

Aerospace + Commercial Space Technologies

Private sector funding in space exploration has reached new heights as advancements in reusable rocketry are achieved and economies of scale increase capabilities of satellite payloads. These breakthroughs enable Arizona to leverage its long-established aerospace sector to build a competitive advantage over traditional space hubs. Home to a growing and diverse ecosystem, predictable weather, advanced R & D, and top-tier higher education dedicated to space exploration, Greater Phoenix is reaching for the stars.

Greater Phoenix's

Major Aerospace + Commercial Space Employers

- AQST
- Boeing
- Comtech EF Data
- Garmin
- Honeywell Aerospace (HQ)
- Iridium Satellite
- KinetX
- Northrop Grumman Innovation Systems (Fmr. Orbital ATK)
- Qwaltec
- UTC Aerospace
- ViaSat

Arizona's

Major Aerospace + Commercial Space Employers

- Bombardier Aerospace
- Ascent Aviation Services
- Paragon Space Development Corp.
- Raytheon (Tucson)
- Sargent Aerospace & Defense
- Vector Space Systems
- World View Enterprises

45.2K

Aerospace Jobs in Arizona

28.7 K

Aerospace Jobs in Greater Phoenix

1,200+

Arizona Aerospace Companies

300+

Days with Sunshine

Robust Labor Force

Occupation	Phoenix	Arizona	Huntsville	Los Angeles	San Francisco
Computer Systems Analysts	9,672	11,862	1,471	18,830	14,637
Software Developers, Applications	12,871	15,204	3,075	30,043	42,980
Software Developers, Systems Software	7,655	11,826	2,640	22,813	16,911
Computer Network Architects	2,275	2,602	290	5,142	3,802
Aerospace Engineers	2,073	2,392	3,320	4,456	1,921
Electrical Engineers	3,193	4,962	1,821	8,252	4,179
Mechanical Engineers	2,897	4,900	1,194	9,737	3,267
Aerospace Engineering & Operations Technicians	719	859	345	435	490
Atmospheric & Space Scientists	87	184	148	241	162
Avionics Technicians	333	779	28	838	445
Aircraft Mechanics & Service Technicians	4,256	6,395	327	5,934	2,953
Total	46,032	61,786	14,659	106,720	91,747

Top-Tier Higher Education

Arizona’s higher education institutions have supported NASA missions for deep space exploration for decades. All institutions are committed to training and equipping an ITAR compliant workforce.

Arizona State University (ASU) ranks #1 in innovation in the U.S. according to U.S. News and World Report beating Stanford and MIT. Additionally, ASU ranks #1 in Planetary Sciences and boasts the largest engineering school in the country. It is the home of the NewSpace Initiative and the MILO Institute that brings together for-profit opportunities for high-end research and commercial outcomes.

The University of Arizona (UArizona), located in Southern Arizona, ranks within the Top 10 space universities according to the U.S. News and World Reports 2019 college rankings. UArizona is the exclusive producer of mirrors for the Giant Magellan Telescope. Both institutions hold the capacity to build space flight ready hardware.

Northern Arizona is home to **Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University** in Prescott and **Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff (NAU)**. NAU has partnered with the US Naval Observatory’s Flagstaff location - Lowell Observatory, to drive space exploration.



Photo Credit: ASU, Lunar Polar Hydrogen Mapper (LunaH-Map) testing at ASU

Robust Labor Force

University	2018 Engineering Graduates	2018 Total Graduates
Arizona State University	2,589	19,035
University of Arizona	390	10,183
Northern Arizona University	485	7,814
Total:	3,464	37,032

Source: EMSI 2019 Q4 Dataset; Arizona State University; University of Arizona; Northern Arizona University

Commercial Space Assets

Arizona is on the cutting edge of space technology development, as testing regularly occurs at both the Spaceport Tucson and the Yuma Proving Grounds. The Tucson Space Port, located at Tucson International Airport, is home to World View Enterprises, a space technology company that is a leader in the emerging stratospheric economy. The Yuma Proving Grounds are a US Army Facility near Yuma. Home to some of the most advanced Research & Development testing the Department of Defense is undertaking, testing for the Orion spacecraft, and private-sector R&D, the Yuma Proving Grounds are a hotbed of activity. AQST Space Systems Group recently moved their headquarters to Mesa in Greater Phoenix, and a manufacturing operation to Yuma to be near to the Proving Grounds.

Corporate Income

Unemployment Insurance

Metro Area	Sales Tax Rate	Tax Rate	Basis	Inventory Tax	Rate (as % of Payroll)	Wage Base	Max. Payment	Workers Comp. (Rate per \$100 Payroll)
Phoenix	8.60%	4.90%	Net Income	No	2.00%	\$7,000	\$140.00	\$1.50
Huntsville	9.00%	6.50%	Net Income	No	2.70%	\$8,000	\$216.00	\$1.85
Los Angeles	9.50%	8.84%	Net Income	No	3.40%	\$7,000	\$238	\$3.24
San Francisco	8.50%	8.84%	Net Income	No	3.40%	\$7,000	\$238	\$3.24

Source: Applied Economics Metrocomp Tool