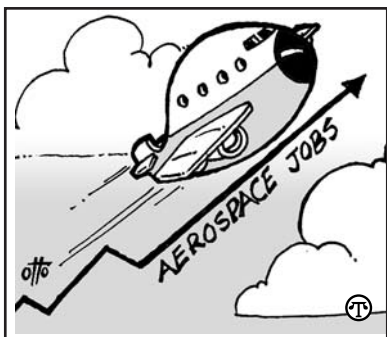


Understanding Our Economy

Aerospace Hits A High

(NAPSA)—Good news for the economy, as well as job seekers, is that aerospace sales have hit record highs as the industry's three main sectors—civil aircraft, defense and space—all showed strength. The industry, which is vitally important to national security, not only adds jobs, it provides a positive foreign trade balance of \$37 billion.



Aerospace employment continues its climb, adding a projected 30,900 jobs in 2005.

According to the Aerospace Industries Association, the outlook for next year is solid, calling for 8.2 percent growth to \$184 billion. In fact, aerospace is one of the few manufacturing sectors of the economy that consistently shows a foreign trade surplus.

Civil aircraft sales—including commercial jets, general aviation aircraft, helicopters, engines and parts—led all sectors, increasing their sales by 20 percent.

Aerospace employment continued its climb, adding 30,900 jobs last year to reach 623,900. Since 2004, aerospace accounted for one of every three manufacturing jobs added nationwide. To learn more, visit www.aia-aerospace.org.