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## **Kentucky Lightweighting-Related Employment Level Reached New Heights in 2018**

*More than 300,000 Kentucky workers employed in advanced manufacturing jobs, marking the eighth consecutive year of growth*

**FRANFORT, KY** – Advanced manufacturing employment reached new heights in 2018 with more than 300,000 Kentucky workers employed in lightweighting-related occupations, surpassing pre-recession employment peaks by nearly 15,000 workers, and marking the eighth consecutive year of growth, according to a new report from Detroit-based LIFT—Lightweight Innovations for Tomorrow, a national advanced manufacturing innovation institute.

Along with rising employment levels in 2018, employer demand for workers in lightweighting-related occupations grew by and estimated 20 percent from Q4 2017 through Q4 2018, with more than 23,500 jobs posted in the year's final quarter.

The report, highlighting employment trends, top jobs and required skills in advanced manufacturing for 2018, was completed with research and analysis from the Workforce Intelligence Network of Southeast Michigan (WIN) and covers Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee, a region that's home to more than 50 percent of the metalworking jobs in the country.

"It is tremendously positive to see the trend in employment growth in Kentucky for the eighth consecutive year," said Emily DeRocco, education and workforce vice president, LIFT. "As demand for advanced manufacturing jobs continues to climb, it remains incumbent upon industry and educators to partner together to ensure the pipeline of people with the talent, skills and abilities to work in advanced manufacturing is robust to support the needs of the manufacturing base going forward."

The top in-demand lightweighting-related occupations in Kentucky in 2018 included: Maintenance and Repair Workers (7,418 postings), First-Line Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers, except Aircraft Cargo Handling Supervisors (6,547 postings), First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers (5,175 postings), Laborers and Freight, Stock and Material Movers (4,135 postings) and Industrial Engineers (4,074 postings).

LIFT, operated by the American Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII) and one of the founding [Manufacturing USA](#) institutes, is a public-private partnership dedicated to developing and deploying advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technologies, and implementing education and training programs to better prepare the workforce today and in the future.

The full Kentucky report can be viewed at: <http://lift.technology/education-workforce-development/>.

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## **ABOUT LIFT**

*LIFT is a Detroit-based, public-private partnership committed to the development and deployment of advanced lightweight metal manufacturing technologies, and implementing education and training initiatives to better prepare the workforce today and in the future. LIFT is one of the founding institutes of Manufacturing USA, and is funded in part by the Department of Defense with management through the Office of Naval Research. Visit [www.lift.technology](http://www.lift.technology) or follow on Twitter [@NewsFromLIFT](#) to learn more.*

## **ABOUT WORKFORCE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN**

*The Workforce Intelligence Network of Southeast Michigan (WIN) is a collaborative effort between nine community colleges and six Michigan Works! Agencies, in partnership with numerous other organizations, to create a comprehensive and cohesive workforce development system in Southeast Michigan that provides employers with the talent they need for success. WIN covers a 16-county area, including Genesee, Hillsdale, Huron, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Tuscola, Washtenaw, and Wayne. WIN was founded with the support of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan and publicly launched in November 2011.*