



**Benefits of a General Aviation Airport\***  
**compiled by Pavlik and Associates for the City of Ennis**  
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**General Aviation is all civil aviation activity other than that of commercial airlines; including business aviation, law enforcement flying, agricultural application, recreational aviation, air medical services, freight and package delivery, and more.**

- A General Aviation (GA) Airport is an essential community asset. Key economic benefits include:
  - **Economic Multiplier Effect:** Business aircraft travel to and from local airports across the country every day, bringing marketing, professional, technical service and support staffers efficiently and quickly to their destination. These individuals, in turn, spend money in the local economy by staying in local hotels and eating at nearby restaurants, creating the economic “multiplier effect” in the area.
  - **Competitive Advantage:** Airports help keep existing employers in a community and attract new ones to a region because companies value the transportation and competitive business advantages offered by GA airports. Business developers look for ready access to air transportation when they make decisions on where to locate new operations and facilities.
  - **Essential Access:** The ability to move people and goods quickly to and from airports has tangible benefits for everyone, not just air travelers. Overnight mail and package delivery, the transport of fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers and more to locations that would not otherwise have that access, all would not be possible without an airport nearby.
- **A GA airport allows a city to offer and enjoy expanded services that raise the quality of life in the area, including:**
  - **Lifesaving Services:** Emergency medical services and air ambulance operators provide critically ill or injured people with timely access to specialized medical treatment through airlift operations, organ transports and more. Volunteer “Angel Flights” regularly transport sick patients to distant medical facilities for treatment.



- **Law Enforcement Services:** Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies use hundreds of airplanes and helicopters to search, apprehend and transport criminals, protect borders, and provide aerial security.
- **Agricultural Services:** Agricultural aircraft operators treat crops and sow seeds via aerial application.
- **Recreational Benefits:** Airports play an important role in recreation by providing easy access to vacation and resort destinations, helping generate significant tourism income. Thousands of Americans fly their own airplanes for pleasure as well as business, positively impacting the local economy.
- **Other general benefits of a GA airport include:**
  - **Increased greenspace**
  - **Increased entertainment opportunities** for the community (sightseeing tours during Bluebonnet season, airshows, and for-pleasure flight training)
  - **Increased security.** All those involved with the conduct of a flight – pilots, maintenance technicians, dispatchers, aircraft manufacturers, based aircraft operators at an airport, flight departments that manage the flight operations, air traffic controllers and many more – are all operating in accordance with FAA regulations that govern everything from the altitude at which planes can fly, to the frequency that aircraft must be inspected and overhauled. GA airports are safe, secure facilities.
  - **Increased aviation industrial development.**
- **General Aviation and Environmental Stewardship:**
  - Aircraft manufacturers have significantly reduced the noise of aircraft over the years. Many manufacturers of both airplanes and helicopters have also developed “quiet flying” procedures for their particular aircraft to minimize their noise footprint.
  - New technologies continue to improve engines, making today’s aircraft engines cleaner, quieter and more fuel-efficient than ever. The fuel efficiency of business aircraft has improved 40 percent over the past 40 years.



## GA in Texas

- Due to the state’s geography, Texas communities are often linked more effectively by air than by ground. “Thousands of Texans rely on the aviation industry for employment,” former Texas Governor Rick Perry wrote in his 2012 proclamation. “General aviation and related activities generated \$14.6 billion in direct, indirect and induced economic activity in the state of Texas.”
- A 2014 study conducted by the National Business Aviation Association counted 61,000 Texas GA jobs.
- A study conducted in 2010 by the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) calculated the labor income GA activities in Texas to be over \$3.1 billion.
- The City of Ennis has seen economic benefits from Ennis Municipal Airport. According to a TXDOT report, Ennis Municipal had an output of over \$600 thousand and a labor income of almost \$300 thousand in 2010.

- Texas also has been ranked the most business-friendly state by several publications, including *Forbes* magazine, in part because of the state's well-developed network of nearly 400 community airports.
- Capital spending on aviation related activities (for airport construction and other projects) has generated \$4.7 billion in new economic activity, supported over 37,000 job-years of employment, and boosted labor income by \$1.8 billion in 2010.

### **Business Aviation (A Subset of General Aviation)**

**Business aviation is use of GA aircraft for business purposes.** Although some business aviation aircraft can fly 20 or more people nonstop between international business centers (for example, from New York to Tokyo), the vast majority of business aircraft hold no more than six people in a cabin roughly the size of a standard SUV and fly average trips of less than 1,000 miles. They facilitate business with their flexibility in scheduling and are equipped with phones and internet access.

- Small companies operate the majority of business aircraft. Most companies (59 percent) operating business aircraft have fewer than 500 employees, and seven in 10 have less than 1,000 employees. Only about 3 percent of U.S. business aircraft are flown by *Fortune* 500 companies.
- Most business aviation flights involve time-critical trips by sales, technical and middle management employees, not trips by top executives. This is why flexibility in scheduling is crucial for companies who compete in today's marketplace that demands speed, flexibility, efficiency and productivity.



**Business aviation provides an essential transportation link – a lifeline – between smaller companies and communities and the rest of the world.**

Business aviation allows companies to:

- Save employee time.
- Increase traveler productivity, safety and security en route.
- Reach multiple destinations quickly and efficiently.
- Access communities with little or no airline service.
- Operate predictable schedules.
- Support the travel needs of many types of company employees.
- Move vital equipment.
- Exercise management control over scheduling.
- Minimize non-business hours away from home.
- Provide a return to share-holders. Studies have confirmed that companies that use business aviation to solve their transportation challenges return more to shareholders than companies in the same industry that do not utilize business aviation.

- Charge the entrepreneurial spirit. By minimizing or eliminating many of the barriers to travel, business aircraft enable companies to quickly respond to business opportunities.
- Support humanitarian and charity efforts.

#### **Business aviation means jobs for communities.**

- As of 2015, business aviation contributes \$150 billion annually to the U.S. economy.
- The industry employs more than 1.2 million people in the U.S.
- The majority of the world's business aircraft are operated, serviced and maintained in the U.S., creating numerous jobs in every state.

#### **Business aviation strengthens communities.**

- Most business aircraft flights are made into secondary airports or airports with infrequent or no scheduled airline service.
- The more than 5,000 U.S. public-use airports that serve towns both large and small are also engines for local economies, making them important community assets.
- The airports in small communities also support flights for vital services, including organ transplants, patient transport, emergency rescue, law enforcement, firefighting, postal delivery and other missions.

#### **Business Aviation Safety**

- Business aviation has achieved a safety record that is comparable to that of the major airlines.
- Besides complying with stringent government safety and security regulations, business aircraft operators participate in a variety of voluntary programs designed to enhance safety and security.
- Numerous federal officials, including the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security, have found that general aviation “does not present a serious homeland security vulnerability.”



#### **Business Aviation Environmental Stewardship**

- General aviation aircraft, including those used for business aviation, account for just 0.6 percent of U.S. transportation carbon emissions and a mere 0.2 percent of total global greenhouse gas emissions.
- The industry continues to reduce engine emissions by applying new technologies, which means that today's aircraft engines are cleaner, quieter and more fuel-efficient than ever.
- Operational improvements advanced by business aviation also have resulted in National Airspace System efficiencies that help the environment.

\*The National Business Aviation Association is the source for the information in this economic impact report. More information can be found at [www.nbaa.org](http://www.nbaa.org).