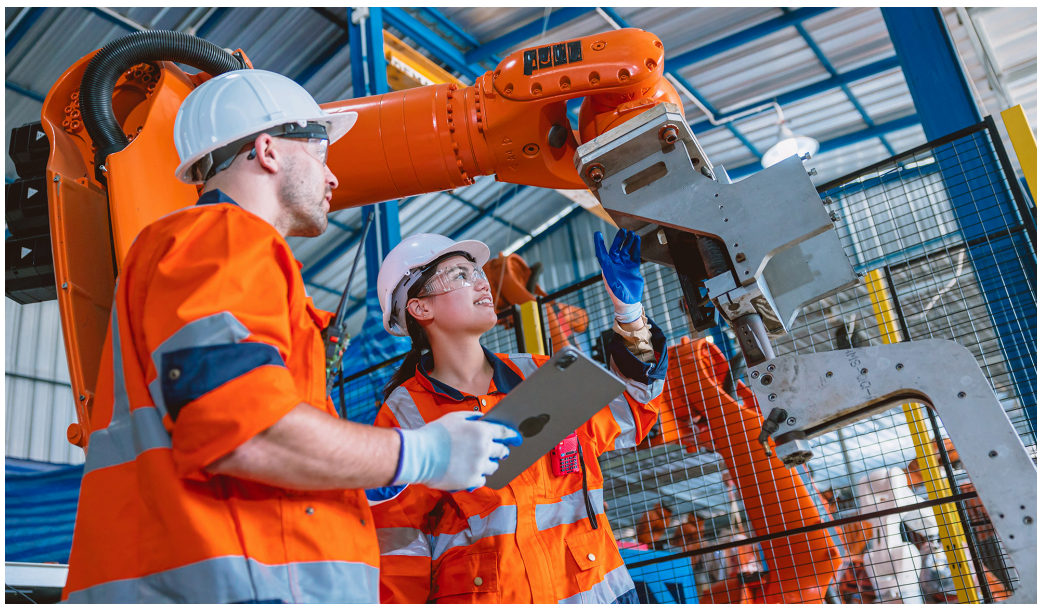




Manufacturers' Digital Whistle

December 2025 Newsletter

Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire Awarded \$410,000 to Accelerate Manufacturing Modernization in the Region.



The Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) has been awarded \$410,000 through the Thrive Inland SoCal Catalyst Funding, a Regional Investment Initiative in

partnership with California Jobs First, to advance manufacturing modernization across Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

The purpose of this grant is to strengthen and expand the Inland Empire's manufacturing base through modernization, workforce upskilling, and supply-chain activation. The project will help regional manufacturers improve productivity, transition toward clean-technology production, and retain high-quality jobs that support long-term economic growth.

"MCIE is deeply grateful to Thrive Inland SoCal Catalyst for their leadership in prioritizing manufacturing as a cornerstone of regional economic growth," said Molly Burgess, Executive Director of MCIE.

[Read More](#)

Host a Manufacturing Factory Tour



We invite local manufacturers to open their facilities for an upcoming series of factory tours. These tours are designed to help manufacturers learn from one another by showcasing operations, products, and innovations happening right here in our region.

If your company is interested in hosting a tour, we'd love to highlight your work and connect you with fellow manufacturers. To participate or learn more, please contact us at contact@mfgcouncilie.com.

For Coming Events - [Click Here!](#)

Upcoming Events

Manufacturers - Garner Holt Productions Tour

Save the Date - Thursday, January 29, 2026- 9:00 a.m. Redlands, CA

You don't want to miss this local gem.

If you haven't toured Garner Holt Productions yet, you should see what the Inland Empire can manufacture with a little imagination!



They have created and manufactured the animatronics for some of the world's largest amusement parks, restaurants, hotels and more all over the world. While you are there, you will learn more about their Education Through Imagination manufacturing programs and Ani-Maker Spaces!

Visit: [Events – MCIE](#) for all upcoming events
contact@mfgcouncilie.com to be added to the R.S.V.P list. – Manufacturers are prioritized, all others will be waitlisted for this tour.

Golf Tournaments



Join us in fueling the next generation of manufacturing talent! Celebrate, connect, and make an impact.

Don't Miss Out — Secure Your Foursome and Sponsorship Today!

Sponsorship Opportunities: Lock in your 2026 sponsorship now and **Make Your Company Part of the Story** — while helping to advance manufacturing across the Inland Empire.

A portion of the proceeds directly funds scholarships for students pursuing manufacturing careers through technical trade schools, apprenticeships, and career pathway programs.

Register Here:

[June 1, 2026 – 3rd Annual Manufacturing Charity Golf Event](#)

[October 26, 2026 – 1st Annual Southern Inland Empire Manufacturing Golf Classic](#)

This is more than golf—it's about investing in the next generation of skilled workers who will power the future of our industry.

Donate Now for Scholarships

The Manufacturers' Council, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is asking for your support to help fund scholarships for students pursuing industry certifications in manufacturing and technical trades. Your donation equips local talent with the skills employers urgently need, strengthens the regional workforce, and creates life-changing career opportunities.

A contribution today delivers immediate impact—helping students succeed and ensuring a stronger future for Inland Empire manufacturing.

Donate Now

How to Make Millions with AI

By Bryant Baek

Before AI became popular, a US-based manufacturer of petroleum products sought out to make millions of dollars by using AI. And it worked.

At a west coast processing plant that manufactures petroleum products, it was already well-known that there was too much waste in the manufacturing process. They spent millions of dollars a year in the purchase of raw materials to make their goods. The problem was that the chemical qualities of the raw materials would vary unpredictably depending on where they came from and the time of year. One wrong purchase of raw materials with lower quality than they expected would seriously hurt their profit margins because then they would make smaller quantities of product to sell. Sadly, this happened on a regular basis.

To read how they solved this problem, [click here](#).

New Member Welcome

Bettercast

Bettercast AI is an end-to-end AI solutions provider. Our solutions for manufacturers are wide ranging. We have virtual sensors that replace physical sensors. We optimize supply chains. We forecast demand to reduce working capital and improve procurement decisions. We automate data cleansing and other tedious processes.

And we improve product qualities and accelerate R&D time. If you want a rank ordered list of AI projects to pursue based on highest ROI to your business, we provide advisory services to give you this road map as a starting point.

Learn more at www.bettercast.ai

Email: bryant@bettercast.ai

Manufacturing Market Summary

Scale: Manufacturing in the Inland Empire supports roughly 92,000 jobs as of August 2025, within a regional economy of about \$257 billion in GDP (2023). [FRED+1](#)

Share of economy: Manufacturing accounts for ~7–9% of employment, similar to the state overall, but the sector has grown faster than California and the U.S. over the last decade from a lower base. [Welcome to San Bernardino County+1](#)

Structure: More than 4,300 “advanced manufacturing” businesses operate in Riverside & San Bernardino counties, including aerospace, food & beverage, metals, plastics, and medical devices. [Ready Career Education](#)

Current cycle (late 2025):

- Employment level is historically high (~92k jobs), but short-term indicators are softening: the regional PMI fell to 46.2 (contraction) in August 2025 after strong expansion earlier in the year. [CSU San Bernardino+1](#)
- Regional unemployment has ticked up to ~5.3% (June 2025) and the IE has recently lost jobs month-over-month. [IEGO+1](#)

Outlook: Most 2026 forecasts call for weak overall growth (≈0.5–0.8% regional GDP), but manufacturing is expected to keep adding jobs modestly, particularly in food, metals, machinery, and selected tech-adjacent segments. [KESQ+1](#)

Bottom line: Manufacturing remains a critical, relatively high-wage base for the Inland Empire. The near-term environment is choppy (soft orders, higher input costs), but medium-term fundamentals—location, logistics infrastructure, industrial space, and re-industrialization policy—are favorable for firms that move up the value chain.

Ready to make a difference?

Join the Manufacturers’ Council – Be Part of the Movement Shaping the Future of Manufacturing in the Inland Empire

Become a Member Today at <https://mfgcouncilie.com/membership>

Since 2005, the Manufacturers’ Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) has supported a thriving manufacturing economy by securing over \$50 million in workforce training, production innovation, and industry growth.

With nearly 95,000 manufacturing jobs in our region and continued growth projected in 2026, MCIE is committed to building a skilled, sustainable workforce and shifting public perception about the importance of manufacturing in our community.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, MCIE connects manufacturers with education, workforce programs, and regional resources, while promoting career pathways for the next generation of talent. Now is the time to get involved. Become a member and help drive real impact.

[READ MORE](#)

Sponsorship Opportunities

As you begin planning your 2026 marketing and community engagement budgets, we invite you to consider partnering with us as a **Yearly Sponsor** for our upcoming events and initiatives for the year.

The MCIE is proud to host a variety of impactful events that bring together business leaders, community members, and changemakers across the region. Sponsorship provides a unique opportunity to:

- Build brand awareness
- Connect with targeted audiences
- Align with meaningful causes and business development efforts
- Gain year-round visibility across digital and in-person platforms

Upcoming 2026 Opportunities Include: Visit the MCIE events page here for all events.

Events – MCIE

Included are sponsorship packages to fit a range of goals and budgets—including early visibility opportunities for companies who commit now.

View Packages | Download Flyer

For questions and to move forward with sponsorship, please contact Sarah Johnson, Events Operations Director at sjohnson@mfgcouncilie.com | (253) 880-2333

Thank you for your continued support of our mission—we look forward to collaborating with you in the year ahead.

Economy and Regulations:

- (Dec 16) –In November, the US economy added 64,000 jobs, beating economist forecasts. October numbers were restated at a 105,000 net loss of jobs, indicating overall increased pressure on the jobs market overall this winter. The unemployment rate rose to 4.6% from 4.4%. Job gains occurred in Construction, Retail, Professional Services, Health, and Education. Job losses

occurred in Logistics, Warehousing, and Federal Employment. (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

- (Dec 10) – The Federal Open Markets Committee met again on December 9-10, and announced a 25 bps cut to the overnight lending rate, bringing the targeted range to between 3.5% and 3.75%, making this the third rate cut the body has approved during the year. Meanwhile, inflation metrics for November were announced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with inflation constant at 3.0%. (Federal Reserve, Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- (Nov 17) – Governor Newsom announces nearly \$100M to accelerate California’s manufacturing industry and drive job creation through CalCompetes program to nine California manufacturers, including three with locations in Southern California: Hadrian Automation, True Anomaly, and Color Image Apparel. (Office of the Governor)
- (Dec 16) – Is the Inland Empire actually America’s North Pole? Find out in our all-new December blog feature on the many ways our manufacturers shape the holiday season for many Americans and consumers worldwide. How many of the things in your stockings have a connection to the IE? Read more here! (Manufacturers’ Council of the Inland Empire)
- (Dec 16) – The U.S. energy storage industry continues to mount impressive year-on-year growth, according to a quarterly report from Wood Mackenzie and the American Clean Power Association (ACP). In Q3 2025, over 5.3 GW of energy storage was installed nationwide. Third-quarter installations increased 31% year-over-year. Q2 2025 remains the record quarter for deployments, with deployments decreasing in Q3 by 6% quarter-over-quarter. (PV Magazine)

Have a profitable new year!

Molly

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