

ADVANCED MATERIALS, PACKAGING, FOOD + BEVERAGE

Greater Richmond has a long list of successful manufacturing companies in the business community including DuPont's largest manufacturing facility in the world and LEGO's \$1 billion+ manufacturing and distribution facility. Manufacturing and R&D facilities thrive here with an abundance of workforce talent from the corporate suite to the assembly line.

Advanced Manufacturing technologies, including computer-aided engineering, computer-integrated manufacturing, robotics and automated materials handling, are applied across the manufacturing sector to improve efficiency and productivity. Subcategories of this cluster include advanced materials, packaging and food + beverage.

RICHMOND'S ADVANTAGES

45%

of the U.S. population is within a one-day drive

90,675

local manufacturing workers

5%

more affordable electrical rates compared to the U.S.

12%

building costs below the U.S. average



Virginia's 6% corporate tax rate is one of the lowest in the U.S.



22 institutes of higher learning found within the region



Richmond ranked a Top 20 Small City for Career Opportunities

- New York Times, 2026



Greater Richmond ranked #2 for US Cities on the Rise

- LinkedIn, 2026



Richmond ranks #4 for Workforce Growth

- Newsweek, 2025



#1 State for Workforce Training

- Area Development, 2026



Virginia ranked #6 state for Manufacturing

- Site Selection Group, 2025

KEY COMPANIES



INDUSTRY INCENTIVES

Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund	A "deal closing" fund employed by the governor when necessary to secure a company location or expansion in Virginia.
Virginia Economic Development Incentive Grant	Assists companies to invest and to provide new job opportunities by locating significant headquarters or more in Virginia.
Virginia Investment Partnership Grant Fund	Discretionary performance incentives designed for Virginia manufacturers or R&D services supporting manufacturing.
Virginia Jobs Investment Program	Supports the creation of new jobs and investment and helps businesses train new and existing workers.
Commercial and Industrial Sales & Use Tax Exemption	Exempts purchases used directly in production or research and development from sales and use tax.
Port of Virginia Grant and Credit Programs	A cluster of incentives that benefit manufacturers moving goods through Virginia's ports.
Virginia Talent Accelerator Program	A partnership with the Virginia Community College System to provide training and recruitment solutions.
Major Eligible Employer (MEE) Grant	Provides grants to make investments and create a significant amount of jobs through an expansion or new operation.
Recyclable Materials Processing Equipment Tax Credit	An income tax credit for manufacturers that purchase certified machinery and equipment used to process recyclable materials.
Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs)	Allows businesses to defer paying U.S. customs duties on imported goods held within the zone until the goods enter the U.S. for domestic consumption.

WORKFORCE + SUPPORT

Greater Richmond is home to 22 four-year and two-year institutions of higher education, which train and supply the next generation of skilled professionals.

Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Engineering offers B.S., M.S. and PhD programs in biomedical, chemical, electrical, computer, mechanical and nuclear engineering.

Community College Workforce Alliance offers customizable contract training as well as open enrollment programs with topic areas including manufacturing processes, quality improvement and safety and OSHA.

The Manufacturing Skills Institute, a partnership between the Virginia Manufacturing Association and area colleges, uses assessments to develop practical, in-demand proficiencies among both experienced and entry-level students.

The Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing is an applied research center that bridges the gap between fundamental research conducted at universities and product development performed by companies.

Manufacturing certification programs for Manufacturing Technician and Siemens Certified Mechatronic Systems Assistant.

Certificate and Associate programs in machining, welding and technical studies at the community college level provide industry with a pipeline of talent.



"We were impressed with all that Virginia has to offer, from access to a skilled workforce, support for high-quality manufacturers and great transport links.

Niels B. Christiansen, CEO of the LEGO Group



GREATER RICHMOND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

The Greater Richmond Partnership offers a full range of services to businesses looking to locate or expand in the Richmond area and has a staff of business development experts who can assist with everything from site location analysis to evaluation of financial assistance:

- Workforce Recruitment + Training
- Site Selection Assistance
- Connections + Introductions
- In-Depth Market Data + Business Intelligence
- Financial + Entrepreneurial Resources
- Confidential Project Management Assistance



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