

OVERVIEW

Military and defense represents a key industry in the Pierce County economy. Not including the 33,000 active duty military personnel stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the industry employs about 12,460 workers, including more than 9,000 civilians employed on-base. Notably, Pierce County's defense industry received more than \$490 million in Department of Defense contracts in 2015 alone.

Within the industry, JBLM provides a strong supply of talented workers, and programs that match transitioning military personnel with jobs seem to be effective. Commercial certification can pose a challenge to hiring, however, as highly skilled retired military personnel may not have adequate access to the necessary credentials.

While the majority of military and defense occupations show a good balance between supply and demand for workers, employers with defense contracts face difficulty finding candidates who can pass the rigorous background checks required for security clearances. Candidates must pass both criminal and financial background checks in order to be hired, and employers report losing about half of applicants through the process.





Median Annual Wage \$57,997 - \$106,461



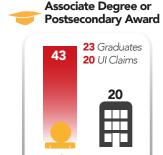
Projected Talent Supply Unemployed: 109 Newly-Trained: 161

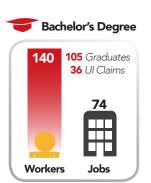
2018 - 2023 PROJECTIONS FOR THE

PIERCE COUNTY MILITARY & DEFENSE TALENT PIPELINE

On-the-Job Training









This chart outlines the annual estimate of workers and job openings by education level in Pierce County.

MATCHES FOR GRADUATES QUALIFIED TO WORK AS

MOBILE HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANICS, EXCEPT ENGINES

Classification Instructional Program

Agricultural Mechanics and Equipment/Machine **Technology**

Heavy Equipment Maintenance Technology/ Technician Standard Occupational Classification

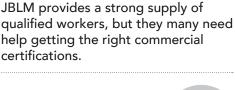
Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, **Except Engines**

Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technician

Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians

Rail Car Repairers

Qualifications and experience in one occupation may translate into opportunities in another. This is one way employers and employees manage talent surpluses and shortages.





Military & Defense Talent PipelinePierce County



