

ARIZONA SEMICONDUCTOR WORKFORCE BRIEF™

October 2026 Workforce Snapshot



THE OCTOBER SIGNAL

Arizona's semiconductor expansion is about more than facilities. It is about the employers, educators, suppliers and people preparing to make that growth possible.

This edition connects Arizona employment trends with a 40-company Hiring Index, firsthand career-readiness experiences and new supplier developments.

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DID YOU KNOW? | THE ROAD TO AUTOMOTIVE SEMICONDUCTORS

Long before electric vehicles and driver-assistance features, electronics were transforming the automobile. In the late 1960s, Volkswagen's Type 3 brought Bosch's D-Jetronic electronic fuel injection to the road—an early example of electronically controlled engine management.

Today, semiconductor devices help power braking, navigation, battery management and safety systems. Behind each advance are engineers, technicians and skilled professionals who develop, build and maintain the technology.



Historical reference: Volkswagen Type 3 and Bosch D-Jetronic, late 1960s. Images are illustrative, not archival photographs.

OPENING PERSPECTIVE | FROM EXPANSION TO WORKFORCE READINESS

Arizona's semiconductor expansion involves an interconnected ecosystem of fabrication, construction, facilities, specialty suppliers, engineering, transportation, education and technical services. This edition pairs statewide employment indicators with a company-by-company hiring snapshot to examine where opportunity is visible—and where workforce preparation must keep pace.

The Workforce Register tracks these signals as distinct measures:

- Public job advertisements do not equal hires.
- Announced job creation does not equal active vacancies.
- A statewide employment trend is not a semiconductor-specific statistic.

Reading these measures together, with clear sourcing, helps illuminate the workforce behind industrial expansion.

ARIZONA WORKFORCE PULSE | EXPANSION, EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS

According to the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity's August 2026 Employment Report, released September 17, 2026, Arizona's unemployment rate stood at 4.9%.

Between August 2025 and August 2026, statewide nonfarm employment increased by 17,400 jobs (+0.5%), based on data that has not been seasonally adjusted. During the same 12-month period, Arizona's seasonally adjusted labor force declined by 105,768 people (−2.8%).

These figures reflect changes over the preceding 12 months, rather than cumulative job growth.

Understanding the Numbers

Nonfarm employment counts payroll jobs reported by employers. The labor force estimates people employed or unemployed and actively seeking work. These measures come from different surveys and are not interchangeable.

August 2026 Arizona indicator	Reported change
Construction employment, year over year	+6,900 jobs
Manufacturing employment, year over year	−1,000 jobs
Construction employment, month over month	+2,200 jobs
Manufacturing employment, month over month	+900 jobs
State unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted	4.9%

The contrast is notable: construction employment expanded over the year even as statewide manufacturing employment edged down. That does not mean semiconductor manufacturing is shrinking. Rather, it underscores the difference between construction-phase demand, current manufacturing payrolls and employer recruiting activity.

The Phoenix–Mesa–Chandler metropolitan area reported approximately 185,600 construction jobs and 148,100 manufacturing jobs in August 2026 (not seasonally adjusted). Its computer and electronic parts category accounted for approximately 29,100 jobs, down from 29,500 a year earlier. These are broad industry categories, not semiconductor-only counts.

Source: Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, August 2026 Employment Report (released September 17, 2026), statewide and Phoenix–Mesa–Chandler employment tables. Year-over-year comparisons: August 2025–August 2026. Month-over-month comparisons: July–August 2026. Figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

FROM CLASSROOM TO CLEANROOM | CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH CAREERS

The next generation of Arizona's semiconductor workforce is already exploring what a career in advanced manufacturing could look like. Helping students make that connection takes more than a list of job titles. It takes educators, employers and industry professionals willing to share their experience.



On October 13, The Workforce Register's publisher participated in seven mock interviews with West-MEC students interested in robotics, semiconductor careers and related technical fields. The conversations offered students an opportunity to practice interviewing, ask questions and see how their developing skills connect to real workplaces.

Two students shared a particular interest in robotics—a reminder that students are already envisioning themselves in the technical careers supporting advanced manufacturing.

Programs such as West-MEC's 43 curricula and the Greater Phoenix Chamber's ElevateEdAZ initiative help connect classroom learning with career awareness and work-based experiences.

ElevateEdAZ works with 21 high schools and 200 employer partners across several industries, including semiconductor and advanced manufacturing, to introduce students to education and career pathways.

Illustrative imagery: semiconductor cleanroom work and robotics training.

(Not photographs of West-MEC students)

The workforce connection:

Early exposure, practical preparation and meaningful employer engagement help students see a place for themselves in Arizona's expanding semiconductor ecosystem.

The anticipation and jubilant curiosity shared among Arizona's students is contagious and presents all of us with a luminous path for the future.

OCTOBER HIRING INDEX | 40-EMPLOYER SNAPSHOT

The October Hiring Index tracks 40 semiconductor and advanced-manufacturing companies operating in or supporting Arizona's growing semiconductor ecosystem.

Based on publicly available job listings and company hiring information, the index highlights current recruitment activity and the types of talent employers are seeking. Some figures include positions across multiple locations, while others reflect ongoing recruitment needs or announced hiring plans.

October highlights include hiring activity at Daifuku, Analog Devices, and Air Liquide, along with continued recruitment across UIS and Marketech. Gudeng's announced expansion and Nokia's planned Chandler operations point to potential future workforce opportunities.

Employers are listed alphabetically. Company-wide and multi-location counts are identified in the notes below.

Employer	Location	Current Openings	Types of Openings
Air Liquide Electronics	Phoenix	8	Instrumentation and electrical technicians; TGCM operations; management; project leadership; gas production
Amkor	Peoria	~46*	Facilities, engineering, finance, supply chain (Arizona share of openings not verified)
Analog Devices	Chandler / Tempe	8	Product engineering; validation; analog IC design; test and design verification (Arizona location not confirmed for every requisition)
Applied Materials	Arizona	~30*	Product operations, equipment and manufacturing, mechanical engineering, systems, process, technology
ASM	Phoenix	~60*	Mechanical engineering, field service, electrical engineering
ASML	Phoenix	8*	Installation and integration engineers
Benchmark	Chandler	29*	Supply chain, administrative, welding, facilities, programs, finance
Daifuku Cleanroom America	Chandler	3	Associate Project Managers (2); Sales Engineer (1)
Dexcom	Mesa	~60*	Manufacturing, quality, sensor automation, finance, document control
Ebara Technologies	Chandler	6*	Field service, sales, systems specialist, process applications engineer
Edwards Vacuum	Chandler	12*	Technicians, planning, scheduling
Entegris	Remote	5*	Customer enablement operations, field service engineer

Employer	Location	Current Openings	Types of Openings
FM Industries	Phoenix	38*	Manufacturing, machinists, maintenance, entry-level semiconductor production technicians, production, planning, program management, HR
Foxsemicon	AZ (unconfirmed)	—*	Types of openings not verified
General Dynamics	Scottsdale	—*	Hardware, space systems, test, business development, AI governance, leadership
Gudeng Precision	Glendale	30+ planned	CNC machining; precision inspection; future technical and manufacturing roles (announced jobs, not verified vacancies)
Hermes-Epitek	Phoenix	10*	Field operations technicians (ongoing hiring reported by publisher)
Honeywell	Phoenix, Tempe	11*	Systems and software engineering, R&D, manufacturing and assembly mechanics, IT and cybersecurity
Intel	Chandler	166	Design, software, chemical, mechanical, methodology, applications, facilities and product development engineers
KLA	Phoenix	53	Supply chain, customer support/engagement, product support, technical training
L&K Engineering	Phoenix	0*	Electrical, mechanical and HVAC engineering (employer identity unverified)
Lam Research	Arizona	36	Configuration, business operations, logistics, field service, facilities, quality, planning
Linde	Phoenix	31*	Operations executives, capital and energy management, production associate, frontline designer, gas and equipment sales
Marketch International	Phoenix	79*	Facilities; electrical and QC engineering; pipefitting; chemical systems; construction; technical services
Medtronic	Phoenix	12*	Clinical, sourcing, field education, quality, engineering, internships (several)
Microchip	Phoenix	67	Hardware engineering, supply chain, quality, product design, marketing, planning, sales, yield
MKS Instruments	Phoenix	13*	IT hardware asset leader, trade compliance, systems engineer, electronic engineer, senior embedded firmware test engineer
Northrop Grumman	Chandler	158*	Electrical, systems, assurance, design, RF engineers; supply chain

Employer	Location	Current Openings	Types of Openings
NXP Semiconductor	Chandler	10*	Analog design, equipment maintenance, sales; maintenance tech, test, development, facilities, field applications (Arizona locations not confirmed in October results)
onsemi	Arizona	266*	Marketing, engineering, compliance, program management, fab operations, equipment maintenance; quality
Raytheon	Tucson / Sierra Vista / Phoenix	658*	Mechanical, thermal, software, electrical, and systems engineering; security/IT infrastructure, and operations
Retronix	Chandler	0	No Arizona openings observed; historical roles included dock and manufacturing technicians
Schneider Electric	Goodyear	52*	Field service; engineering, plant procurement, supply chain, commissioning, HVAC/cooling
SCREEN Semiconductor Solutions	Phoenix	18*	Field service engineer, technical instructor, track/process equipment (9 explicitly Arizona postings identified)
Siemens	Phoenix	97*	Field service; engineering
Texas Instruments	Phoenix	—*	Product engineering; validation; analog design; design verification (Arizona openings not confirmed)
Tokyo Electron (TEL)	Phoenix	4*	Field service engineers, import/export contractor
Topco Scientific	Phoenix	0*	No Arizona openings confirmed
TSMC	Phoenix	219	Facilities, engineering, HR, materials, process, construction, EHS
United Integrated Services (UIS)	Phoenix	48*	Cleanroom and electrical engineering; BIM; fire protection; construction; logistics; project administration

About the Hiring Index

Hiring figures reflect publicly available job listings, company announcements, and reported recruitment activity as of October 2026.

Some counts include positions outside Arizona or across multiple company locations.

An asterisk (*) identifies figures requiring additional verification; a dash (—) indicates that current openings could not be confirmed.

Gudeng's announcement describes more than 30 planned jobs—not confirmed live vacancies.

Job categories reflect company information and may not represent every advertised position.

WORKFORCE SIGNAL | BUILDING THE WORKFORCE BEYOND THE FAB

Behind Arizona's expanding semiconductor infrastructure is a diverse workforce of engineers, skilled tradespeople, technicians, and construction professionals. Companies such as United Integrated Services (UIS) and Marketch International illustrate the range of occupations required to design, build, and support the facilities powering this growth.

In October, UIS listed 48 positions across its operations, including 23 identified in Phoenix. Opportunities span cleanroom engineering, electrical design, fire protection, Building Information Modeling (BIM), construction, logistics, material handling, and project administration.

Marketch International listed 79 positions across its operations, with opportunities in chemical systems, electrical installation, pipefitting, quality assurance, technical services, and project coordination.

Together, these companies present an important workforce trend: semiconductor growth depends on far more than engineers working inside fabrication facilities. Skilled tradespeople, engineering technicians, construction professionals, and logistics specialists all play essential roles.

The Workforce Signal:

Building Arizona's semiconductor workforce requires strong connections between employers, technical education programs, and hands-on training opportunities.

Source: UIS and Marketch International company career listings, reviewed October 8, 2026. Company-wide figures may include positions outside Arizona.

ECOSYSTEM INTELLIGENCE | BUILDING ARIZONA'S SUPPLIER NETWORK

For Arizona's regional businesses, semiconductor growth presents both new opportunities and the challenge of preparing to participate in increasingly complex supply chains. Companies supporting TSMC, Intel, and Amkor need specialized suppliers, skilled workers, and strong partnerships to meet the industry's growing demands.

A September 2026 study by Next Street highlights how Arizona and Upstate New York are developing their semiconductor supply chains. While Arizona benefits from an established network of major manufacturers, Upstate New York is preparing for Micron's expansion. The report reinforces an important point: successful semiconductor growth depends not only on major manufacturers, but also on local suppliers' access to financing, business opportunities, and workforce training.

Source: Next Street, "Building Semiconductor Ecosystems in Arizona and Upstate New York," (9/11/2026).

Authors: Spencer Lau, Annika Jonas-Day, Vivian Yu, "Building America's Industrial Base" series [JPMorganChase]

INDUSTRY & SUPPLIER WATCH

Gudeng Precision | Glendale

Taiwan-based Gudeng Precision celebrated the grand opening of its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Glendale on October 6, 2026. The \$5 million investment includes a 12,000-square-foot facility expected to create more than 30 jobs. Initial operations will focus on CNC machining and precision inspection, with plans to expand manufacturing capabilities supporting the aerospace and semiconductor industries.

Gudeng's arrival represents another important addition to Arizona's growing supplier network, bringing specialized manufacturing capabilities and new workforce opportunities to the region.

Source: Gudeng Precision Industrial Co. Ltd. and Arizona Commerce Authority, October 7, 2026.

Nokia / NXP | Chandler

Nokia's planned acquisition of NXP's Chandler semiconductor facility represents another development in Arizona's advanced manufacturing ecosystem. The company intends to expand its capabilities in optical semiconductor technology supporting high-speed communications and AI data centers.

Nokia's career site currently lists 133 U.S. job openings, although the available information does not identify any specifically associated with the Chandler facility.

As the transition progresses, the facility could create new opportunities for semiconductor manufacturing, engineering, and technical talent.

Source: Nokia U.S. careers listings, October 2026. Chandler transaction details remain subject to confirmation against the official announcement.

WORKFORCE CALENDAR | WHERE INDUSTRY, EDUCATION & OPPORTUNITY CONNECT

Arizona's semiconductor ecosystem continues to unite industry leaders, educators, employers, and emerging talent. Below is a list of upcoming events to learn, connect, and explore careers in technology and advanced manufacturing.

Date	Event	Location
Oct. 22	ASU Semiconductor Day, 12:30–4:30 p.m.	ASU Tempe, Memorial Union
Oct. 30–Nov. 20	ASU–Daifuku: Intro to Semiconductor Fab Robotics and AMHS Systems Microcredential (second cohort)	Daifuku Cleanroom America, Chandler
Nov. 2	NNME Career Lab: Your Future in Tech Starts Here, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	Arizona Science Center, Phoenix
Nov. 4–5	U.S. Semiconductor Design, Construction & Engineering Summit	Phoenix, AZ
Nov. 10–12	Electronic Specialty Gases & Systems Conference	Phoenix / Virtual
Nov. 18	Phoenix Small Business Expo	Phoenix Convention Center

Featured Workforce Pathway | ASU–Daifuku

October 30–November 20, 2026 • Daifuku Cleanroom America, Chandler

ASU's Introduction to Semiconductor Fab Robotics and AMHS Systems microcredential is returning for a second cohort. Offered with Daifuku Cleanroom America, the hands-on program introduces students to automated material handling systems (AMHS) and robotics used in modern semiconductor fabrication facilities.

Registration: <https://specialevents.asu.edu/896154>

Career Exploration | NNME Career Lab

November 2, 2026 • 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. • Arizona Science Center, Phoenix

An opportunity to explore semiconductor careers, meet industry representatives, and learn about education and training pathways into the technology sector.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE | THE POWER OF CONNECTIONS

My esteemed Readers, Colleagues, and Associates:

Current workforce development initiatives are growing through collaboration among educators, employers, community partners and the people they serve.

We're embarking on new territory, industry expansions, and U.S. workforce transitions. We're just beginning.

As I advance this publication, I'm reaching out to a number of industry leaders, program developers, and innovators of workforce externships, career pathways, and programs that elevate education, expand outreach, and bolster our workforce communities. The response has been amazing.

I want to extend a special thank you and my appreciation to Shari Liss, VP of Global Workforce Development and Initiatives with SEMI, whose introductions have helped connect The Workforce Register with:

- Nick Irigoyen, Project Manager of Workforce Development and Apprenticeships with the SEMI Foundation
- Perla DeBaggis, Sr. Specialist of Industry Image and Awareness with the SEMI Foundation (NNME)
- Raquel Diaz, Technology and Career Coach with West-MEC
- Jennifer Mellor, Chief Innovation Officer with the Greater Phoenix Chamber
- Robert Garcia, Deputy Associate Superintendent and Executive Director of Workforce Development with the Arizona Department of Education

These conversations help us better understand how education, collaboration, industry and community efforts connect and guide people toward meaningful career opportunities. Our aim is to continue building a useful, accessible record of the organizations, initiatives and people advancing workforce readiness across Arizona's semiconductor ecosystem.

Thank you in advance for sharing this publication with your contacts and networks. Connection is a key ingredient to mutual discovery and adventure as we strive to keep pace with the increasing changes in workforce development.

Denise Chaffin

Publisher, The Workforce Register™