

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025



SOLUTIONS FOR SMARTER MANUFACTURING.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Rhode Island's manufacturing sector continues to be a powerful driver of the state's economy, blending a rich industrial heritage with forward-looking innovation. This Impact Report highlights the resilience, ingenuity, and economic contributions of Rhode Island's manufacturers, showcasing how they are adapting to emerging technologies, addressing workforce challenges, and positioning the state for long-term competitiveness in a rapidly evolving global marketplace.

In calendar year 2025, our team of experienced advisors served roughly 169 manufacturing companies with more than 6,695 employees across 34 RI cities and towns.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

When asked to quantify the impact of Polaris MEP's assistance as part of an independent survey, 66 companies estimated achieving:

- JOB CREATED & RETAINED = 403
- CLIENT INVESTMENTS IN MODERNIZATION, WORKFORCE = \$8,085,259
- COST SAVINGS = \$2,550,500
- COST AVOIDANCE = \$1,205,000
- INCREASED & RETAINED SALES = \$84,770,126



IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT, WE HIGHLIGHT A FRACTION OF CY 2025 OUTCOMES AND INTRODUCE SOME OF THE PEOPLE BEHIND #MADEINRI SUCCESS STORIES.

REAL RESULTS FOR TOP LINE, BOTTOM LINE AND PIPELINE

QUALITY & CYBERSECURITY

DEWETRON was looking to achieve ISO 9001 and CMMC Level 2 certifications along with improving efficiency. Today, DEWETRON has its ISO 9001 certification and is working with a MEP resource partner to receive their CMMC Level 2 certification. In addition, DEWETRON added two employees and saved thousands with new practices and systems.

"For any manufacturer who isn't yet familiar with Polaris MEP, I strongly encourage you to reach out to them. They offer a wide range of consulting and support services, and they can also connect you with potential grants and other funding opportunities to help your business grow. They're a tremendous resource for Rhode Island manufacturers."

– Albon Redzepi, DEWETRON



TECHNOLOGY & WORKFORCE

Magenetic Seal Corp. (MagSeal) was looking for a way to improve their operations by utilizing innovative equipment and developing a training plan for personnel. Through Polaris MEP and grant funding, MagSeal secured cutting-edge machinery that improved quality and efficiency.

"If the option presents itself, we will always work with Polaris. Everyone on their team provides a unique skillset and helps us to advance in the industry. Their team has a clear understanding of constraints within manufacturing."

– John Westgate, MagSeal



SELECTED PARTNERSHIPS & PROGRAMS

CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION WORKFORCE

- 40 unique employer partners engaged with and hired our graduates of pipeline training programs.
- 28 justice-involved participants were trained across our machining and welding cohorts inside of the RI Department of Corrections, and in partnership with The New England Institute of Technology.

LEVERAGING NATIONAL/REGIONAL RESOURCES

NASA - Executed Space Act Agreement which:

- supports technology transfer and innovation pathways, and
- accelerates commercialization, competitiveness, and participation in the national space and defense ecosystem.

Rhode Island Energy - Partnered for a three-year Strategic Energy Management Memorandum of Understanding which:

- supports manufacturers to lower utility bills, improve operational performance, enhance workplace comfort, and provide environmental benefits.

RI MADE - Funded by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation

- 72 future workers participated; student cohorts expanded from University of Rhode Island, Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and New England Institute of Technology to include Salve Regina University and Brown University.
- 12 companies completed (free) Phase 1 assessments of risk, supply chain, robotics & automation, and cybersecurity.
- 29 companies leveraged \$50K in Phase 2 federal funds to accelerate growth/ technology.

GROWTH & STRATEGY

Renova Lighting Systems utilized Polaris MEP's assessment process in risk, automation, and cybersecurity in order to become more efficient and to be sure they had the most updated security procedures and equipment.

"I'm grateful to Polaris MEP. They're helpful, knowledgeable, and one of the most effective advocates for Rhode Island manufacturing. They truly care and are passionate about helping businesses succeed. It's not just a paycheck for them."

– Jessica Mularski, Renova Lighting Systems



LEAN MANUFACTURING

Updating product and process flow and streamlining product logistics using new management software allowed O2J Inc., to improve their product tracking for greater accuracy.

"Polaris has been a key part of our organization, and we truly value the relationship we've built. Without the knowledge that they have and their team, we wouldn't have what we have today. Polaris is professional, they adapt to your situation, and they give you options and tell you the costs. They weren't in it for the money. They wanted to help us grow."

– Javier Brown, O2J Inc.



RHODE ISLAND MANUFACTURERS FACTS & FIGURES

**50,700 MANUFACTURING JOBS SPREAD ACROSS
1,234 MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS¹**

9.1% OF PRIVATE SECTOR WORKFORCE²

**\$95,182 AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE (VS \$74,740
NON FARM AVG)²**

**1.97 JOBS MULTIPLIER, \$1.77 INCOME
MULTIPLIER, \$1.58 SALES MULTIPLIER³**

\$5.5 BILLION CONTRIBUTION TO STATE GDP²

TOP CHALLENGES REPORTED BY RI MANUFACTURERS⁴

Ongoing continuous improvement/cost reduction – 65%

Identifying growth opportunities - 55%

Employee recruitment and retention - 52%

WHO IS POLARIS MEP?

Polaris MEP is Rhode Island's nonprofit dedicated to helping small and medium-sized manufacturing and emerging technology businesses achieve lasting growth, while creating access to high-growth career pathways for underserved individuals. As a trusted advisor, Polaris MEP delivers hands-on technical assistance and practical guidance to address challenges in sales, innovation, operational efficiency, and workforce development. An affiliate of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National Network, Polaris MEP draws on years of experience and local, regional, and national resources to guide companies to proven strategies and best practices that drive results and foster economic development.



FEATURED GRADUATE NATE JONES

**2024 GRADUATE OF THE FAST TRACK
TO MANUFACTURING (FTM) PROGRAM**

Machinist at CREATIVE CONNERS/WENGER CORP.

"I want to sincerely thank everyone at Polaris for the incredible opportunities you've provided me through this program. When I first entered, I never imagined I'd land a position this rewarding—especially considering my justice involvement background. But here I am, and it's all thanks to the support and guidance I've received.

I remain grateful for the doors that Polaris and FTM opened for me. I hope you are reaching a few students each cohort and changing their lives for the better."



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Sources: ¹2025 Rhode Island State of Manufacturing Report, Ibid: ²National Association of Manufacturers: ³2025 Rhode Island State of Manufacturing Report, Lightcast Q3 2025: ⁴NIST MEP client surveys

Thank you to Community College of Rhode Island, NIST MEP, and Nate Jones for photography.