



Topic Hub: Aerospace Subsection : Background and Overview

There are many different aerospace products classified under the six aerospace SIC codes. The aerospace industry operations are often classified as either military or commercial and as either original equipment manufacturers (OEM) or rework. Most aerospace facilities specialize in either military or commercial and either rework or OEM. OEM facilities might do both military and commercial work, and likewise for rework facilities.

The aerospace industry consists of manufacturers of aircraft, aircraft engines, aircraft parts, guided missiles and space vehicles, and guided missile and space vehicle propulsion units and parts.

Many of the parts used by aerospace manufacturers are made by other industry sectors such as the plastics and rubber industry, the fabricated metal industry, the metal casting industry, the glass industry, the textile industry, and the electronic components industry. Manufacturing and assembling of complete units in the aerospace industry typically involves prime contractors and several tiers of subcontractors, as follows:

- Prime Contractors - Design (develop) and assemble or manufacture complete units.
- First Tier Subcontractors - Do major assembly and/or manufacture of sections of air/space craft without designing or assembling complete units.
- Second Tier Subcontractors - Make various subassemblies and sections.
- Third Tier Subcontractors - Produce machined components and sub-assemblies.
- Fourth Tier Subcontractors - Specialize in the production of particular components and in specific processes.

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