



Overview of General Aviation in Kansas

General aviation is essential to the people and economy of Kansas, especially in small, rural areas with little or no commercial airline service. GA is also vital to many businesses (many non-aviation businesses) in Kansas, which use aircraft to move personnel, equipment, and products or use it for agricultural purposes.

Economic Impact

Aviation in the state creates an economic impact of \$10.4 billion annually.

Airports

Kansas has 138 public-use airports, of which 132 are general aviation airports. Approximately 92% of Kansas population lives within a 45 minute drive of a commercial service or regional airport; and, 99% of them live within 30 minutes of a public-use airport.

Nearly 90% of Kansas live within 30 minutes of an airport that meets air ambulance needs. Air ambulance operators provide daily transport by airplane and helicopter to nearly 200 hospitals across Kansas. Countless lives have been saved, especially those in rural areas through the availability to transfer patients to regional trauma centers within the golden hour of care.

Aviation Businesses

Kansas farmers can attribute \$1.2B in crop value to agricultural applicators. They apply pesticides to crops without negatively impacting yield as ground rigs can to certain crops. Agricultural pilots are also used to respond quickly to outbreaks of plant disease or infestation.

Wichita is the Air Capital of the World. Over 70% of the world's GA fleet is manufactured in Kansas since the dawn of flight. More aircraft have been manufactured in Wichita than any other city in the world. Kansas aerospace manufacturing accounts for \$7B in economic impact and 32,000 jobs. It is the largest industry in Kansas and generates \$2.9B from exports on an annual basis. Three of the top five largest employers in Kansas are in the aviation industry. Approximately 53% of Wichita's manufacturing employment is related to aviation/aerospace industry.

Kansas is home to many key aviation companies, including Cessna, Beechcraft, Bombardier Learjet, and Spirit AeroSystems. The state is also home to more than 100 FAA repair stations, several fixed based operators (FBOs), at least 10 flying clubs, and several other flight schools. In addition, Mueller's Aerospace and Engineering Magnet School, Northeast Magnet HS, and Wichita Area Technical College's (WATC) National Center for Aviation Training have aviation-focused programs for elementary and H.S. students respectively. Central Christian College of Kansas, Hesston College, J H Aviation, Kansas State University at Salina, KC Copters, and the Wichita Area Technical College have aviation collegiate programs.

Jobs

Kansas has over 48,000 aviation-dependent jobs with an annual payroll of \$2.3 billion as well as approximately 7,000 pilots and 5,900 aircraft.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)

AOPA is the world's largest aviation organization representing 4,000 of our members in the state of Kansas.

Yasmina Platt, Central Southwest Regional Manager

yasmina.platt@aopa.org, 301-695-2096