



Rhode Island's Knowledge Economy

Manufacturing Overview



Manufacturing in Rhode Island supports 41,000 jobs across 1,800 firms that include everything from traditional metal working to ultra-modern bio-manufacturing. Forty-one percent of Rhode Island's manufacturing jobs are classified as progressive manufacturing.

The most successful Rhode Island manufacturers are investing in innovation, integrating technology, workforce training, and new business models to thrive in the global marketplace. Rhode Island has the facilities, location, infrastructure, workforce and a 100-year history of manufacturing excellence to support such a sector.

Rhode Island's strategic location — approximately 45 minutes from Boston and three hours from New York City — provides companies with direct access to the world's shipping and transportation routes. The Port of Providence, a small customs district, provides ease in importing and exporting.

Fast Facts:

- ***41% of Rhode Island's manufacturing jobs are classified as progressive***
- ***Average Annual Compensation in 2009 was \$63,296***
- ***Manufacturing accounts for 71% of Rhode Island's exports (2009) and they have grown 49 percent—2.4 times since 2003***
- ***Manufacturing makes the third highest contribution to GDP, and is the third largest employer, as measured in the percentage of private jobs (2009)***
- ***RI Manufacturing contributes 10.6% of Rhode Island's GDP (2009)***

Manufacturing Success Stories



Founded in 1920 by the current president's grandfather, Taco prides itself on its "customer-centric" service. Taco delivers exceptional quality because it has been owned and operated by the same family for more than eighty years; a family whose dedication to its customers, products and employees has never wavered.

Taco develops and manufactures hydronic-based components for use in heating and cooling applications across the building spectrum — residential, commercial, industrial and institutional.

With more than 500 employees and annual sales in excess of \$100 million, Taco is committed to leading the HVAC industry in quality products and technological innovation and delivering powerful design tools, dependable components and economical systems that install and service with ease.

Headquartered in Cranston, Rhode Island, with manufacturing, distribution and sales facilities in Fall River, Massachusetts and Ontario, Canada, Taco has evolved into a world-class manufacturer since its inception.



Privately held within the Sahakian/Grove family for 77 years, this multi-million dollar manufacturer of screws, bolts and fasteners is headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island. Pilgrim employs approximately 70 people and with double digit yearly sales growth, will be looking to add 20 more employees in the next few years.

Pilgrim stays successful by investing in partnerships, machinery, technology and on-the-job training. A large scale investment Pilgrim recently made was in collaboration with the Rhode Island Manufacturing Extension Service (RIMES).

And Pilgrim's success is extending to the local community as well. Their machinists are some of the best in the industry with decades of experience working for the company which allows them to hire local interns from schools such as the Met and Times Squared Academy so that new talent has the opportunity to gain real world skills and enter the industry.

"I want to see Pilgrim and Rhode Island continue to succeed," says President Geoffrey Grove. "You can have a successful manufacturing business in Rhode Island and contribute to our great quality of life at the same time".