

# ST. LOUIS REGION'S AERO CAREERS ROADMAP

## New Career Seeker

Already in the workforce but interested in exploring the aerospace industry without going back to school for a four-year degree, these are the programs and initiatives to focus on to secure one of the high-paying jobs below » ➡ Apprenticeship Program with employer/educational facility — Trade School/Community College — Direct Placement

### Aircraft | Avionics Equipment Mechanics | Technicians

*STL Median: \$82,300*

Install, test, adjust, and repair equipment and systems in aircraft. Sample positions:

- Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) Mechanics
- Avionics Technicians
- Designated Airworthiness Representatives (DARs)
- Inspection Authorized (IA) Mechanics & Repairmen

**Requires:** Postsecondary education, such as a certificate from an FAA-approved program OR associate's degree OR high school diploma plus on-the-job training or military experience.

**Outlook:** 5% job growth expected in the U.S., about 13,400 openings annually. STL MSA had 60% more jobs than other similarly sized metros.

### Electrical | Electronics Installers | Repairers

*STL Median: \$81,900*

Install or repair a variety of electrical equipment. Sample positions:

- Commercial & Industrial Electrical and Electronics Equipment Repairers and Installers
- Powerhouse, Substation & Relay Electrical and Electronics Repairers

**Requires:** High school education plus most specializations require advanced education and/or work experience.

**Outlook:** 1% job growth expected in the U.S., about 10,100 openings annually.

### Sheet Metal Workers

*STL Median: \$83,100*

Fabricate or install products made from thin metal sheets. Sample positions:

- Fabrication Sheet Metal Workers
- Installation Sheet Metal Workers
- Maintenance Sheet Metal Workers

**Requires:** Construction — learn trade through apprenticeship.

Manufacturing — learn on-the-job or at technical school.

**Outlook:** 2% job growth expected in the U.S., about 11,500 openings annually.

### Mechanical Engineering Technologists | Technicians

*STL Median: \$80,400*

Help mechanical engineers design, develop, test and manufacture machines and other devices.

**Requires:** Associate's degree OR postsecondary training.

**Outlook:** 2% job growth expected in the U.S., about 3,500 openings annually.

### Aerospace Engineering | Operations Technologists | Technicians

*STL Median: \$77,400*

Run and maintain equipment used to develop, test, produce and sustain aircraft and spacecraft.

**Requires:** Associate's degree OR high school diploma plus completed certificate program.\*

**Outlook:** 8% job growth expected in the U.S., about 1,100 openings annually. STL MSA had 2.13X more openings than other similarly sized metros.

### Electro-Mechanical | Mechatronics Technologists | Technicians

*STL Median: \$65,600*

Operate, test, and maintain electromechanical or robotic equipment.

**Requires:** Associate's degree or postsecondary certificate.

**Outlook:** About 1,300 openings annually.

### Machinists | Tool and Die Makers

*STL Median: \$56,300 & \$59,000*

Set up and operate equipment to produce precision metal parts, instruments, and tools.

**Requires:** High school diploma plus on-the-job training OR training and apprenticeship programs, vocational school OR community/technical colleges.

**Outlook:** About 35,400 openings expected annually in the U.S.

### Installation Maintenance | Repairers

*STL Median: \$58,200*

Install, maintain, and repair factory equipment and other industrial machinery.

- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Machinery Maintenance Workers
- Millwrights

**Requires:** High school diploma plus one-year on-the-job training. Most millwrights do a 4-year apprenticeship program.

**Outlook:** 15% job growth projected in the U.S., about 53,000 openings annually. STL MSA had 2X more postings than national avg. in Q4 2024.

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## Calibration Technologists | Technicians

**STL Median: \$54,900**

Inspect, adjust, and test measurement devices against standards, such as those used in manufacturing, healthcare and other industries.

**Requires:** Associate's degree or other post-secondary training in a technical or scientific field OR high school diploma plus on-the-job training.

**Outlook:** 6% job growth expected in U.S., about 1,300 annually.

## Welders | Cutters | Solderers | Brazers

**STL Median: \$51,600**

Use hand-held or remotely controlled equipment to join, repair, or cut metal parts and products.

**Requires:** High school diploma/GED plus on-the-job training.

**Outlook:** 2% job growth projected in the U.S., about 45,800 openings annually. STL MSA had 9% more openings than national avg. in Q4 2024.

## Wood Workers

**STL Median: \$51,500**

Manufacture a variety of products, such as cabinets and furniture, using wood, veneers, and laminates. Sample positions:

- Cabinetmakers
- Furniture Finishers
- Woodworking Machine Operators

**Requires:** High school diploma/GED plus ability to use computer-controlled machinery.

**Outlook:** About 22,000 openings projected annually in the U.S. STL MSA had 5.3X more openings than national avg. in Q4 2024.

## Metal | Plastic Machine Workers

**STL Median: \$50,800**

Set up and operate equipment that cuts, shapes, and forms metal and plastic materials or pieces. Sample positions:

- Machine Setters
- Operators
- Tenders

**Requires:** High school diploma plus 1 year on-the-job training. CNC tool programmers often need postsecondary education.

**Outlook:** About 91,800 openings expected annually in the U.S.

## Painting | Coating Workers

**STL Median: \$49,000**

Apply finishes, often using machines, to a range of products. Sample positions:

- Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters
- Operators
- Tenders

**Requires:** High school diploma/GED plus on-the-job training.

**Outlook:** About 16,900 openings expected annually in the U.S. STL MSA had 34% more openings than national avg. in Q4 2024.

## Assemblers | Fabricators

**STL Median: \$44,400**

Build finished products and the parts that go into them. Sample positions:

- Aircraft Structure, Surfaces, Rigging and Systems Assemblers
- Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers
- Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters

**Requires:** High school diploma/GED; experience and training for advanced assembly work.

**Outlook:** About 209,800 openings expected annually in the U.S. STL MSA had 28% more openings than national avg. in Q4 2024.



*Team work: assembling horizontal stabilizer and elevator tab on t-tail*



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