



THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF

La Belle

Municipal Airport (X14)

Aviation's **Benefit for Florida**

Florida's economic well-being is intrinsically entwined with its vibrant airport system and its robust aviation industry. The aviation system in Florida allows the state to capitalize on an increasingly global marketplace. Aviation in Florida both sustains and leads economic growth and development. Airports in Florida are important economic engines, and support vital health, welfare, emergency, and safety-related services.

Florida's system of commercial service and general aviation airports are important to businesses throughout the state. Air travel is essential to tourism, Florida's number one industry. Protecting and investing in airports throughout Florida will support the aviation industry and the economic benefits described in this report. With continued support, Florida's dynamic aviation system will continue to provide a significant economic return in the years to come.



**Florida Department of Transportation
Aviation Office**
www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation



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Florida's Statewide Benefits from Aviation

La Belle Municipal Airport

Florida realizes significant annual economic benefits from aviation. The Florida Department of Transportation completed a comprehensive economic impact analysis to measure these benefits. Benefits measured in the FDOT study considered direct and indirect economic impacts and induced impacts that result from the multiplier effect. A summary of Florida's annual economic benefits from aviation follows:



Impact Category	Total Employment	Total Payroll	Total Output
Airports	158,861	\$7,752,561,600	\$28,793,238,700
Visitors Arriving by Air	753,353	\$19,315,252,400	\$59,178,047,200
Construction at Airports	25,321	\$1,041,077,200	\$2,858,791,800
Air Cargo	69,256	\$3,054,598,800	\$6,596,812,200
Aviation Education	6,977	\$201,195,400	\$573,188,000
Military Aviation	116,860	\$5,855,976,400	\$10,797,219,600
Aviation Businesses	35,986	\$1,255,264,800	\$5,321,292,400
Federal Aviation Administration	4,545	\$318,215,600	\$617,783,700
Total Annual Economic Benefits	1,171,159	\$38,794,142,200	\$114,736,373,600

Total annual economic output shown above represents more than 15 percent of Florida's gross state product (GSP). Many employers in Florida also rely on aviation to support their daily activities. Use of aviation helps to improve business efficiency. The FDOT study shows that, annually, by using all facets of air transportation, the efficiency of Florida businesses is increased by an estimated \$94.5 billion. This increased business efficiency is in addition to the total annual economic benefits noted above.

Located in Hendry County, approximately 30 miles northeast of Fort Myers, La Belle Municipal Airport serves a variety of general aviation activities. With its single 5,254-foot runway, the airport can accommodate multi-engine small general aviation business jet aircraft. The airport's terminal is ideal for serving local users as well as those visiting the area.

Aside from Hendry County, which manages the airport and provides fixed base operator (FBO) services, Vernon Conly Air Service, an aircraft maintenance business, is the only tenant located at La Belle Municipal Airport. Recreational/sport operations are a large component of the airport's activity, followed by flight training and corporate/business operations. Local businesses that use the airport include agriculture and fishing companies based in southwest Florida.

The annual economic impact of La Belle Municipal Airport is associated with direct impacts that come from its tenant located at the airport and construction projects that are undertaken by the airport or its tenant. Indirect impacts are associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area via general aviation aircraft. The airport's total annual economic impact follows:

