiors, aircraft painters, a weekend-shift avionics/flight-prep crew, second-shift quality inspectors, even a second-shift manufacturing engineer and logistics operator. This is what a delivery push looks like from the inside: the company is guiding to 160–170 executive-jet deliveries this year, and the Melbourne floor has a second half to hit.
- **Amazon Leo (Merritt Island): 9 of 20 openings are explicitly second shift** — processing technicians and leads, aerospace manufacturing engineers, a senior quality engineer, a manufacturing-engineering manager. A satellite-processing facility staffing its evening crew, from techs to management, in one hiring wave.
- **Collins Aerospace (Melbourne): second-shift and weekend test technicians**, plus a second-shift facilities-maintenance tech and a second-shift manufacturing engineer among its verified openings — avionics production support stretching beyond the standard day.

- **Leonardo DRS (Melbourne):** two of its three trades openings are second-shift — a senior toolmaker/machinist and a senior optical-fabrication technician.
- **SpaceX (Cape Canaveral):** night-shift electricians, welders, and fabrication technicians on the Starship launch-pad buildout, plus day/night automation-and-controls pairs — construction and activation work that simply doesn't stop at 5 p.m.
- **Blue Origin (Merritt Island):** the shift structure is baked in at scale — lunar-hardware manufacturing posted on A/B shifts and test-and-launch-operations technician roles posted across "all shifts."

Why it's happening now. Three forces stack: production ramps (Embraer's delivery guidance, Blue Origin's return-to-flight rebuild, Amazon Leo's constellation buildout), capital that hasn't finished turning into floor space (Project Horizon, Extant's plant, Lockheed's Titusville facility are all still under construction — until new square footage opens, the only way to make more is to run existing lines longer), and a launch manifest that concentrates integration and pad work into date-driven crunches. Adding a shift is the fastest capacity lever a plant manager has — and it shows up in postings months before it shows up in any official statistic.

What it means for pay. Shift work typically carries a differential — commonly a percentage of base or a flat hourly adder for evenings, nights, and weekends. Local postings rarely publish their differentials (Florida has no pay-transparency law), so we can't benchmark them yet — but the *structure* matters for both sides of the table. For a technician, a second-shift role at the same base rate is a raise in disguise where a differential applies — and often a faster hire, because the applicant pool thins after dark. For employers, the differential is only part of the cost: sustained second shifts also mean supervision depth, quality coverage, and retention risk if the schedule burden lands on your most experienced people. The official wage benchmarks in *What the Market Pays* are annual means across all shifts — treat them as the floor of the conversation, not the offer.

The pipeline angle. Around-the-clock operations widen the door for the region's talent pipeline: second shifts are historically where career-changers, new certificate-holders, and transitioning military get their first aerospace floor experience — Eastern Florida State College's aerospace and advanced-manufacturing certificate graduates being the obvious local feedstock. An employer sponsoring certifications *and* offering shift flexibility is competing on two axes the giants can't always match.

What it means if you're hiring or job-hunting here:

- *Job seekers (trades and technicians):* the fastest door into Space Coast aerospace right now is very likely an off-shift one — Embraer and Amazon Leo alone have ~23 explicitly tagged openings between them. Ask about the differential, shift stability, and whether a path to first shift exists — and if you hold an A&P, weld certs, NDT, or avionics experience, expect competing offers.
- *Hiring managers:* if your competitors are running two shifts and you're running one, you are bidding for the same day-shift candidates as everyone else while leaving the evening applicant pool untouched. If you *are* adding shifts: publish the differential in the posting (most local competitors don't — instant visibility advantage), invest in second-shift supervision, and watch your first-shift veterans for burnout-driven churn. Speed still wins: off-shift candidates tend to be in-market and decisive.

National Context: U.S. vs. the Space Coast

The Space Coast is a small slice of a very large national industry. Setting the local market against the national backdrop suggests what makes Brevard distinctive: it pays A&D occupations well above the local wage base, it sits in the path of federal defense spending, and it is adding capacity.⁷

U.S. aerospace & defense supports **approximately 2.1 million jobs** (about **930,000 direct**) and generated **\$988.6 billion in sales** in 2025, contributing **\$500 billion in economic value** (1.6% of U.S. GDP) and paying **\$266 billion** in labor income — an average wage **above \$127,000, roughly 40% higher than the national average** (AIA 2026 Facts & Figures, 2025 data). Direct manufacturing employment splits almost evenly between commercial aerospace (51%) and defense/national security (49%). On the federal demand side, Congress enacted **\$839 billion** in FY2026 Department of Defense appropriations, and the procurement emphasis on **missiles and space** keeps aligning with visible Brevard strengths — this month via the expanded \$17B national-security launch pool and the E-2D order whose largest work share is assigned to Melbourne (the aircraft's design and engineering home; production is in St. Augustine).

The national trend line

U.S. aerospace manufacturing employment is climbing

All employees, aerospace product & parts mfg. (NAICS 3364), seasonally adjusted, monthly.
Full official series, BLS CES — June 2026 preliminary; May 2026 revised.



Source: [BLS Current Employment Statistics, series CES3133640001](#) — June 2026 preliminary.

The national industry keeps climbing: U.S. aerospace manufacturing employment reached a preliminary **591,600 in June 2026** — the **highest level in at least a decade of published data** — up about **24,800 jobs (+4.4%) over 12 months**, up more than **100,000 since early 2022**, and rising every month of 2026 so far (BLS; May revised up slightly to 588,100). The Space Coast's tracked-posting growth this month came against that tailwind — a directional pairing only, since postings (month over month) and payroll employment (year over year) are different measures.

The benchmark snapshot

National vs. Space Coast benchmarks — BLS, AIA 2026 Facts & Figures, this issue's Openings Index.

Metric	National (U.S.)	Space Coast	Takeaway
Aerospace mfg. employment trend	+4.4% year over year — decade-plus high	Index +12.5% month over month (comparable basis)*	Local postings rising alongside a decade-high national industry
Aerospace engineer pay (avg)	\$142,060	\$134,950	Near national par; ~2× the local average wage
Aerospace technician pay (avg)	\$91,310	\$91,030	At national par; above the local wage base
Avg A&D wage (national)	\$127,000+	Above the \$67,210 local all-occupation mean	A&D pay sits above the local wage base
Federal demand backdrop	~\$839B FY26 DoD approps	\$17B launch pool + ~\$1.2B E-2D order this month	Space/aircraft budget priorities landing locally

**Different measures — national is employment (year over year); local is tracked job postings (month over month, excluding Lockheed's series break). Directional comparison only.*

Bottom line: the region pays national-scale A&D salaries against a local wage base of about \$67,000; its space-and-missile work sits squarely in current federal budget priorities; new entrants are committing capital to the county; and the national industry it belongs to is at its highest employment in over a decade and still climbing. Taken together, these read as favorable conditions for recruiting and relocation — an interpretation we keep testing against the monthly data.

Get the Report Every Month

This report is published monthly by **Intrepidus Talent Solutions**, a specialist aerospace and defense staffing firm serving Florida's Space Coast. We place the engineers, technicians, and cleared professionals the region's top employers depend on.

Subscribe free at intrepidus-ts.com

Reach out any time for hiring support or a confidential talent-market consultation — intrepidus-ts.com.

Appendix & Methodology

How this report stays fresh

Most foundational data — employment, wages, total industry size — changes slowly. To stay current without manufacturing false movement, the report is built in two layers on a hybrid schedule:

- **Fresh layer** — the Openings Index, contract awards and pipeline, news roundup, launch cadence, and the rotating Spotlight. These change every issue and lead the report.
- **Backbone layer** — employment, wages, and national benchmarks. These anchor credibility and are refreshed when official data is released, not forced monthly.

A light **monthly pulse** runs every month; a deeper **quarterly flagship** (BLS-anchored) lands in September, December, March, and June. Next month is a flagship issue: it will carry the quarterly contract-census refresh (with award IDs), the fresh Q1 2026 county wage data, the full solicitation review, and the quarterly company-list review.

Methodology & sources

- **Openings Index** — a **defined-sample** metric: open roles counted from a fixed list of **23 named Space Coast A&D employers** (anchors, suppliers, and base/range contractors), compiled **primarily from each company's official careers site** across all Brevard County locations on a fixed date (August 20, 2026), **cross-checked against [Indeed](#)** — with disclosed aggregator-based methods for the handful of employers whose official systems were unavailable (this month: Amentum, Jacobs, KBR, Custom Aerospace; see the count sheet for each employer's method). The same list is used every month so the trend is comparable; it is reviewed quarterly. The Index is **not** a census of all county-wide A&D openings — NASA and Space Force civil-service/military roles, third-party staffing listings, and employers not on the list are excluded by design. Share figures (e.g., the top-five ~91%) describe the tracked sample, not the whole market.
- **The Lockheed Martin series break (August 2026)** — Lockheed migrated its careers platform mid-August (lockheedmartinjobs.com → lockheedmartin.eightfold.ai). All legacy requisitions were taken offline without per-listing redirects, and syndicated feeds (Indeed, Glassdoor) were purged and re-seeded beginning August 14. The August figure of 16 is the measured count on the new platform at the pull date, independently corroborated (Glassdoor 16; Indeed 14, all posted Aug 14–19), and reflects a partially repopulated board — it is **not comparable to prior months** (July: 112). Lockheed is excluded from this month's month-over-month arithmetic (both months' totals) and will be re-baselined in the September issue.
- **Wages** — [BLS Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics \(OEWS\)](#), May 2025 (latest release), Palm Bay–Melbourne–Titusville metro and national, shown as annual mean (average) wages on a like-for-like basis; county weekly-wage trend from [BLS County Employment and Wages \(QCEW\)](#), Q4 2025 (Q1 2026 release scheduled for August 28, 2026 per the [BLS release calendar](#)).

- **Contracts** — [USASpending.gov](#) prime awards filtered to **Brevard County place of performance** (census figure from the June 2026 pull, refreshed quarterly); award headlines from official [Department of Defense daily contract announcements](#), [Space Systems Command releases](#), and company announcements, July 17 – August 20, 2026. For every headline we verify the **actual award date** against the announcement date and state the **place of performance** — including when a local company's win is performed out of state (this month: All Points' Vandenberg award; SpaceX's Vandenberg-launched task orders). Award values are total (multi-year) obligations or ceilings as stated, not single-year local spend. A Brevard place of performance establishes local relevance but does not by itself prove incremental local hiring.
- **Layoff / WARN watch** — [Florida WARN Act filings](#), checked August 20, 2026 (state portal cross-checked via WARN aggregation services).
- **National context** — [AIA 2026 Facts & Figures](#) (2025 data); U.S. DoD FY2026 appropriations; BLS national [OEWS](#) and [Current Employment Statistics series CES3133640001](#).
- **Reproducibility** — direct links for this issue's key claims appear in the footnotes, and a compact employer count sheet (count, prior month, method, and confidence for every tracked company) appears at the end of this appendix. Job postings churn daily, so Index counts are snapshots that may not be reproducible after the pull date; the full per-company count sheet (site facets and pull notes) is retained for every issue and is available on request via [intrepidus-ts.com](#).
- **Evidence standard** — role counts, wages, WARN filings, and federal award values are reported as observed data from public sources. Connections between awards, solicitations, and hiring are treated as directional indicators unless individual postings can be tied directly to a specific program. Where a figure is our own count (the Openings Index) or an estimate, it is labeled as such.

Section notes & sources (footnotes)

¹ **The Monthly Pulse.** Third issue; second month-over-month reading, labeled provisional. Figures are drawn from public sources (company career sites, USASpending.gov, BLS, Florida WARN filings, company and government announcements); where a number is our own count — chiefly the Openings Index — or an estimate, it is labeled. The "~" prefix marks estimates and browser-read counts (SpaceX, Collins in prior months, Northrop, Amentum) explained in footnote 2. The comparable-basis change excludes Lockheed Martin from both months (July 1,547–112 = 1,435; August 1,630–16 = 1,614; +179 = +12.5%); the "roughly +11%" alternative additionally holds SpaceX at a method-consistent level ($\approx +157$ on $\approx 1,435$).

² **Openings Index — scope & method.** The Index is a sample, not a census: open roles counted from a fixed, named list of 23 Space Coast A&D employers, compiled primarily from each company's official careers site — with disclosed aggregator-based methods where official systems were unavailable (see the count sheet) — filtered to all Brevard County locations (Melbourne, Palm Bay, Malabar, Titusville, Cape Canaveral, Merritt Island, Rockledge, Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, Patrick SFB, Kennedy Space Center, Satellite Beach, West Melbourne), on a single fixed date (August 20, 2026) — held constant so the month-to-month change is real and comparable. It excludes smaller firms not on the list, third-party staffing listings, and NASA/Space Force civil-service and military postings (we count their commercial contractors instead). Multi-location postings where the Space Coast is one of several sites are included as posted (Blue Origin and Northrop totals run slightly high for this reason, as in prior months). **August-specific notes:** *Lockheed Martin* — series break; see the dedicated methodology entry above. *SpaceX* (~75) — counted via a newly accessible official per-office data

source on its hiring system, unioned with its public job board and Indeed enumeration (range 70–85); the improvement over July's ~53 estimate is largely methodological, so treat ~75 as a new baseline rather than growth. *Collins Aerospace (26)* — upgraded from estimate to official: every requisition individually verified live against RTX's hiring system on the pull date. *Northrop (~422)* — its careers site now blocks automated reading; counts were read directly from the live official site (default Melbourne view including remote-eligible reqs, 413, consistent with prior months' basis, plus 6 Cape Canaveral, 2 Merritt Island, and 1 Kennedy Space Center listing; a few multi-site listings may overlap the Melbourne view, so the total carries a ~±3 band). *Amentum (~35)* — official site unreadable at pull time; level built from multiple converging aggregator reads cross-checked on Indeed (±2), with five roles carrying Ascension Island (Eastern Range) duty stations under Brevard location tags, counted as posted. *KBR (1)* — two aggregator listings tagged "Melbourne, FL" were excluded after full-posting review showed them to be United Kingdom roles mis-tagged with a Florida location (converted salaries, UK-residency requirements); we count only postings verified to be Brevard-based. The role-mix chart covers the six employers publishing usable category data this month (Collins Aerospace joins now that its requisitions are individually verified; L3Harris's per-site categories remain unavailable and stay rotated out; Blue Origin also rotates out this month — its role data is keyword-based and not directly comparable to the enumerated lists). The company list is reviewed quarterly; this quarter's review (September issue) will act on Space Perspective (confirmed defunct), Rocket Lab and Terran Orbital (no Florida site; Terran Orbital's board has revived, but hiring is California-only), Beyond Gravity (its long-standing Titusville facility posted its first tracked openings — flipped from removal candidate to active member, and prior issues' "no Brevard operations" note is corrected), and candidate additions including Extant Aerospace.

³ **Contracts & the Demand Signal.** Anchor-program table and the 2,525 active-record census: USASpending.gov, prime contract awards with Brevard County, FL place of performance, FY2026, as pulled for the June issue (refreshed quarterly; KSC awards appear under the "Orlando, FL 32899" ZIP but are physically performed at KSC in Brevard). Anchor-table values are obligations on individual prime-award records — not program totals, ceilings, or potential values; large programs span multiple records. Award headlines (award dates per [U.S. Department of Defense daily contract announcements](#) unless noted): NSSL Phase 3 Lane 1 ceiling modifications, announced July 17, 2026 (+\$11.4B to \$17.0B across seven providers incl. Blue Origin, Merritt Island; no funds obligated at award); Northrop Grumman E-2D undefinitized contract action, awarded July 22, 2026 (not-to-exceed ~\$1.19B, ~\$583M obligated; work split per the announcement: [Melbourne, FL 29.88%](#), [St. Augustine, FL 17.68%](#), [Liverpool, NY 13.85%](#), [remainder distributed](#)); the E-2D is built start-to-finish in St. Augustine with design/engineering in Melbourne per [Northrop Grumman](#); Lockheed Martin Trident II (D5) FY27 long-lead modification, July 24, 2026 (\$15.86M; 14% Titusville); Mainstream Engineering (Rockledge) DLA contract, July 28, 2026 (\$10.36M); Cape Canaveral SFS R-line electrical design-build, August 5, 2026 (\$13.4M); Symetrics Industries dba Extant Aerospace (Melbourne) NAVSUP order, August 12, 2026 (\$14.15M, F/A-18 assemblies). All Points: [Space Force commercial solutions award announced July 29, 2026](#) (\$250M; processing capacity built at Vandenberg SFB, CA) and [NASA SPOC on-ramp announced August 18, 2026](#) (value not disclosed; KSC/Vandenberg scope). [SpaceX Lane 1 task orders announced by Space Systems Command July 29, 2026](#) (~\$1.6B, 18 Falcon 9 missions from Vandenberg). Golden Dome/AMDT3 follow-up: satellite manufacturing located in Fort Wayne, IN per L3Harris and local-market reporting; Palm Bay integration framing as in the July issue. COMET ([contract 80KSC023DA016](#)): public contract records show period of performance through September 30, 2026 and a modification logged August 12, 2026, contents not public. The connection from award to local job postings is a reasonable interpretation, not something this issue measures directly.

⁴ **What the Market Pays.** Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, OEWS, May 2025, Palm Bay–Melbourne–Titusville, FL metropolitan area and national; annual mean wages, like-for-like. OEWS is annual; the May 2026 estimates are expected in spring 2027, so this section's benchmarks are the current official figures. County weekly wage: BLS County Employment and Wages news release for Florida, Q4 2025 (Brevard County: average weekly wage \$1,416, +6.7% over the year); the Q1 2026 county release is scheduled for August 28, 2026 ([release calendar](#)) and will be covered in the September flagship issue. Shift-differential discussion is qualitative — local postings rarely publish differentials, and no official local differential statistic exists.

⁵ **This Month on the Space Coast.** Sources: Relativity Space — Governor's office announcement July 20, 2026, [Space Coast EDC](#), and [local coverage July 21–24](#) (Space Coast Regional Airport, Titusville, identified as target site; \$350M Space Florida conduit financing approved June 2; up to \$134M FDOT spaceport-infrastructure funds; site not yet finalized). Beyond Gravity — Titusville production history per the company's [November 18, 2024 release](#) (third automated potting machine; up to 36 panels/week; ~\$20M in 2024 panel orders); current openings per its official careers site, verified August 20, 2026. Prior issues' note that its U.S. operations were Alabama-only was incorrect and is corrected this issue. Extant Aerospace — [groundbreaking coverage, July 16, 2026](#) (376,000 sq ft; ~250→~450 jobs); NAVSUP order per footnote 3. New Glenn — [trade coverage August 6, 2026](#) (BE-4 main oxygen valve cause; fix hardware targeted end of August; ULA Vulcan affected); return-to-flight targeted before end of 2026; LC-36 two-pad rebuild per [company statements June 30](#); next payload not announced. Starliner-1 — Boeing Q2 2026 filing (no earlier than Q4 2026); [NASA comments July 30, 2026](#) (no committed date); mission converted to uncrewed cargo November 2025. Artemis III — [NASA mission blog, August 5, 2026](#) (SRB stacking began early July; final RS-25 delivered July 21; Orion crew/service modules mated July 30; crew named June 9). SpaceX — ["Project Ignition" environmental filing reported August 14, 2026](#). Launch cadence — [Spaceflight Now launch coverage](#) (52nd Space Coast orbital launch, August 15, 2026 — a 9:12 p.m. EDT liftoff; the 38.5-minute two-coast record per the same coverage) and [launch schedule](#) (Roman Space Telescope NET August 30; Crew-13 NET September 12); 2025 total (109) per Space Launch Delta 45; pace comparison is our own proration and rounds to "roughly a quarter behind." Lockheed careers platform — observed cutover to [lockheedmartin.eightfold.ai/careers](#), verified live August 20, 2026; no company announcement located, so launch timing is inferred from the observed transition and feed re-seeding dates. WARN — Florida WARN Act filings as aggregated by WARN tracking services, checked August 20, 2026 (state portal unavailable to automated checks at press time); Eglin AFB item: COLSA Corporation notice dated July 27, 2026.

⁶ **Monthly Spotlight.** All shift-tagged posting counts are from this month's Openings Index pull (August 20, 2026), counted from posting titles and descriptions on official careers sites (Embraer 14 of 31; Amazon Leo 9 of 20; Collins Aerospace second-shift/weekend test technicians, second-shift facilities technician, and second-shift manufacturing engineer among 26 verified reqs; Leonardo DRS 2; SpaceX night-shift titles among ~75; Blue Origin A/B-shift and all-shift postings). "At least 30" counts only explicit shift tags — postings that require shift flexibility without saying so are not counted, so the true around-the-clock demand is likely higher. Embraer delivery guidance (160–170 executive jets in 2026) per company reporting. Shift-differential mechanics are described qualitatively; no local differential statistic exists (see footnote 4). Program references (Eastern Florida State College) are descriptive, not an endorsement.

⁷ **National Context.** Sources: [Aerospace Industries Association, 2026 Facts & Figures](#) (2025 data; released July 2026); U.S. DoD FY2026 appropriations (P.L. 119-75); BLS OEWS May 2025 (national and local); [BLS Current Employment Statistics series CES3133640001](#) (all employees, aerospace product & parts

manufacturing, seasonally adjusted), full monthly series June 2025 – June 2026 extracted August 20, 2026 — June 2026 preliminary; May 2026 revised to 588,100. "Decade-plus high" refers to the highest value in the 2016–2026 series data extracted; the series' pre-2016 history was not re-pulled this issue. National and local wage figures are both annual mean (average) wages on a like-for-like basis.

August count sheet (compact)

August employer count sheet — per-company method and confidence.

Employer	Aug	Jul	Method (August)	Confidence
Blue Origin	636	534	Official board, Space Coast filter	High
Northrop Grumman	~422	~431	Official site, browser-read (Melbourne default view + Cape/Merritt Is./KSC)	High (±3)
L3Harris	318	240	Official site city facets (two pulls, identical)	High
SpaceX	~75	~53	Official per-office data + job board + Indeed union (method v2)	Medium-high (70–85)
Amentum	~35	~37	Converging aggregators, Indeed-verified (official site unreadable)	Medium-high (±2)
Embraer	31	35	Official portal, Melbourne facet	Medium-high
Leonardo DRS	31	44	Official site search, Melbourne-listed only	High
Collins Aerospace	26	~27	Each requisition verified against official hiring system	High (official)
Amazon Leo	20	14	Official API, "kuiper"+"Leo" queries deduped	High
Lockheed Martin	16†	112	New official board (post-migration)	Measured high; not comparable
Boeing	7	8	Official location pages	High
Custom Aerospace	3	3	Indeed (no official board)	High
Jacobs	3	2	Aggregators, cross-confirmed (official site JS-only)	High
Leidos	3	3	Official city pages	High
Beyond Gravity	2	0	Official board	High

Employer	Aug	Jul	Method (August)	Confidence
KBR	1	3	Full-posting-verified aggregator (official site JS-only)	High on the 1
Sierra Space	1	1	Official requisition page	High
Redwire, Bechtel, Space Coast Composite, Space Perspective, Rocket Lab, Terran Orbital	0	0	Official sites + Indeed zero-check	High

†Series break (platform migration). "~" marks counts carrying a stated uncertainty band. Full pull notes retained; available on request.

The tracked company universe (23)

Anchor: Blue Origin, Northrop Grumman, L3Harris, Lockheed Martin, SpaceX, Leonardo DRS, Embraer, Collins Aerospace (RTX), Amazon Leo (formerly Project Kuiper), Boeing. **Suppliers/specialists:** Redwire, Sierra Space, Custom Aerospace, Space Coast Composite, Space Perspective, Beyond Gravity, Rocket Lab, Terran Orbital. **Base/range contractors:** Amentum, Jacobs, KBR, Leidos, Bechtel. *(Under quarterly review — decisions due with the September issue: Space Perspective — confirmed defunct; Rocket Lab and Terran Orbital — no Brevard site; Beyond Gravity — Titusville facility active and now posting, flipped from removal candidate to active member; candidate additions include Extant Aerospace.)*

Intrepidus Talent Solutions • intrepidus-ts.com — specialist aerospace & defense staffing for Florida's Space Coast