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NEW YORK STATE | Department of Labor

The Drone Industry (UAV)

In Central New York

A key economic sector that involves research, manufacturing, and testing of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), an aircraft with no human pilot, crew, or passengers onboard, but is controlled remotely. Drones can be used to spray crops, monitor livestock, inspect bridges, roadways, pipelines, map land or detect mineral deposits.

Source: City & State New York

Over the past decade, Syracuse and Central New York have quietly positioned themselves among the national leaders of this emerging field.

Source: Empire State Development

Fast Facts

Why is it growing?

The unique demographics of Upstate New York make it an ideal place to build part of the industrial base for drones including one of the seven Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-designated unmanned aerial systems (UAS) test sites in the United States.

Drone industry companies in Central New York

- Blue White Robotics (software developer for drone applications)
- Hidden Level Inc. (develops and produces sensors for detecting drones)
- Resilienx (unmanned aerial systems)
- Thales (unmanned aerial systems)
- Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) (unmanned aerial systems)

Other reasons

- *Aerospace expertise:* Home to industry giants like Lockheed Martin, SRC, and Saab.
- *Programs:* The region has programs, awards and projects that support drone innovation.
- *Collaboration:* Synergy between the government, private sector, and aerospace industry.

Private Companies and Military Partnerships

- Syracuse Hancock International Airport
- Syracuse Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, 174th Fighter Wing

Source: CenterState CEO, 2024

Common Jobs

Occupation	Syracuse MSA Yearly Median Wage
Software Developers	$123,780.
Electro-Mechanical and Mechatronics Technologists and Technicians	$65,660**
Remote Sensing Scientists and Technologists	$111,090
Remote Sensing Technicians	$50,080
Camera Operators, Television, Video, and Film	$93,880**
Production Workers, All Other	$34,000
Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers	$231,830**
Commercial Pilots	$162,450**

*.**New York State Wages*

*Source: O*NET OnLine*

Questions? Contact Us

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