

Brian Lantz
7254 Roos Road
Houston, Texas 77074
832-725-1621
brianlantz.substack.com

Some Notes:

New Manufacturing & Jobs Coming to Houston and Harris County

Houston is building big, as a result of the Trump administration's initiatives. Local officials and Republicans should be looking into the potentials of this and other new job creation. Every new manufacturing facility additionally requires local supply chains.

It would be important to look now at advancing collaborative workforce training. What do these new facilities need in terms of a workforce? How can we best prepare a new, young Houston workforce going forward?

The new production facilities in the Houston area, operated by Foxconn in partnership with Apple and NVIDIA for AI servers and supercomputers, are estimated to employ approximately 600 people directly. Apple's plans are more broadly discussed as adding "thousands" of jobs. New supply chain capacity will also be required in the Houston area to meet the needs of these companies, and so the expansion will go beyond direct employment with NVIDIA, Foxconn and Apple.

What follows is some of the new potentials of what the Great Houston Partnership calls a "Manufacturing Renaissance."

ENERGY

Houston metro's peak demand for electricity could increase 10 gigawatts by the end of 2031, according to CenterPoint's recent forecast. This is a lot of electricity! One gigawatt is equivalent to one nuclear power plant; it can power approximately 250,000 Texas homes during peak demand periods. So, as reported, the Houston metro region could ramp up its electricity use over the next seven years more than it did over the last 25 years.

CenterPoint's expected increase in demand is primarily aware of increased demand from refineries, as well as the expansion of the Medical Center. However another feature would be the expansion of new manufacturing -- Nvidia, Microsoft, etc -- in the region.

Centerpoint of course only delivers power to businesses and households, it does not produce power, so it is concerned with having the grid capacity to handle that increase. ***However those power plants will have to be built by people!***

"... Houston also continues to be the economic engine driving Texas as we've seen requests for new connections grow by nearly 7GW or 20% since the end of January alone. This only strengthens our conviction in the robust economic outlook for the region and the capital investment increase we announced today," said Jason Wells, President & CEO of CenterPoint.

<https://investors.centerpointenergy.com/static-files/5ee29808-3c2f-4577-ac56-6cdeb76a5683>

NRG - Has received up to a \$216M state loan, to construct new natural gas units at Houston power plant:

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/energy-environment/2025/08/06/528002/nrg-energy-receives-up-to-216m-state-loan-to-construct-two-houston-natural-gas-facilities/>

Nationally, NRG has broader, big plans, building and buying:

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/energy-environment/2025/03/05/515340/nrg-energy-announces-plans-for-4-new-natural-gas-plants-to-power-a-i/>

<https://www.enr.com/articles/60376-nrg-ge-vernova-and-kiewit-will-build-5-gw-of-power-plants-for-data-centers>

<https://ktrh.iheart.com/featured/houston-texas-news/content/2025-05-13-nrg-energy-makes-major-purchase-aimed-at-boosting-their-generation/>

Apple -- Greater Houston Partnership on Apple investment:

<https://www.houston.org/news/apples-major-investment-cements-houston-leading-us-manufacturing-and-tech-hub/>

"Part of a \$500 billion national investment, the new 250,000-square-foot facility will bring AI-driven manufacturing to Houston, reshoring critical operations from overseas."

As Greater Houston Partnership otherwise notes:

"Houston is home to over 7,000 manufacturers, producing more than \$75.1 billion in goods annually. Houston ranks as the second top U.S. metro for manufacturing GDP, solidifying its reputation as a leader in industrial production."

Foxconn Big Investment, from *Freightwaves* coverage:

<https://www.freightwaves.com/news/tech-giant-foxconn-creating-600-jobs-with-450m-houston-investment>

"Taiwan-based tech company [Foxconn](#) has acquired the Fairbanks Logistics Park, an industrial property situated on 100 acres in northwest Houston.

"The seller, Dalfen Industrial, announced in a [news release](#) on Thursday that the site includes four buildings totaling 1 million square feet of industrial space.

"Foxconn is reportedly investing \$450 million in the property to build an AI server manufacturing facility, according to the Greater Houston Partnership, the largest chamber of commerce in the Houston area.

"...Foxconn's purchase of the Fairbanks Logistics Park arrives in conjunction with [Apple Inc.](#) and [Nvidia Corp.](#) recently announcing new production facilities in the area. Foxconn supplies high-tech components for both firms."

[publicized dollar amounts of NVIDIA and Foxconn investments may overlap. See next article.]

On NVIDIA, which will produce its "AI supercomputers" with the Foxconn facility in Houston - from *Channel 39* coverage:

<https://cw39.com/news/technology/houston-in-500-billion-nvidia-plan-to-build-ai-supercomputers/>

"HOUSTON (KIAH) — The space city is now stepping into the future once again. Houston is stepping into the future of technology as [NVIDIA announced Monday](#), its plans to manufacture its cutting-edge "AI supercomputers" right here in Texas, with [Foxconn](#) setting up its Taiwanese electronics operations right here in Houston. Texas Governor Greg Abbott is welcoming the opportunity on behalf of the state.

"This is the first time NVIDIA will build its AI infrastructure entirely in the United States, and Houston is playing a key role as the location of choice for the technology group...

"This is the first time NVIDIA will build its AI infrastructure entirely in the United States, and Houston is playing a key role as the location of choice for the technology group. Partnering with top global manufacturers, NVIDIA is launching new facilities that will produce the powerful Blackwell AI chips and the supercomputers that run them.

"Production has already begun in Phoenix, Arizona with chip manufacturing by semiconductor company, TSMC, but Texas is where the supercomputers will come to life...."

Tesla -- Brookshire Plant - from KHOU coverage

New plant in Brookshire, TX was announced, to build battery packs on big scale, like Lathrop, CA plant. Tesla plans to invest more than \$150-200 million in a new "Megafactory" in Brookshire that will bring 1500 manufacturing jobs to the area.

<https://www.khou.com/article/money/business/houston-business-journal/tesla-houston-facility/285-d9d0a722-92d1-4ba3-b5b3-637f75b0bdf8>

"Houston Manufacturing Renaissance"

(Note: Greater Houston Partnership is the 'chamber of commerce'-style booster organization for Houston businesses. All the big corporations are members of it.)

<https://www.houston.org/news/houstons-manufacturing-renaissance-why-tech-giants-are-betting-big-bayou-city/>

"...Before Silicon Valley became synonymous with the tech boom, there was Compaq. In the 1980s and '90s, the Houston-based company helped revolutionize personal computing, turning the region into a hub for high-tech production long before it became a national trend.

"Hewlett-Packard and Texas Instruments also maintained a significant presence in the region during that era. But as manufacturing policies and global economic dynamics shifted production overseas, Houston's momentum in tech manufacturing slowed.

"Now, as the global manufacturing landscape shifts toward advanced technologies like AI systems, robotics, energy storage and digital infrastructure, some of the world's most prominent [names in tech](#) are turning their attention back to Houston.

"...As global companies re-evaluate supply chains, the question isn't just where to build – but where to build smart. Houston offers the full package: scalable infrastructure, a strong supply chain ecosystem and a skilled workforce ready for next-gen production.

"With nearly [240,000 manufacturing workers](#), Houston has one of the most diverse and capable labor pools in the nation – strengthened by industry-aligned training programs at local colleges and new outcomes-based funding under Texas House Bill 8.

"Innovation hubs, like The Ion District, accelerate the pace from idea to market, while Houston's logistics network – home to the nation's busiest port for foreign tonnage and two international airports – ensure global connectivity.

"Add pro-business policies, available land and lower costs than coastal hubs, and Houston stands out as one of the fastest, smartest places to grow..."

City of Houston Seeking State and Federal Aid Right Now

Mayor Whitmire has been engaged in negotiations to trade Houston water supplies for state help in city water infrastructure. Again, major employment will be required to bring Houston's infrastructure up to next-generation standards.

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/city-of-houston/2025/02/17/513986/houston-public-works-seeks-15-billion-for-new-water-plant-wastewater-improvements/>

From article:

The department is also subject to an [ongoing consent decree](#) with state and federal environmental regulatory agencies, requiring the city to spend approximately \$9 billion on improvements to its wastewater system through 2036. As of August, the department had spent \$1 billion and estimated the work prevented more than 600 sewage overflows across the city.

In addition to the multi-billion-dollar investment in the water plant and wastewater improvements, the department is asking for \$480 million to address leaking water pipes. According to Eyerly, the city lost 32 billion gallons last year — enough to supply the population of Fort Worth.

The \$480 million would accelerate the rate of repairs, targeting 6% of pipes that account for more than 60% of the city's water loss.

"We want to fix the worst first," Eyerly explained.

Because of the steep price tags facing the city, officials are looking for financial assistance from the state and federal governments. Earlier this year, [Mayor John Whitmire's office confirmed he was in talks with Gov. Greg Abbott to sell Houston's water](#) to the state for use in parched West Texas. The proposal drew skepticism from experts as the region [faces a projected shortfall](#) in water supply by 2030.

Skilled Workforce Programs

Federal -- Apprenticeship.gov -- Texas offices, Dallas, TX

Lester "Lee" Price

State Director

USDOL/ETA/OA

Federal Building, Room 406

525 S. Griffith Street

Dallas, TX 75202

Tel: (972) 850-4693

Troy Johnson, Texas Office of Apprenticeship

johnson.troy@dol.gov 525 S. Griffin St. Suite 406 Dallas, TX 75202

State of Texas - Governor's Office

Governor Greg Abbott is advocating for increased career training in Texas schools to better prepare students for the workforce immediately after high school. In his 2025 State of the State address, Abbott emphasized the importance of trade jobs, highlighting careers such as welding, plumbing, and electrical work as some of the most in-demand positions. "That's why I am making life-changing career training an emergency item."

Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office

<https://gov.texas.gov/business>

Texas Workforce Investment Council - (Also interfaces with federal government)

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/twic>

The Council is also charged with the administration of a statewide system of industry-defined and industry-recognized skill standards for major skilled, sub-baccalaureate occupations with strong employment and earnings opportunities.

Texas Workforce Commission

Certified Apprenticeship Programs

"Registered Apprenticeships are like real jobs. They are a way to learn a special skill while getting paid to work. You learn from experienced workers and also take classes related to your job. It's a great way to become skilled in a specific occupation!"

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/services/job-training/find-apprenticeships>

<https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-job-finder>

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Part of **Texas Association of Workforce Boards**: "Representing the 28 local workforce development boards in Texas and more than 750 of the business, education and community leaders

who serve on those boards, TAWB's mission is to ensure a highly skilled, well-trained talent supply for Texas employers and an employer-driven workforce system."

<https://www.wrksolutions.com/about-us/strategic-plan>

Greater Houston Partnership

UpSkill Houston "brings together employers, educators, and community partners to strengthen the region's talent pipeline." The program collaborates with community colleges, school districts, and "training providers" to ensure that programs are aligned with workforce needs. Focused on careers that require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. Intention is to help workers gain in-demand skills and connects them to good-paying jobs in fields like energy, health care, advanced manufacturing, and construction. UpSkill Houston also equips employers with tools to implement skills-first hiring and talent development strategies.

<https://www.houston.org/upskillhouston/>

Rafael "Rafa" Alvarez, Regional Workforce Development, SVP Regional Workforce Development

e: ralvarez@houston.org p: [713.844.3602](tel:713.844.3602)

City of Houston - Office of Economic Development, Gwendolyn Tillotson-Bell

City of Houston - Office of Business Opportunity, Cylenthia Hoyrd

Houston Community College - Apprenticeship Hub

<https://www.hccs.edu/continuing-education/gulf-coast-region-apprenticeship-hub/apprenticeship-hub-for-career-seekers/>

The Apprenticeship Hub is **recognized by the U.S Department of Labor** to administer registered apprenticeships, meaning that students' skill progression is tracked, they are assigned a mentor and they are paid, according to the release. The Hub works with industry partners from across the region.

Houston Community College has been awarded a \$282,000 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission to expand its apprenticeship programs in plumbing, sheet metal work and electrical technology:

<https://communityimpact.com/houston/bellaire-meyerland-west-university/education/2025/04/11/houston-community-college-secures-282k-grant-for-apprenticeships/>

Houston Community College - Material Science & Smart Manufacturing

Dr. Violeta Vazquez, Interim Dean, Material Science & Smart Manufacturing

LaTosha Scott, Student Information Representative
Material Science & Smart Manufacturing
Latosha.Scott@hccs.edu 718.718.5133

6815 Rustic St, Houston, TX 77087

Hours of Operation: Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm [713.718.7966](tel:713.718.7966)

<https://www.hccs.edu/centers/material-science--smart-manufacturing/>

Houston Community College - Southeast College

HCC Southeast College Felix Fraga Academic Campus STEM facility opened in 2018

Program offerings will include engineering, maritime logistics, drafting, astronomy, math, physics, and transfer classes. The building will also be the future home of the HCC Challenger Learning Center.

Houston Community College - Stafford Workforce Building

Advanced Manufacturing Center for Excellence & fablab

<https://communityimpact.com/education/2016/09/07/hcc-opens-new-stafford-campus-workforce-building/>

<https://www.hccs.edu/locations/southwest-college/stafford-campus/-fabrication-and-innovation-lab/>

Houston Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Council & Gulf Coast Built-Rite Partnership

Building Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARPs)

"Building Trades ARPs are designed to prepare young people and transitioning adults to enter and succeed in registered apprenticeship programs, which are gateways to good middle-class jobs in the US construction industry." New manufacturing, supply chain, and energy demands means more construction work in the Houston Metro Region.

<https://houstonconstructioncareers.com/>

<https://www.hgcbctc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ARP-Program-Description.pdf>

Lone Star College - Workforce Training

Continuing Education consists of fast track certificates or courses to quickly train students for a high-demand job. Programs focus on the key technical and behavioral skills needed in the targeted occupation. Each certificate program includes either industry-recognized certification, State or National occupational accreditation. Classes are offered, day, evening, hybrid, weekend, and online. A variety of certificates in Continuing Education can be completed in 6 months or less.

<https://www.lonestar.edu/workforce-training.htm>

Harris County -- Apprenticeship Advantage Apprenticeship Advantage This is a "targeted investment" that aims to enhance the skills of the local workforce and meet the region's labor demands to ensure the resilience of Harris County. "...**Harris County is working with vendors to create and expand opportunities for the US Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs)** in traditional and high-growth emerging industries within the county such as construction, public transportation, technology and live entertainment industries. The initiative specifically targets increasing access to apprenticeship opportunities for groups traditionally underrepresented in apprenticeship..."
