



Advanced Manufacturing

Far North
Career & Training Pathways Profile



2026

Five-Year Outlook

3% sector growth

1,600+ annual job openings

3.6% of the Far North's jobs



FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH
NORTH FAR NORTH

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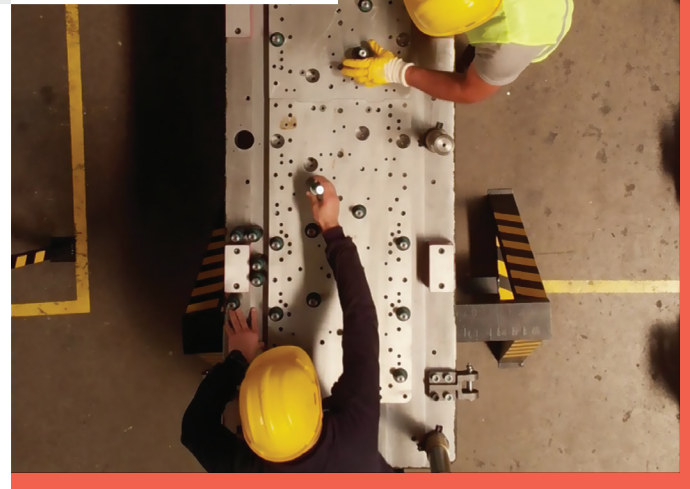
California
Community
Colleges

Introduction

Advanced Manufacturing involves cutting-edge technologies to develop and produce new products, as well as the research and innovation of new, more efficient and effective manufacturing systems. These technologies include computer numerical control (CNC) machining, computer-aided design and drafting (CADD), robotics, and artificial intelligence (AI).

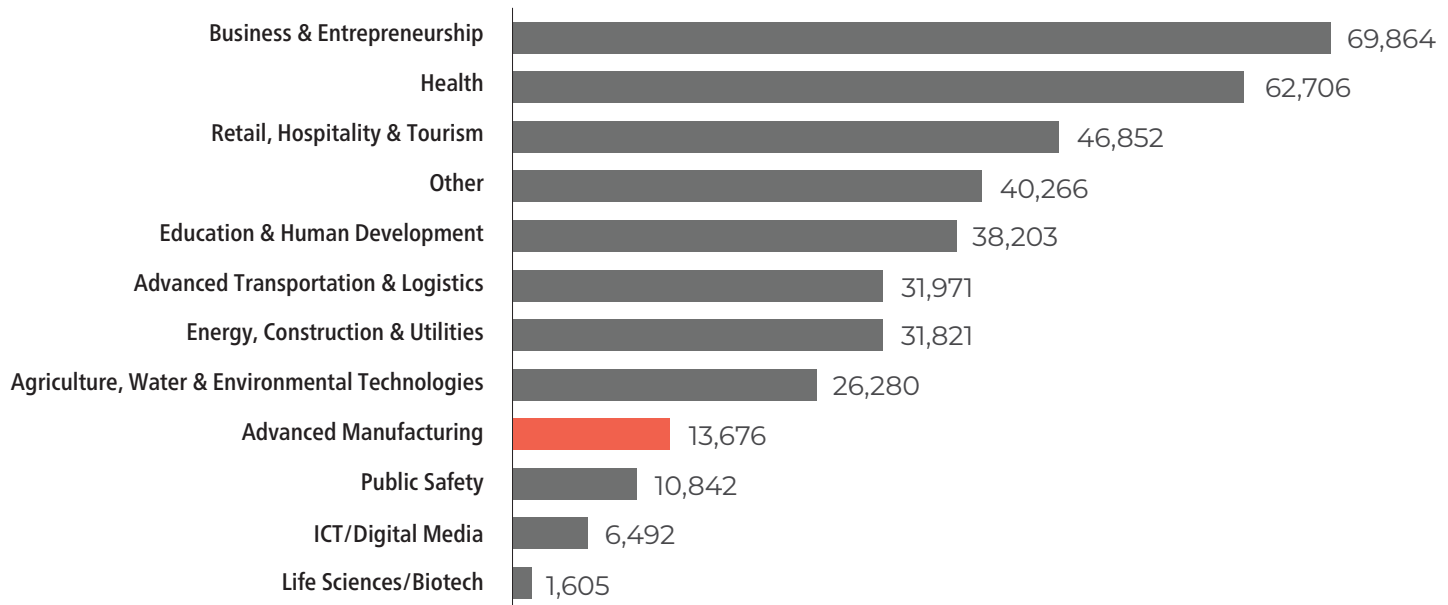
The Far North sector is home to a range of manufacturing industries:

- Food manufacturing, including the headquarters of California Olive Ranch, a large producer of extra virgin olive oil in Chico.
- Beverage and tobacco manufacturing, including Mendocino County's acclaimed organic vineyards and wineries (such as Bonterra Organic Estates) and the Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. (the nation's third-largest craft brewing company in Chico).
- Forest products, with timber and lumber production companies, such as Sierra Pacific Industries, Mendocino Redwood Company, and Collins Companies, serving as major employers.



This field is a good fit for students who enjoy troubleshooting and problem-solving. As the sector evolves, it will continue to need workers who are comfortable learning new tools and adapting to changing production technologies.

2024 Sector Employment



Note: The Far North subregion encompasses 15 counties (Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity) and seven community colleges (Butte, Feather River, Lassen, Mendocino, Redwoods, Shasta, and Siskiyou). The North Far North region spans 22 counties and 15 community colleges, stretching from the Greater Sacramento area, north to California's border with Oregon, and east to Nevada.

Sector Highlights

13,676
Jobs in 2024

14,079
Projected Jobs in 2029

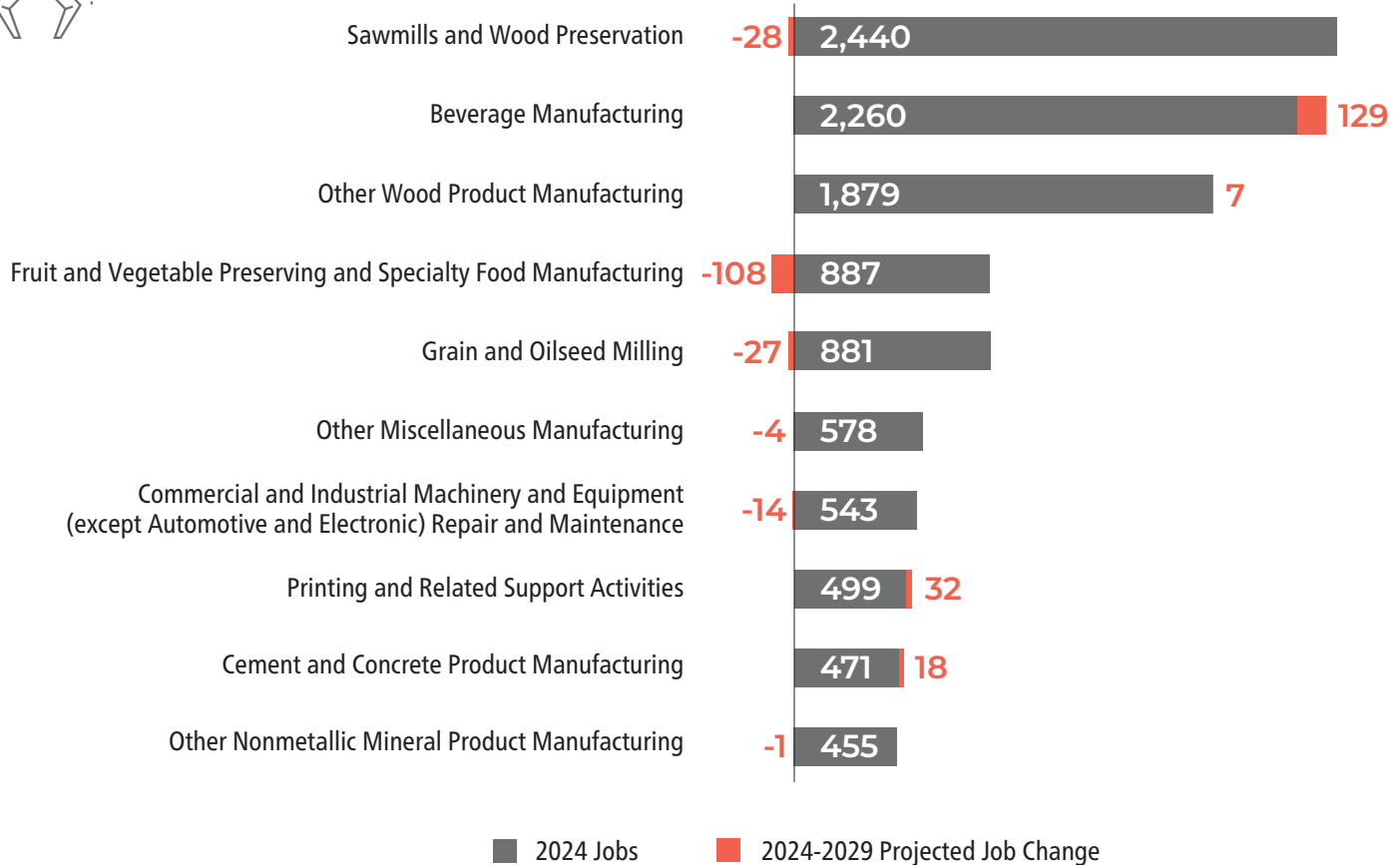
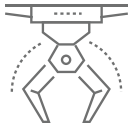
3%
Projected Job Growth,
2024-2029

403
New Jobs by 2029

853
Businesses

3.6%
% of Far North
Employment, 2024

Employment by Subsector



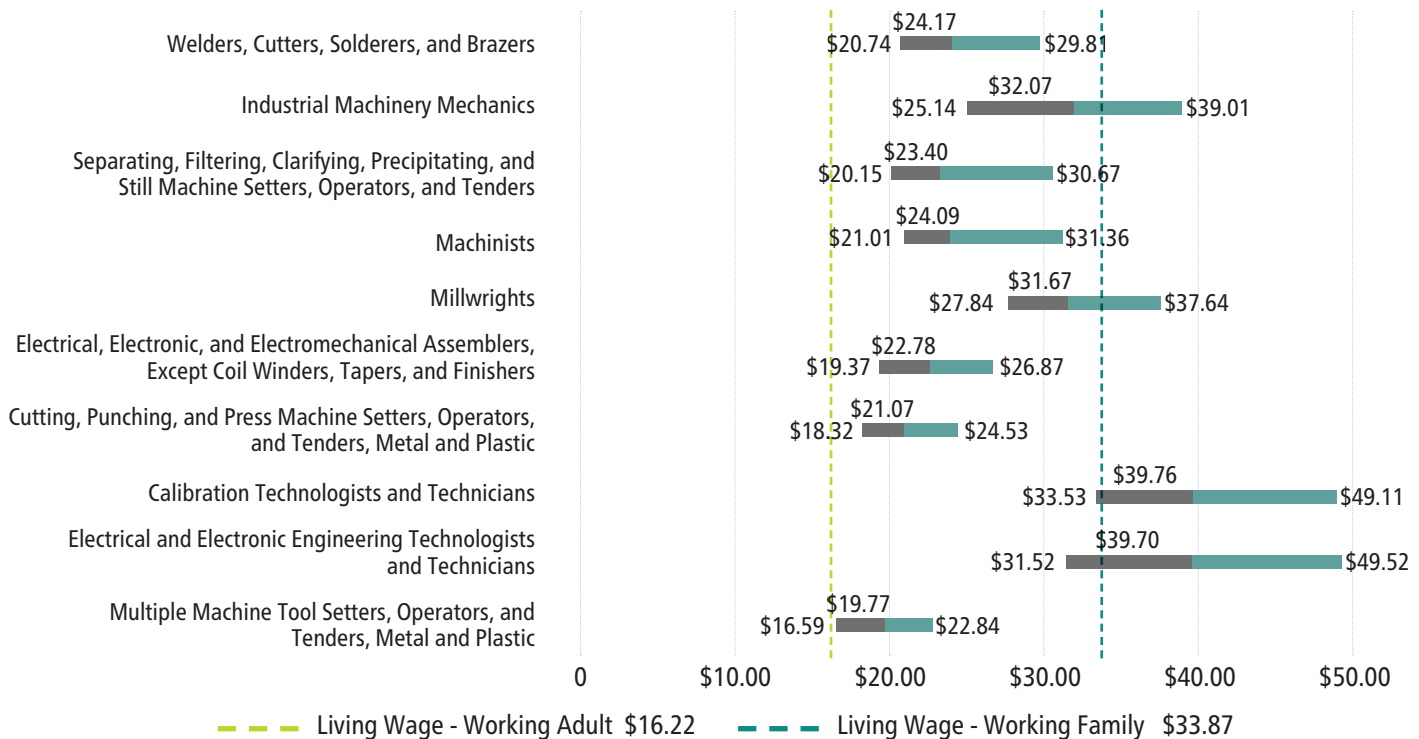
Note: The Advanced Manufacturing sector includes 325 distinct 6-digit NAICS codes. Contact the NFN COE for a complete listing of NAICS codes by sector.

Top Occupations

Occupation	2024 Jobs	2024-2029 Projected Change	2024-2029 Average Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	641	4%	72	High school diploma or equivalent
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	581	11%	61	High school diploma or equivalent
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	444	-1%	46	High school diploma or equivalent
Machinists	251	2%	28	High school diploma or equivalent
Millwrights	189	3%	17	High school diploma or equivalent
Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	90	22%	14	High school diploma or equivalent
Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	92	4%	10	High school diploma or equivalent
Calibration Technologists and Technicians	118	-2%	10	Associate degree
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	66	2%	7	Associate degree
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	46	17%	7	High school diploma or equivalent

Note: Jobs for the above occupations may not solely exist in this sector and may be found in other sectors that require related services. Projected change includes new job growth and replacements. Occupations with significant annual openings, active training programs in the subregion, wages at or close to the living wage, and training beyond a high school diploma but short of a bachelor's degree were prioritized for inclusion in the top middle-skill occupations.

Hourly Wages for Top Occupations



Note: The hourly wage ranges include the 25th percentile (entry-level), median, and 75th percentile (experienced) hourly earnings for workers employed in these occupations across the Far North subregion where the living wage in 2024 for a single working adult was \$16.22 and for a working family (defined as an adult and one infant) was \$33.87.



Job Posting Trends

Job posting trends examine all occupations assigned to the Advanced Manufacturing sector, regardless of skill or education level in the Far North subregion.

Unique Online Job Postings

1,282

(2% of Region's Postings)

Median Advertised Hourly Salary

\$27.94

(Regional Average \$29.05)

Median Posting Duration

26 days

(Regional Average 23 Days)

Posting Intensity

3:1

(Regional Average 2:1)

Note: Job postings count the number of online job postings advertised in the 15-county Far North subregion between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2025. COE has identified 105 occupations aligned with the Advanced Manufacturing sector, and those SOC codes were used to generate the list of aligned job postings. Postings are limited to in-state employers and exclude staffing companies. Posting Intensity is the ratio of total job postings to unique (de-duplicated) job postings. Job posting results are weighted toward occupations with the most postings, influencing the frequency of results for employers, job titles, skills, work experience, and education.



Top Employers

Employers with the Most Postings

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Sierra Pacific Industries | 6. Graphic Packaging International |
| 2. Calpine | 7. State of California |
| 3. PG&E | 8. City of Redding |
| 4. Adams Vegetable Oils | 9. Cal Portland |
| 5. Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. | 10. CRH Americas |

Most In-Demand Skills

Specialized Skills

- Machinery
- Forklift Truck
- Welding
- Hand Tools
- Food Safety and Sanitation

Soft Skills

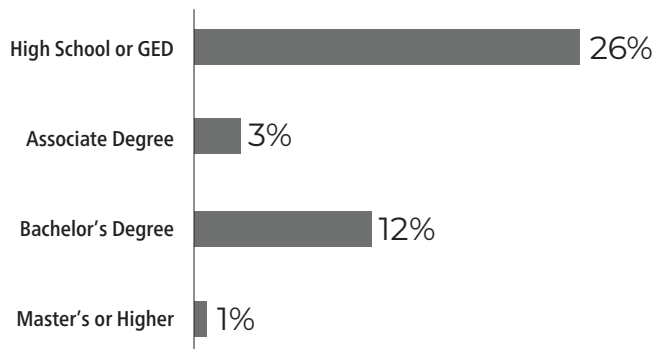
- Communication
- Operations
- Management
- Troubleshooting (Problem Solving)
- Detail Oriented

Software and Technical Skills

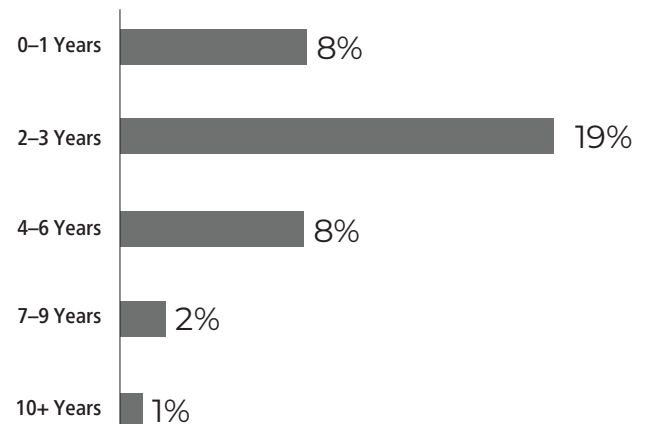
- Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Word)
- AutoCAD
- SolidWorks (CAD)
- Spreadsheets
- SAP Applications

Education & Experience in Job Postings

Employer-Preferred Education



Employer-Preferred Work Experience



The percentages might not equal 100% because not all employers include education or work experience in their job postings.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE Training Programs



Butte	Feather River*	Lassen	Mendocino*	Redwoods	Shasta	Siskiyou
Advanced Manufacturing		Firearms Repair		Aquaculture Technology	Engineering	Welding
Civil Engineering Technology		Gunsmith Machinist and Metal Finisher		Welding Technology	Industrial Technologies	
Engineering Support Technician		Welding Technology			PLC Automation	
Manufacturing Operations					Welding Technology	
Production Management						
Welding Technology						

* This/these college(s) do not offer programs related to the sector.

Note: Due to discrepancies in the California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI) and how Taxonomy of Programs (TOP) codes are categorized by sector, this list may not include all related or currently available training programs.



This publication was supported through Strong Workforce Program (SWP) funding from the North Far North Regional Consortium and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Economic and Workforce Development Grant. SWP is an initiative designed to expand career education (CE) programs offered by the California Community Colleges to supply a skilled workforce to California's employers. The North Far North Regional Consortium (NFNRC) is charged with coordinating the planning and implementation of CE programs among community colleges within the 22-county North Far North region, which includes the North (Greater Sacramento) and Far North subregions. The NFNRC has 12 sectors, which are listed in the chart on page 1. This sector profile summarizes key data about current and projected workforce demand, hourly wages, job postings, and community college programs to support the goals of SWP.



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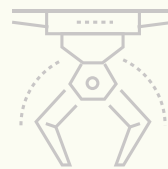
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Sources

- Lightcast 2025.4 - QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed
- Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research Occupation Crosswalk
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Data Mart
- California Community Colleges Curriculum Inventory (COCI)
- "2024 Annual Craft Brewing Industry Production Report." Brewers Association. 2025. <https://www.brewersassociation.org/association-news/brewers-association-reports-2024-u-s-craft-brewing-industry-figures/>.

