Manufacturing Industry Sector Quarterly Meeting

September 4, 2026

Mesquite ISD Vanguard High School
4201 Faithon P. Lucas Sr. Blvd
Mesquite, Texas

Welcome and Introductions

Eastfield Campus President Eddie Tealer opened the meeting with a warm thank you to the MISD leadership for hosting today's meeting. Special shout-out to Whataburger for catering the breakfast. Acknowledgement to Paul Mayer, DCMA CEO, and all our industry and public partners for being in attendance.

Roscoe Davis, Plant Manager at Plastipak Packaging, LLC and DCMA Chair, recognized the sector champions and provided an industry update. He shared that Texas manufacturing activity continues to accelerate, highlighting the following indicators:

- The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, increased six points to 16.1
- The new orders index jumped 16 points to 22.0
- The shipments index increased five points to 14.1
- Manufacturing activity is expected to increase over the next six months
- Other future manufacturing activity indexes remained in positive territory
- The next release is scheduled for Monday, September 28

MFG Sector Report: Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex | Spring 2026

The report highlighted notable occupations, top skills, and notable employers in the Dallas-Fort Worth manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing Combined Action Teams Focus Areas

- Training creation and development
- Recruitment and promotion
- Goal: Increase industry participation
- Work remains industry-driven

Project Video from UTD and Plastipak Packaging

- Completed project: Plastipak Packaging and UTD Capstone Students — Heavy Lifting Assist
- Next project: NCCO and UTD Capstone Students — Shrink Wrap/Packaging Material Handling Automation

School of MIT Leadership and Faculty Panel Discussion

Panelists included Raphael Smith-Department Chair, Simona Farcasiu-Faculty, and Cody Brown-Faculty.

- **North Texas manufacturing is changing**
  - Growth is creating demand, technology is changing the nature of work, and workforce readiness will determine the region's ability to respond.
- **Dallas College helps build the NTX manufacturing workforce**
  - The Big Five provides a coordinated response built around people, programs, places, and partnerships.
- **Stronger people. Stronger industry. Stronger North Texas**
  - The value of manufacturing education is measured by its impact on students, employers, and the region.

Marketable Skills and Digital Badging at Dallas College

Presented by Sharon Manna, Dean of Marketable Skills and Digital Badging

- *An Employer Guide to Skills-Based Credentials*
  - Addressing the skills awareness gap
  - Marketable Skills Framework
  - Marketable Skills Inventory
  - Connecting skills to digital badges
  - Badge types and pathways
  - How employers can engage
    - *Employer involvement validates and strengthens these credentials*

Group toured Vanguard CTE Programs

Adjourn

Manufacturing Industry Sector Quarterly Meeting

September 4, 2026 | 7:30 to 10:00 AM
Mesquite ISD | Vanguard High School
4201 Faithon P Lucas Sr Blvd | Forney TX 75181

AGENDA

7:30 – 8:00 AM	**Check-in / Networking / Breakfast Available**
8:00 – 8:05 AM	**Welcome** Paul Mayer | DCMA CEO
8:05 – 8:10 AM	**Manufacturing Sector Update** Dr. Eddie Tealer | Dallas College Eastfield Campus President & Manufacturing Lead
8:10 – 8:30 AM	**Manufacturing Industry Sector Champions Introductions and Update** Roscoe Davis | Plant Manager Plastipak Packaging, LLC and DCMA Chair
8:30 - 9:00 AM	**Dallas College School of Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies (MIT) Leadership and Faculty Presentation** Raphael Smith | Department Chair-School of MIT Simona Farcasiu | Faculty-School of MIT
9:00 – 9:25 AM	**Digital Badging** Dr. Sharon Manna | Dean, Marketable Skills & Digital Badging & Facilitator, Dallas College Marketable Skills Faculty Integrator Program
9:25 – 9:30 AM	**Break**
9:30 – 10:00 AM	**Vanguard Tour – Career and Technical Education Programs**
10:00 AM	**Adjourned**

MFG DAY®

October 1, 2026

Over the next decade, **3.8 million** new manufacturing positions will need to be filled in the US. We're joining the movement to fill the skills gap and inspire the future workforce!

Sign up today to host a tour!

For more information, please contact:

Chelsea Hogue
chogue2@mesquiteisd.org

Manufacturing Industry Sector Quarterly Meeting

Mesquite ISD

Vanguard High School

4201 Faithon P Lucas

Mesquite, Texas

EDGE NORTH TEXAS POWERED BY DALLAS COLLEGE



Agenda

- **7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.** Check-in / Networking / Breakfast
- **8:00 a.m. – 8:05 a.m.** Welcome: Paul Mayer, DCMA CEO
- **8:05 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.** Manufacturing Sector Update: Dr. Eddie Tealer, Dallas College Eastfield Campus President & Manufacturing Lead
- **8:10 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** Manufacturing Industry Sector Champions Introductions and Updates – Roscoe Davis, Plant Manager Plastipak Packaging, LLC and DCMA Chair
- **8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Dallas College School of Manufacturing and Industrial Technology (MIT) Leadership and Faculty | Raphael Smith & Simona Farcasiu
- **9:00 a.m. – 9:25 a.m.** Dr. Sharon Manna – Digital Badging
- **9:25 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.** Break
- **9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Vanguard Tour – Career and Technical Education Programs
- **10:00 Adjourned**

DCMA Dallas County Manufacturers' Association

WORKFORCESOLUTIONS GREATER DALLAS

DALLAS COLLEGE



Federal Reserve
Bank of Dallas

Texas manufacturing activity accelerates as outlooks improve further

August 31,2026

- The production index, a key measure of state manufacturing conditions, increased six points to 16.1
- The new orders index jumped 16 points to 22.0
- The shipments index increased five points to 14.1
- Expectations are for increased manufacturing activity six months from now
- Other indexes of future manufacturing a remained in positive territory.
- Next release: Monday, September 28

2026 Data

DALLAS COLLEGE

Manufacturing Sector Report

Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex | Spring 2026

About the Sector

The Manufacturing Sector comprises of establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. Establishments within this sector are often described as plants, factories, or mills that use power-driven machines and materials-handling equipment.

- Bureau of Labor Statistics

Did you know?

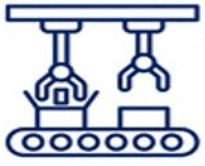
- **5,537** jobs posted every month
- **4%** 3-year job growth rate
- **282,388** currently employed
- **$70.0k** average salary
- **6.3%** annual wage trend

Notable Occupations at or above Dallas County living wage of $23.31/hour

Notble Occupations	Current Employment	Projected 3-Year Net Job Change	Median Hourly Wage	Entry-Level Education
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	11,810	439 (3.7%)	$31.20	High school diploma or equivalent
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	6,915	204 (3.0%)	$23.86	High school diploma or equivalent
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	6,061	525 (8.6%)	$30.17	High school diploma or equivalent
Industrial Engineers	5,460	395 (7.2%)	$50.58	Bachelor's degree
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	4,122	152 (3.7%)	$30.59	High school diploma or equivalent
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,751	115 (3.1%)	$27.33	Postsecondary nondegree award

Top Skills

- Continuous Improvement Process
- Project Management
- Lifting Ability
- Marketing
- Warehousing
- Auditing



Notable Employers

TOYOTA IBM RTX L3HARRIS CATERPILLAR pepsico

Roscoe Davis – Plant Manager, Plastipak Packaging

Industry Sector Champion

DCMA Chair



Meet the Team



John Fullilove

Texas Instruments



Evan Buell

Dot It/National Checking Company (NCCO)



Roscoe Davis

Plastipak Packaging, Inc.



Kristina Lawson

Daisy Brand

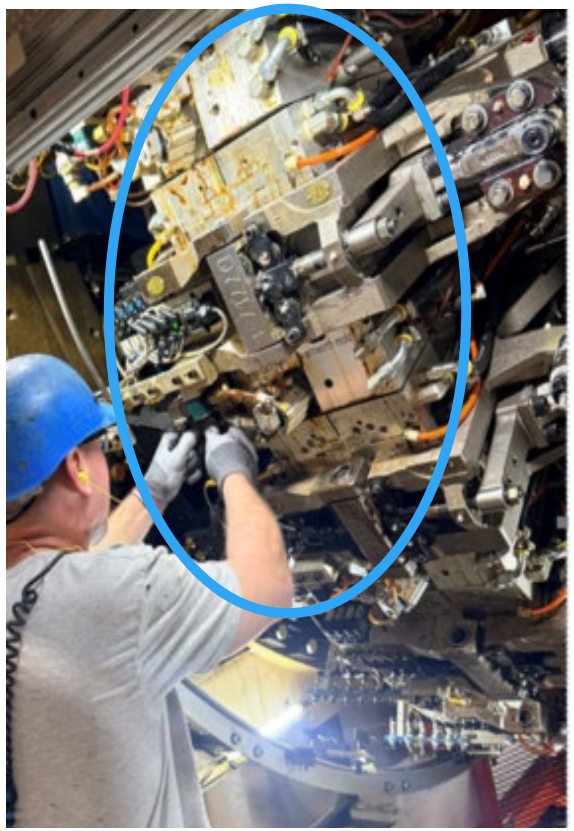


Manufacturing Sector – Action Teams

- Training Creation and Development
- Recruitment and Promotion
- Goal –Increase Industry Participation!
- We are industry-driven!

EDGE NORTH TEXAS
Educate • Develop • Grow • Employ







https://bit.ly/4zBmb4L

Completed Project: Plastipak Packaging and UTD Capstone Students Project: Heavy Lifting Assist

Next Project: NCCO and UTD Capstone Students – Shrink Wrap / Packaging Material Handling Automation

Calendar of Events

- Texas Career Day: September 24, Curtis Colwell Center (focus on manufacturing, contact Steven Bridges for details).
  - sbridges@wfsdallas.com
- Manufacturing Day, October 2nd 7:30 - 9:30 Dallas College Center 675 W. Walnut, Garland
- Make It in America Summit October 20 – 22, Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston, Texas.
  - sbridges@wfsdallas.com
- Manufacturing Meetup in October (27-29, date TBD) to showcase our nearly completed engineering projects
- Online Workforce Readiness Assessment – a five-minute survey to help identify your current workforce challenges:
  - Workforce Readiness Assessment







EDGE NORTH TEXAS
Educate • Develop • Grow • Employ



School of MIT Leadership and Faculty Panel

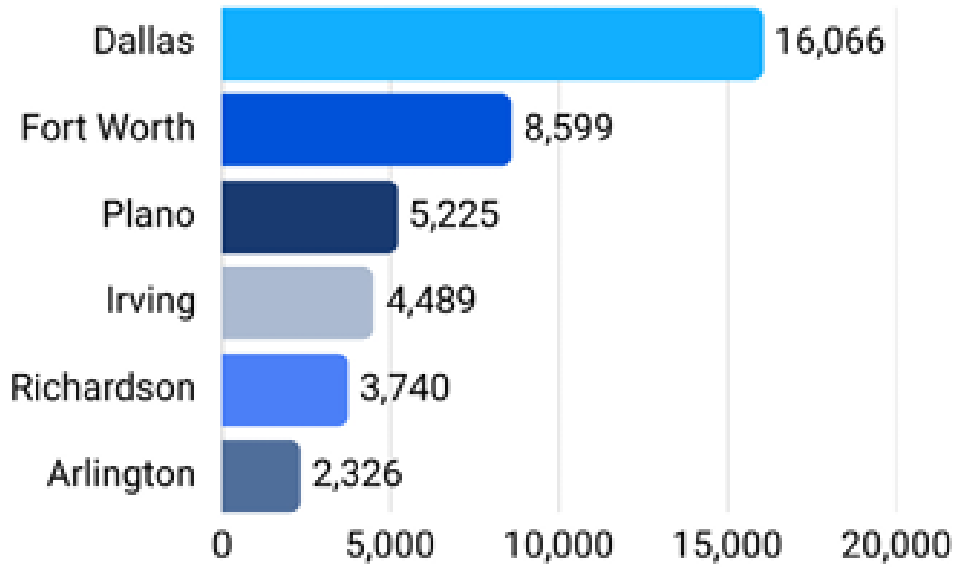
Raphael Smith and Simona Farcasiu

DALLAS COLLEGE

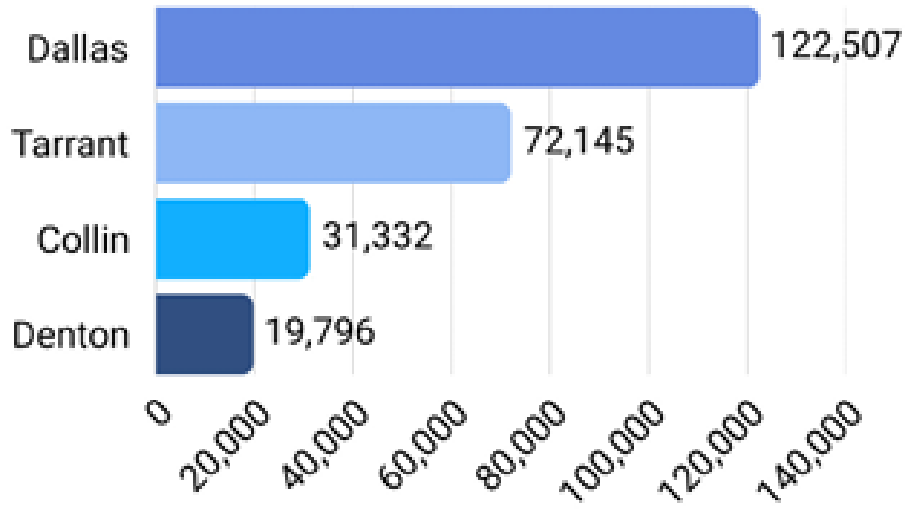
Manufacturing Sector Report

DFW Metroplex | Spring 2026

Top Cities by Unique Posting



Current Employment by County



From June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026

Dallas College Programs

connect education to opportunity, preparing students for transfer and meaningful careers across diverse industries.

View additional related programs at: DallasCollege.edu/Programs

Associate Degree (A.A.S)

- Precision Machining Technology
- Electro Mechanical Technology
- Commercial Electrical Technology
- Construction Management
- Electro Mechanical Technology
- Welding Applications

Certifications

- Mechanical Drafting
- Electronics Technology
- Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW)
- Welding Applications Certificate
- FAME Manufacturing Core Exercises Enhanced Skills Certificate
- CNC Mill and Lathe Operator Certificate

4-Year Transfer Possibilities

	TXST	Manufacturing Eningeering	Bachelor
	TTU	Industrial Engineering	Bachelor
TSU	TSU	Manufacturing and Industrial Management	Bachelor
	UTD	Mechanical Engineering	Bachelor

Skills Achievement Award

- Advanced Masonry Certification Occupational Skills Award (CE)
- Facilities Maintenance Technician Building Mechanical Maintenance Certification Occupational Skills Award (CE)
- Electronics and Climate Controls Technician Occupational Skills Award (CE)

Continuing Education

- AutoCAD Specialist
- Construction Trade
- CE Residential Carpentry Certificate
- CE Field Engineering Certificate
- Mechatronics - Mechanical Components I

View a full catalog of offerings at: Catalog.DallasCollege.edu

MARKETABLE SKILLS & DIGITAL BADGING

AT DALLAS COLLEGE



An Employer Guide to Skills-Based Credentials

Sharon Manna, Dean, Marketable Skills & Digital Badging
Smanna@dallascollege.edu

Addressing the Skills Awareness Gap

THE PROBLEM

- Students develop valuable skills in coursework but can't articulate them to employers
- Transcripts show course completion — not skills mastery
- Employers struggle to verify "soft skills" and competencies from resumes alone
- A disconnect exists between academic language and workforce language

THE SOLUTION

- Dallas College's Marketable Skills Initiative & Digital Badging Program help bridge this gap
- Faculty integrate career-relevant skills language into existing coursework
- Digital badges provide verifiable, portable proof of specific skills
- Students learn to articulate their competencies in employer-friendly terms

The Marketable Skills Framework

1. **AWARENESS** — Students are introduced to marketable skills through course modules and learn to connect coursework to career readiness
2. **CONNECTION** — Faculty use the Marketable Skills Inventory to translate core objectives into employer-recognized skill terms
3. **DEMONSTRATION** — Assignments are aligned with specific skills so students can practice and demonstrate them through coursework
4. **REFLECTION** — Students engage in structured reflection to articulate what they learned, building self-awareness for interviews and resumes

This framework ensures students complete coursework with the ability to articulate their value to employers.

Marketable Skills Inventory

- Skills embedded in the Core Objectives
- Aligned with Lightcast skills language
- Faculty curated

Dallas College Marketable Skills Inventory

Critical Thinking	Communication	Teamwork	Leadership & Personal Responsibility	Global Awareness & Social Responsibility	Empirical & Quantitative Skills
					
Analyze Issues	Effective Written Communication: Clearly and effectively articulate complex issues/ideas in written form	Fulfill team expectations: Accept responsibility for role on a team.	Self-Motivation and Initiative: demonstrate time management and attention to detail	Community Awareness: Demonstrate awareness of community issues	Data visualization and presentation: Communicate results using tables, charts, graphs.
Complex/Creative Problem Solving: Anticipate problems, solutions, and consequences.	Effective Oral Communication: Clearly and effectively articulate ideas orally	Effective Collaboration skills: negotiate team roles and responsibilities	Ethical behavior: Demonstrate ethical behavior and decision-making.	Global awareness: Demonstrate awareness of global issues	Contextualize numeric information/data
Knowledge Application: Apply knowledge to make decisions	Facilitate discussion, using active listening and interviewing skills	Team management: Make collaborative decisions, manage team conflict	Growth Mindset: Learn and grow from mistakes.	Demonstrate empathy: recognize the emotions and perspectives of others	Demonstrate logical thinking
Pattern Detection: Detect patterns/themes/underlying principles	Effective Presentation Skills: Present Ideas to an audience	Provide and/or receive useful feedback	Demonstrate Adaptability and flexibility	Develop civic responsibility: demonstrating good citizenship	Experimental Design: Design an experiment or model
Research: Gather proper resources and information to conduct research	Synthesizing Ideas: Summarize information from diverse sources	Embrace Perspectives: Work effectively with people from different backgrounds.	Team Leadership: Lead and manage teams	Develop cultural competency: Learn from diverse cultures, races, genders, religions, etc.	Data Inference: Draw inferences from data, use data to formulate conclusions
Analysis & Interpretation: Analyzing & Interpreting data to synthesize information	Effective Interpersonal Communication: clearly articulate to diverse groups		Respect: Demonstrate consideration and courtesy to others.	Demonstrate Inclusivity: foster a sense of belonging	Mathematical Reasoning: Use appropriate calculations to solve problems.

From Skills to Digital Badges

A digital badge is a verified digital representation of a specific skill or competency earned at Dallas College. Each badge contains embedded metadata that documents what was assessed, how the skill was demonstrated, and who awarded the credential — reinforcing a student's claim to that skill with evidence employers can trust.

Verified & Tamper-Proof	**Each badge contains metadata confirming the issuer, criteria, and evidence of skill**
Portable & Shareable	**Students can share badges on LinkedIn, resumes, and e-portfolios instantly**
Granular & Specific	**Badges represent individual skills — not just course completion — giving employers precision**
Earned During Studies	**Students don't wait for graduation; they showcase skills as they develop them**

BADGE TYPES & PATHWAYS



Individual Skill Badges

- Awarded for specific skills demonstrated in coursework
- Requires evidence from 2 assignments across 2 different courses
- Includes structured reflection on skill attainment
- Examples: Analyze Issues, Effective Written Communication, Data Inference



Competency Milestone Badges

- Awarded after completing all individual skill badges within a Core Objective
- Represents mastery of a competency area (e.g., Critical Thinking)
- Signals deeper, validated capability to employers
- Builds a credential pathway throughout the student journey



Co-Curricular Badges

- Awarded for participation in College programs
- Includes: Phi Theta Kappa, Honors, Service Learning, Career Explorer
- Recognizes leadership, service, career readiness
- Complements academic badges with holistic skill evidence

WHY THIS MATTERS

Validated Skills Evidence

Badges provide verified proof of specific competencies — not just self-reported claims on a resume

Reduced Hiring Risk

Know exactly what candidates can do before you hire, backed by institutional assessment and reflection evidence

Common Skills Language

Our Marketable Skills Inventory uses employer-recognized terms, making candidate evaluation straightforward

Workforce-Ready Talent

Students who earn badges have practiced articulating their value — they arrive interview-ready

Streamlined Screening

Digital badges on LinkedIn and resumes enable faster candidate identification and skills-based filtering

Continuous Skill Building

Badge pathways show progressive skill development, helping you identify growth-oriented candidates

HOW EMPLOYERS CAN ENGAGE

Your involvement validates and strengthens these credentials

1	**Recognize Digital Badges in Hiring**	**Understand digital badges as evidence of verified skills during your recruitment process. Ask candidates about their badge portfolio.**
2	**Provide Skills Feedback**	**Share which skills and competencies matter most in your industry so we can continuously align our Marketable Skills Inventory with real workforce needs.**
3	**Partner on Curriculum Alignment**	**Co-design with our faculty for authentic assessment, serve as guest speakers, or participate in advisory committees to ensure relevance.**

Thank you!

Sharon Manna, Dean, Marketable Skills & Digital Badging
Smanna@dallascollege.edu



Vanguard Tour – CTE Programs



Thank You