Where and what is the Kent Valley

- North-south band following SR-167 and Green River
- Flat land dominated by industrial uses
- Rich transportation infrastructure
Kent Valley Employment

Manufacturing - the Valley’s largest industry, has added about 7,700 jobs since 2005, now resting at around 51,000 jobs.

Valley’s manufacturing sector has seen a decrease of workplaces between 2005-2020; aerospace subsector decreasing faster than other subsectors, from 295 to 235.

Employment growth is increasingly being concentrated in a smaller number of high growth businesses.
Since 2005, the aerospace subsector makes up the majority of manufacturing employment, holding steady at 62% employment.

As of 2020 the subsector employed 31,200 employees in 235 firms. Since 2005, employment in the aerospace industry has increased by 18% or by nearly 4,700 jobs.
Keep Trends in Mind – Not these Headlines*

'The aerospace business just dried up': Boeing supplier in Kent shuts, hundreds of jobs to vanish

Aug 13, 2020, 1:33pm PDT

Carlisle Interconnect Technologies Inc., a major international aerospace manufacturer and Boeing supplier, is closing its factory in Kent and the move will eliminate 565 workers’ jobs between now and the end of 2021.

The company revealed its plans for closing its Kent facility in a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notice filed with the Washington State Employment Security Department. Carlisle Interconnect is a unit of the publicly traded Carlisle Cos. Inc.

"This is certainly sad news and all Covid-19 related. As you know, the passenger airline industry activity and travel is way down. Our customers are just not building new or retrofitting older aircraft. The aerospace business just dried up," Carlisle Cos. Vice President and General Counsel Scott Belfas told the Business Journal.

Belfas said the Kent closure will be made in stages between now and Dec. 31, 2021, and workers will get full severance packages. It follows a similar aerospace factory closing in Mobile, Alabama, in May that affected another 80 workers who lost their jobs.

Flow International to move Kent n work to Kansas, lay off 110

Originally published March 29, 2018 at 3:47pm | Updated March 29, 2018 at 4:07pm

Flow International, which makes industrial waterjets, is closing its manufacturing operations in Kent and moving the work to Kansas. Management, design, engineering, commercial and financial staff will stay in Kent, but 110 shop-floor employees will be laid off.

By Dominic Gates | Seattle Times aerospace reporter

Flow International, a maker of industrial waterjets, is closing its manufacturing operations in Kent and moving the work to a waterjet facility in Kansas owned by parent Shape Technologies.

Though Flow's management, design, engineering, commercial and financial staff will stay in Kent, 110 shop floor manufacturing employees will be laid off.

Management gave Flow's employees the layoff news Thursday morning. Most of the transition of the work to Baxter Springs, Kansas, will occur at the end of June.
Aero-Space: Durable Presence in Kent

• So, what’s different this time? What’s “new” in new space?
• Changing perceptions
• Diversifying/increasing number of space firms – a trend within larger story of supplier firm loss
• Open possibilities with resurgent company growth
New Space: Gaining Steam*

Venture Capital: Starfish Space Scores $7M Raise For Its Otter Servicing Spacetug

September 29, 2021 | News, Venture Capital

Stoke Space raises $65 million for reusable launch vehicle development

by Jeff Foust — December 15, 2021

PARIS — Stoke Space raised $65 million in a Series A round announced Dec. 15, funding development and testing of the upper stage of a reusable launch vehicle.

The company, based in the Seattle suburb of Kent, Washington, said Breakthrough Energy Ventures led the round. Several other new investors also joined the round, including Spark Capital, Point72 Ventures, Toyota Ventures, Alameda Research and Global Founders Capital. Several investors in the company’s $9.1 million seed round, announced in February, participated as well.
Space Economy in Washington State

Very aggressive competition from other states tax dollar incentives: We compete for talent

State Contribution
- $4.6 billion per year
- Direct employment: 5,810 jobs
- 13,103 total jobs

U.S. Industry Size
- $447 billion in 2021
- $1.1 trillion by 2040
- $2.7 trillion by 2045

Approximately half of state’s employment is in Kent Valley alone.
As of 2019, about 56,870 jobs require bachelor’s degree or higher

Represents about 24% of all jobs in the Valley

Less comparably to 29% metro wide, but catching up
Rapid Growth in Skills Demands: Kent Jobs Included

- 8,500 new bachelor degree jobs
- Census tracts between Kent, Tukwila and Renton have seen the highest increases in high-education jobs – 2,400 jobs added
- How many of these new hires from out of state vs. locally grown talent?
- Is the public sector on top of this trend?
Manufacturing Commutes: What we do know

- When commutes are broken out by major industrial sector, we see a sizeable portion of workers in the Valley’s “Goods-producing” supersector – where pay is likely higher than in other service-related sectors – are commuting from as far as Marysville and Everett.

- Lower paid workers tend to have shorter commutes, as seen by “All other services” workers commuting to Valley are largely clustered inside or very close to its borders.”

Figure 10. Commutes to Kent Industrial Valley by Sector, 2019
Source: LEHD/LODES

Goods-producing  Trade, transp., utilities  All other services

Share of sector’s commutes to Kent Industrial Valley
0.1%  0.2%  0.3%  0.4%  0.5%  0.6%  Kent Industrial Valley
What are the new, new space jobs?

• Welders with PhD’s?
• Mechatronics?
• Automation engineers?
• Avionics?
• Creative professionals?
• All of the above, and others besides?

90 years...time to update
More to come: Occupational Data

- Manufacturing complexities and “hidden STEM” – it’s not all routine! There’s complex problem solving! Math!

- Clearing pathways into the work to ensure more inclusivity

- Recognize that data and statistics will always be years behind the “now”—so communities of practice and mentors are key

- How can STEM communities share their enthusiasm?
Partnerships

- Importance of informal learning – excitement
- Welcoming investment
- Space themed-park
- What’s next: blurring lines that are barriers and talk about creativity in inventing, in making
Questions?

Thank you!

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