

“Despite Turbulence, Southern Aerospace Poised for Take-off,” by Charles Davidson, staff writer for *EconSouth*  
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### **Discussion questions**

1. How do aerospace products rank among exports from the six Southeast states? Does this ranking surprise you?
2. Why is the aerospace industry known to be “cyclical”? On what does aerospace manufacturing rely? How long do these cycles tend to last?
3. What possible effects will sequestration have on the southern aerospace industry? Why could the Huntsville area’s aerospace industry fare better than other areas that are heavily invested in aerospace?
4. What factors contributed to the swings in employment in the aerospace industries in Marietta and Kennedy Space Center?
5. Demand is growing in certain areas of the aerospace industry, benefiting companies like Gulfstream, Boeing, and Airbus. Why is demand growing and for what type of aircraft?
6. Where are some of the aerospace “clusters” in the Southeast located? Which city has more aerospace engineers per employed persons than any other in the country? Near what industry are most of these clusters located?
7. At the end of 2012, aerospace employment was 629,000 according to the Aerospace Industries Association. Using the data from the state economic development agencies on Southeast aerospace jobs, what percentage of these jobs were in the Southeast? How do the wages of aerospace workers compare to manufacturing works nationally? How do the wages of aerospace engineers compare to engineers in other fields?

### **Related links**

[BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook \(aerospace engineers\)](#)

[Huntsville Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Cobb Chamber of Commerce \(Marietta\)](#)

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