

TEXAS

AEROSPACE, AVIATION & DEFENSE INDUSTRY

Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning II

Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office | Office of the Governor

Texas is a leading global player in the aerospace, aviation and defense arena. The state is an epicenter for industry activity—from aircraft and component manufacturing, aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul to aerospace research and flight training, military aircraft development and space exploration. As home to the headquarters of two international airlines and two of the world's busiest airports, as well as major fixed-base operators, the state is a key location for the largest global aviation companies.

Thanks to a highly trained and specialized workforce, Texas is a leader in aerospace manufacturing and continues to be selected for major relocation and expansion projects. Additionally, Texas ranks #1 on PwC's latest Aerospace Manufacturing Attractiveness Rankings Report, which ranks states based on a number of factors, including cost, economy, geopolitical risk, infrastructure, labor, industry and tax policy.

Texas has a long history in aerospace industry dominance and remains on the cutting edge of new developments and technologies. More than 50 years ago, NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) was established in Houston. Since its inception, JSC has helped our nation achieve monumental breakthroughs in human space exploration. Today, Texas is home to state-of-the-art test sites for multiple commercial space firms and is leading the country towards the new frontier of aerospace and aviation innovation.



Lockheed Martin's assembly plant in Fort Worth, Texas, builds F-35 Joint Strike Fighters. (Photo: International Trade Administration)



A DIVERSE AND GROWING WORKFORCE:

Texas' aerospace, aviation and civilian defense labor force is one of the largest in the nation. The industry directly employs more than 150,000 Texas workers and the state is home to more than 2,000 establishments.



EDUCATED TALENT POOL:

Aerospace and aviation education in Texas is supported by an extensive network of higher education institutions around the state. Between 2018 and 2022, Texas universities produced more than 56,700 aerospace and aviation-related graduates.



15 ACTIVE MILITARY BASES: Texas is home to 15 active military installations and the Army Futures Command headquarters. These operations contributed at least \$151.2 billion to the Texas economy and \$89 billion in gross domestic product in 2023.



LEADER IN AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING:

Of the 19 Fortune 1000 aerospace and defense companies in 2024, 16 of those have operations in Texas. All eight of the Fortune 500 aerospace and defense companies have operations in Texas. In fact, Texas ranks #3 in the nation for aerospace product and part manufacturing firms and #3 for exports—valued at \$11.13 billion.



MAJOR AIRPORT ACTIVITY: The state boasts 26 commercial airports, including two of the world's busiest (Dallas' DFW and Houston's IAH), and six of the nation's top 50. Not to mention, Texas is home to headquarters for Southwest Airlines and American Airlines, and a major hub for United Airlines.

AEROSPACE, AVIATION & DEFENSE EMPLOYMENT IN TEXAS

Sector (Industry Code)	Firms	Employees	Average Annual Wage
Aerospace product & parts manufacturing (NAICS 3364)	301	48,255	\$126,721
Air transportation (NAICS 481)	581	73,305	\$116,775
Support activities for air transportation (NAICS 4881)	907	27,919	\$72,307
Satellite telecommunications (NAICS 5174)	63	886	\$128,905
Flight training (NAICS 611512)	193	3,965	\$89,497
TOTAL:	2,045	154,330	\$111,209 (Weighted Average)



THE CUTTING EDGE OF AEROSPACE

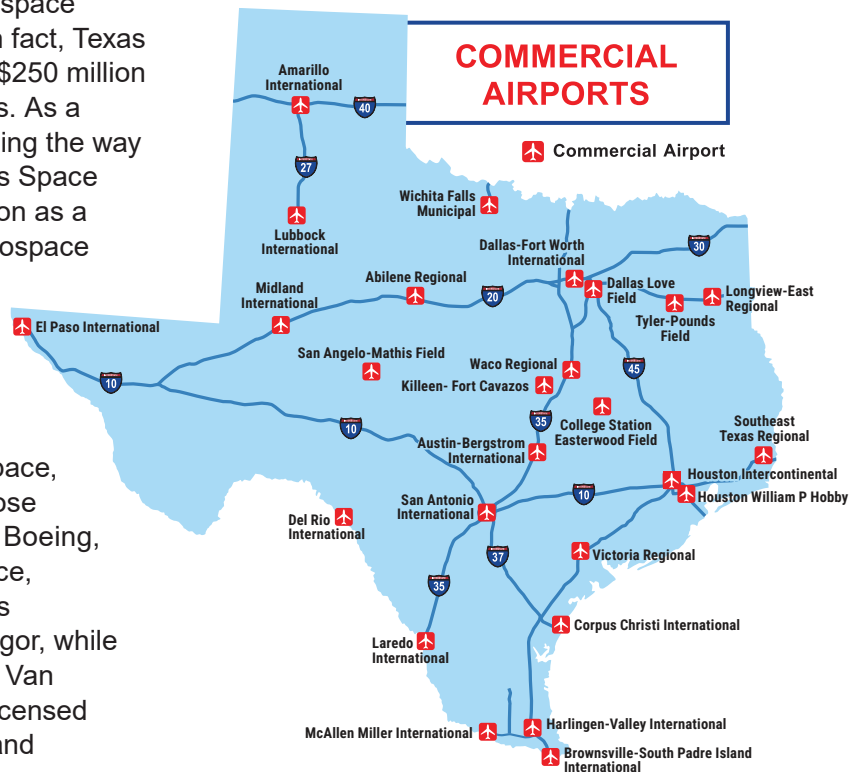
INNOVATION: Texas is focused on aerospace technology research and development. In fact, Texas public universities have spent more than \$250 million on aerospace-related research in the last five years. As a launchpad for new technologies, Texas is also leading the way in urban air mobility R&D. In March 2024, the Texas Space Commission was launched to cement Texas' position as a national leader in civil, commercial and military aerospace activity by promoting innovation in the fields of space exploration, research, development and commercial aerospace opportunities.



AVIATION & DEFENSE LEADERS

CHOOSE TEXAS: Leaders in aerospace, aviation and defense continue to choose Texas for major operations, including Boeing,

Bell, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Firefly Aerospace, L3Harris and General Dynamics. SpaceX operates commercial launch sites in Boca Chica and McGregor, while Blue Origin conducts space tourism launches from Van Horn. Not to mention, Texas is home to two FAA-licensed spaceports—the Houston Spaceport and the Midland International Air and Space Port.



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM OFFICE

The Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office (EDT) serves as the state's leading economic development organization marketing Texas as the world's premier business investment destination. The Office pursues business expansion and relocation prospects, with the goal of developing job creation and export opportunities for the Texas business community.

gov.texas.gov/business



@TexasEconDev

P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711
512.936.0100