



ST. LOUIS REGIONAL FREIGHTWAY

# TAKE FLIGHT

FORUM

November 8, 2023



ST LOUIS REGIONAL  
FREIGHTWAY



BI-STATE  
DEVELOPMENT

# TAKE FLIGHT FORUM

Mapping the St. Louis Region's Aerospace  
Manufacturing and Aviation Ecosystem

November 8, 2023

**St. Louis Regional Freightway's second annual Take Flight Forum** reunites the directors of the five busiest airports in the bi-state area and convenes an impressive panel featuring representatives of some of the region's most significant aerospace manufacturing and service companies. While the inaugural event last year highlighted the collective annual economic impact of the airports and their tenants, which support an estimated 36,500 jobs across the St. Louis region, our deeper dive into the region's aerospace manufacturing and service ecosystem reveals its regional and national significance.

With a rich history deeply rooted in aviation innovation and production, the bi-state region is home to 49 aerospace manufacturing businesses that combined account for nearly 17,300 employees. With recent expansion announcements by Boeing Aerospace Company and Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, that number will grow an estimated five percent in the coming years as almost 1,000 new jobs are added.

An additional 312,814 individuals are employed in industries secondary, tertiary or supportive to aerospace manufacturing here, further illustrating the vital role of this ecosystem. With a location quotient of 3.82, aerospace manufacturing is more than 2.5 times more concentrated in the St. Louis region compared to the national average, and our aerospace manufacturing workers are five percent more productive.

These factors are driving continued investments, with an estimated \$5 billion in projects planned over the next five to 10 years by the airports and their major tenants. Those investments create additional job opportunities in our region as demand grows for construction workers to deliver the new facilities; skilled tradesmen to help build, maintain and repair aircraft and their components; airport operations personnel; and the many positions in other industries impacted by the ripple effects of this growth.

# FEATURED PANELISTS



**RHONDA HAMM-NIEBRUEGGE**  
Executive Director, St. Louis Lambert International Airport

Rhonda has been the Executive Director of St. Louis Lambert International Airport (STL) since January 2010. The airport is the primary air carrier facility for the St. Louis region serving more than 15.9 million passengers annually. She is also Chairwoman of the 17-member St. Louis Airport Commission. Prior to STL, Rhonda logged more than 25 years in aviation management positions with American Airlines, Trans World Airlines (TWA) and Ozark Air Lines. A majority of her career has been based in St. Louis, Missouri.



**SANDRA SHORE, A.A.E.**  
Director, St. Louis Downtown Airport

Sandra became Airport Director for St. Louis Downtown Airport (KCPS) in February 2022. She is responsible for the employees and operations of KCPS and managing the real estate and economic development opportunities of the busiest airport in Illinois outside of Chicago. She previously served four years as Airport Director at Quincy Regional Airport in Quincy, Illinois, and before that was the airport manager at Floyd W. Jones Lebanon Airport in Lebanon, Missouri. Sandra's expertise ranges from general aviation and fixed-based operations to Part 139 certified air service airports.



**DARREN JAMES**  
Interim Director, MidAmerica St. Louis Airport

Interim Director of MidAmerica St. Louis Airport since August 2023, Darren is responsible for management, development, planning and community relations for the airport, which operates under a Joint Use Agreement with Scott Air Force Base. Darren directs projects related to air service expansion, business and land use development, strategic business planning and tenant relations. He has more than three decades of leadership experience in global aviation operations and National Security. A retired 1-star General, he completed a distinguished, 30-year career in the United States Air Force in 2020. His background also includes forming a business consulting LLC.



**DANIEL ADAMS, A.A.E.**  
Director, St. Louis Regional Airport

A St. Louis native, Daniel took over as Airport Director for St. Louis Regional Airport located in East Alton, Illinois, in April 2022. In this capacity, Daniel oversees daily operations and planning, and leads future growth and development efforts at the general aviation airport, home to West Star Aviation's operations in the St. Louis region. He previously held jobs at St. Louis Downtown Airport and Augusta Regional Airport and, most recently, at the Columbus Regional Airport Authority.



**JOHN BALES**  
Director, Spirit of St. Louis Airport

John joined Spirit of St. Louis Airport in 1994 as Assistant Director of Aviation and ultimately advanced to his current position in 2007, when he became only the second Director of Aviation for St. Louis County. His primary responsibilities include the administration, marketing, development and operation of the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, the busiest business general aviation airport in the FAA Central Region. John began his aviation career at St. Louis Lambert International Airport as an Airport Operations Specialist and currently serves as a commissioner on that airport's board.



**MARY LAMIE, Moderator**  
Executive Vice President of Multimodal Enterprises, Bi-State Development

As Executive Vice President of Multimodal Enterprises for Bi-State Development (BSD), Mary oversees the management and operations of several Bi-State Development enterprises: St. Louis Downtown Airport, Gateway Arch trams, Riverboats at the Gateway Arch and the St. Louis Regional Freightway. She is a professional engineer with more than 25 years of experience in transportation, engineering and management, including 22 years with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

# FEATURED PANELISTS



**RANDELL E. GELZER**  
Senior Director, Government Operations  
The Boeing Company

Randell joined Boeing in 2005 and currently serves as Senior Director of State and Local Government Operations for the global aerospace company's Central/Southwest Region. In this role, he is responsible for connecting elected officials and community leaders in nine different states with Boeing's business operations. Prior to his current position, Randell served as director of A-10 Programs at Boeing, supporting the U.S. Air Force fleet of A-10 aircraft based and deployed around the world. Before joining Boeing, Randell gained manufacturing management experience at both LMI Aerospace and GKN Aerospace. Prior to beginning his career in aerospace, Randell served in the U.S. Army as a Field Artillery Officer in the 3rd Infantry Division from 1995-2000. He earned his bachelor's degree in systems engineering from the United States Military Academy, and his MBA from Saint Louis University's John Cook School of Business.



**JASON NOLL**  
Director of Sales and Marketing  
AVMATS

Jason has a passion for aeronautics. With more than 20 years' experience as a mechanic and pilot, he has spent his entire professional career in corporate service support. He currently serves as Director of Sales and Marketing for AVMATS — a small, family-owned aerospace company with operations in Missouri and Illinois that provides parts, components, airframe and engine support services to midsize jet operators. In this role, Jason is responsible for connecting operators with the company's service offerings while working to develop strategies that improve sales pipelines. Prior to joining AVMATS, he previously served as director of marketing, service quote analyst and as an airframe mechanic at other firms in the aviation industry.



**BRIAN BAUWENS**  
General Manager – East Alton and  
St. Louis Downtown Airport sites  
West Star Aviation

As General Manager, Brian oversees all of aspects of West Star Aviation's East Alton and St. Louis Downtown Airport sites, including day-to-day operations, planning and project management, quality control and building maintenance. Before being promoted to his current position in 2022, he served four years as Director of Bombardier Product Development and two years as Global Program Manager with West Star Aviation, which has roots dating back to 1952. Brian has more than 30 years' experience in the aviation industry, with extensive knowledge of both production and maintenance operations and a vast understanding of interiors and completions. Brian received his FAA Airframe and Powerplant License in 1996 through OJT and Baker's School of Aeronautics.



**ANTHONY "TONY" RAY**  
Vice President and General Manager  
St. Louis Completions  
Gulfstream Aerospace Corp.

Tony has been an employee of the GD Aerospace Division for 18 years serving in roles with both Gulfstream Aerospace and Jet Aviation. From his early years in operations, manufacturing engineering and project management — supporting both Completions back shops and Installation teams — to his more recent ever increasing customer support and operational roles, Tony has continuously assumed greater responsibilities. Tony began his career in aviation following his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He served as a U.S. Army officer and pilot flying the UH-60 Blackhawk both at home and abroad. His last tour of duty was in Afghanistan 2009-2010 with the Army Reserves while working full time for Gulfstream in Savannah, GA.



## BOEING AEROSPACE COMPANY

Boeing St. Louis is Missouri's largest manufacturer and sixth largest employer, with a staff of more than 16,000. Employees work at three facilities in the St. Louis region: St. Louis, St. Charles, Mo. and Mascoutah, Ill. Serving as the headquarters of Boeing's Air Dominance division, Boeing produces a number of military aircraft and weapons systems locally including the F/A-18 Super Hornet, EA-18G Growler, F-15 Eagle, eT-7A Red Hawk, MQ-25 Stingray, Joint Direct Attack Munition, Harpoon missile and Small Diameter Bomb. Additionally, the St. Louis Composite Center of Excellence manufactures composite parts for the Boeing 777X commercial aircraft. Boeing Air Dominance encompasses a portfolio of strike-fighters, advanced flight trainers, unmanned aerial refueling aircraft, and is also responsible for the modernization and modification of several U.S. Department of Defense and international aircraft programs.

Boeing Global Services delivers complete, cost-competitive service solutions for commercial, defense and space customers, regardless of their equipment's original manufacturer. With engineering, digital analytics, supply chain and training support spanning across both the government and commercial service offerings, Boeing Global Services is uniquely positioned to keep passengers flying and nations safe.



Additionally, Boeing St. Louis is the home of Phantom Works, the division that addresses emerging market opportunities to capture vital new business that will enhance BDS' core and extend the company's presence in new and untraditional frontiers. By partnering with Boeing Research and Technology, Phantom Works leverages enterprise-wide innovation and concept development to rapidly prototype and apply these new technologies to affordably meet customers' needs.





## GULFSTREAM AEROSPACE CORP.

Inspired by the belief that aviation could fuel business growth, Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. invented the first purpose-built business aircraft, the Gulfstream I, which first flew in 1958. Today, more than 3,000 aircraft are in service around the world. Together with parent company General Dynamics, Gulfstream consistently invests in the future, dedicating resources to researching and developing innovative new aircraft, technologies and services. With a fleet that includes the super-midsize Gulfstream G280, the high-performing Gulfstream G650 and Gulfstream G650ER, and a next-generation family of aircraft including the all-new Gulfstream G400, the award-winning Gulfstream G500 and Gulfstream G600, the flagship Gulfstream G700 and the ultralong-range Gulfstream G800, Gulfstream offers an aircraft for every mission. All are backed by Gulfstream's Customer Support network and its worldwide team.

The Gulfstream St. Louis Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facility, at the St. Louis Downtown Airport, has been owned and operated since 2017. This site offers a dedicated hangar and service team to support the entire line of in-production and legacy mid-cabin aircraft.

In June 2023, Gulfstream announced further expansion of its completions and outfitting operations at St. Louis Downtown Airport. With this latest expansion, Gulfstream will increase completions operations at the site while modernizing its existing spaces by adding new, state-of-the-art equipment and tooling, representing a total capital investment of \$28.5 million. The facility will include greater capacity for exterior aircraft painting, furniture installations and avionics integrations, among other work, that will enable full aircraft completion and customer deliveries directly from the St. Louis facility. Once complete, this expansion will bring Gulfstream's total St. Louis footprint to 642,657 square feet/59,705 square meters.

Today, more than 500 employees work at Gulfstream St. Louis.





## AVMATS

AVMATS is a trusted provider of parts and services for Challenger, Falcon, Hawker, Gulfstream, Learjet, and Sabreliner aircraft. The company's capabilities include parts sales, maintenance, interiors, avionics, components, accessories, structures, engines, auxiliary power units, and aircraft sales.

Today, the AVMATS family of companies occupies more than ten acres spread over four physical locations in the greater St. Louis area. Between Spirit of St. Louis Airport and MidAmerica St. Louis Airport, the company operates 91,000 square feet of hangar and attached shops. Three locations in O'Fallon, Missouri, combine to make up more than 100,000 square feet of warehouse facilities, 20,000 square feet of dedicated component and accessory overhaul space, and 42,000 square feet of engine, APU, and machine shop space. The company employs just over 200 people with a wide variety of abilities. AVMATS highly

skilled staff specializes in flight structure repair, airframe maintenance, interior refurbishment, avionics modification, component servicing, as well as turbine engine or APU repair and overhaul. Parts specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing customers with round-the-clock support.

With an emphasis on quality, technical accuracy, and competitive prices, AVMATS has created a loyal customer base spanning decades. After more than 45 years, they remain a St. Louis-based, family-owned and operated business dedicated to providing the best value and top-notch service to their clients. In addition, by adopting a no-frills approach, they have been able to explore new avenues to serve customers and expand their "Total Aircraft Support" concept. This philosophy has created a company sure to continue its success well into the future.





## WEST STAR AVIATION - ALN

West Star Aviation - ALN is a full-service, fixed-base operator (FBO) conveniently located at St. Louis Regional Airport in East Alton, Ill. It is at this location that West Star specializes in the maintenance, repair and refurbishment of multiple aircraft, including the Cessna Citation, Dassault Falcon, Bombardier Challenger and Global Express models, and aircraft manufactured by Gulfstream and Embraer.

The company currently occupies ten buildings at the airport, totaling more than 403,000 square feet of office, shop and hangar space, and maintains more than 200,000 square feet of ramp space. In July 2023, West Star broke ground on a new expansion project – Hangar 67 – that will expand its Alton facility by an additional 75,700 square feet.

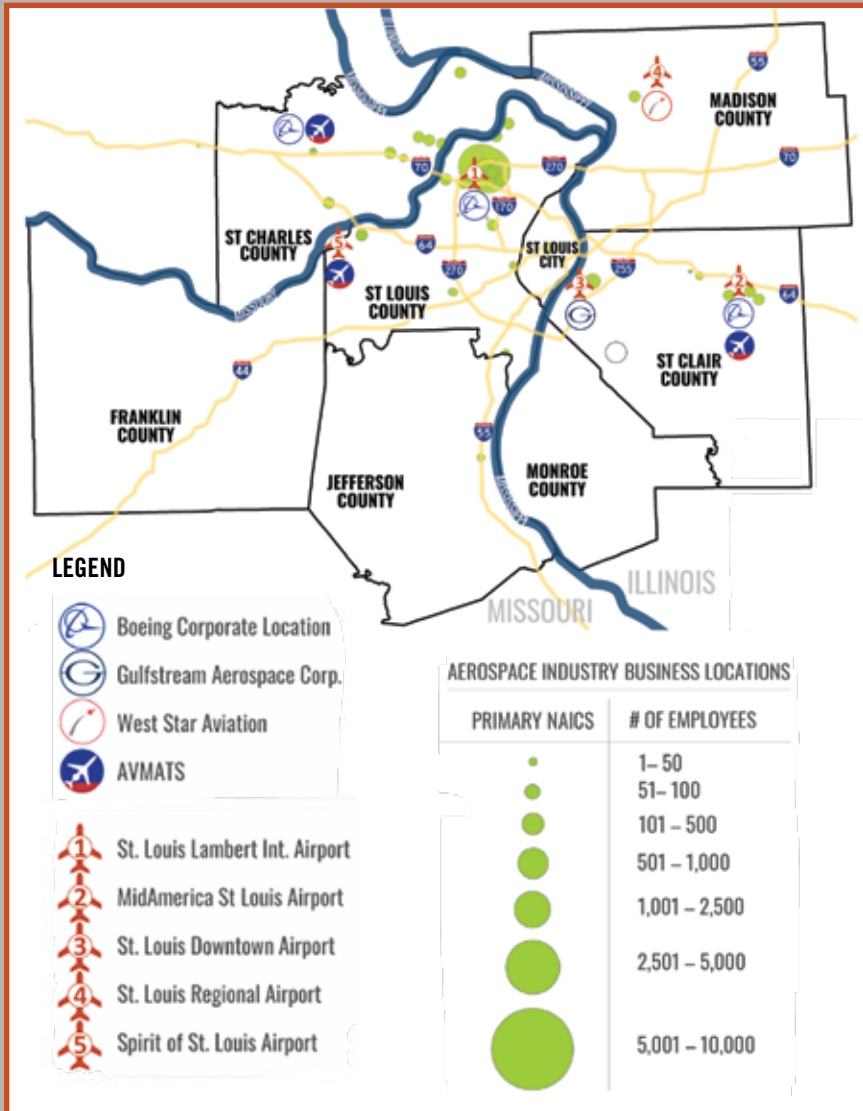
The company, originally named Walston Aviation, was established in 1947 at its current East Alton location and changed its name to Premier Air Center in 1986. In late 2004, Premier Air Center acquired West Star Aviation and operated under a dual name before renaming to West Star Aviation in 2007. The East Alton facility, which is an FAA-certified Repair Station, had held European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) approval since October 2004 and was approved to work on Brazilian registered aircraft by the Agência Nacional de Aviação Civil (ANAC) in July 2018.

West Star Aviation - ALN currently employs just over 600 individuals and has been awarded the AMT Diamond Award of Excellence for its East Alton facility.



# AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING

## PRIMARY AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING – BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE



## PRIMARY AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE

- 49 Aerospace Manufacturing Businesses
- 18,259 primary Aerospace Manufacturing employees\* (NAICS 3364: Aerospace Product and Parts Manufacturing)
- Regional employment within Aerospace Manufacturing grew by 1.7% in the last 10 years compared to only 0.2% in the entire U.S.
- **When Boeing and Gulfstream's announced job expansions are fully staffed, the overall employment in the core aerospace manufacturing companies will have grown by more than 5% since 2016\*\***



PHOTO CREDIT: BOEING

\*Total job numbers include additional employment expansion announcements by Boeing and Gulfstream

Source: JobsEQ®, <http://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq>; DatabaseUSA; \*\*Job numbers compared to "Defense Adjustment and Advanced Manufacturing" report completed in May 2016 for the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

# AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING

## EXPANSION ECONOMICS

**ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE BI-STATE REGION FOR ADDING 990 JOBS WITHIN THE AEROSPACE PRODUCT AND PARTS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY:**

	Direct	Indirect	Induced	Total Ripple
Employment	990 Jobs	169 Jobs	644 Jobs	1,803 Jobs
Sales / Output	\$441MM	\$58MM	\$157MM	\$656MM
Compensation	\$158MM	\$21MM	\$47MM	\$226MM

## BIGGEST RIPPLE EFFECTS – BY INDUSTRY

- Impacts in other manufacturing industries total an additional 106 indirect jobs and 32 induced jobs with a total ripple impact of over \$52MM
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals will add a total of 44 ripple jobs
- Managing Offices will add a total of 37 ripple jobs
- Restaurants will add a total of 64 ripple jobs

## INDIRECT IMPACT

The jobs and sales/output created or lost by regional companies supplying goods and services to the new or newly expanded industry.

## INDUCED IMPACT

The jobs and sales/output created or lost when new employees from the new or expanded firm spend their wages at local establishments.

### EXPANSION IMPACTS



**BOEING**  
Boeing, Missouri's largest employer, has announced plans to invest \$2 Billion at its facilities in St. Louis County, Mo., and St. Clair County, Ill., creating an additional 650 jobs in the region.

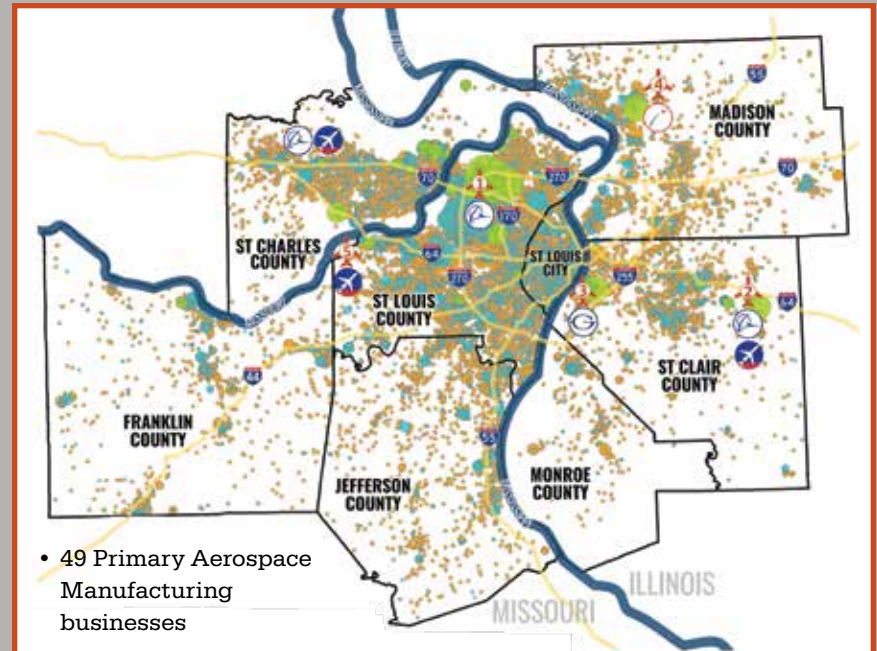


**Gulfstream**

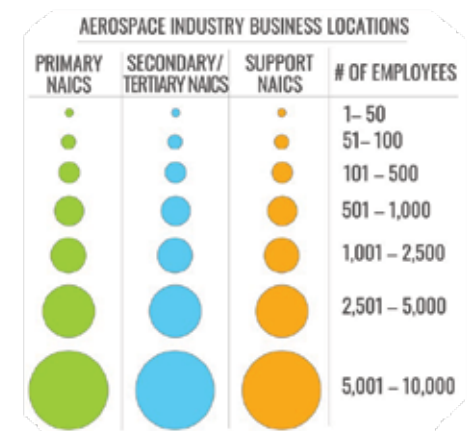
Gulfstream Aerospace has announced plans to invest \$28.5 Million in its facility at St. Louis Downtown Airport in St. Clair County, which will bring 200 new jobs.

# AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING

## SECONDARY, TERTIARY, SUPPORTING SECTORS: BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE



- 49 Primary Aerospace Manufacturing businesses
- 2,088 businesses within the Secondary and Tertiary industry classifications
- 15,127 businesses within the Supportive classifications
- 17,264 total businesses within the Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, and Supportive sectors to Aerospace Manufacturing
- 312,814 Secondary, Tertiary, and Supportive employees, which includes 100 new jobs coming to West Star Aviation.





# AEROSPACE MANUFACTURING

## NAICS CODE CLASSIFICATIONS

### AEROSPACE CORE: JOBS 18,409

#### AEROSPACE PRODUCT AND PARTS MANUFACTURING — NAICS CODE 3364

### SECONDARY AND TERTIARY CODES: JOBS 49,918

Code	Description
3255	Paint, Coating, and Adhesive Mfg.
3261	Plastics Product Mfg.
3314	Nonferrous Metal (except Aluminum) Prod. and Processing
3321	Forging and Stamping
3323	Architectural and Structural Metals Mfg.
3326	Spring and Wire Product Manufacturing
3327	Machine Shops; Turned Product; Screw, Nut, and Bolt Mfg.
3328	Coating, Engraving, Heat Treating, and Allied Activities
3329	Other Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.
3332	Industrial Machinery Mfg.
3335	Metalworking Machinery Mfg.
3344	Semiconductor and Other Electronic Component Mfg.
3345	Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, and Control Instruments Mfg.
3369	Other Transportation Equipment Manufacturing
4235	Metal and Mineral (except Petroleum) Merchant Wholesalers
4236	Household Appliances and Electrical/Electronic Goods Wholesalers
5415	Computer Systems Design and Related Services
5417	Scientific Research and Development Services

PHOTO CREDIT: AVMATs



## SUPPORTIVE INDUSTRIES CODES: JOBS 262,896

Code	Description	Code	Description
2211	Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Dist.	3366	Ship and Boat Building
2212	Natural Gas Dist.	4231	Motor Vehicle and Parts and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers
2213	Water, Sewage and Other Systems	4237	Hardware/Plumbing/Heating Eq. and Supplies Wholesalers
2361	Residential Building Constr.	4238	Machinery, Equipment, and Supplies Merchant Wholesalers
2362	Nonresidential Building Constr.	4245	Farm Product Raw Material Merchant Wholesalers
2371	Utility System Constr.	4247	Petroleum and Petroleum Products Merchant Wholesalers
2372	L and Subdivision	4441	Building Material and Supplies Dealers
2373	Highway, Street, and Bridge Constr.	4881	Support Activities for Air Transportation
2379	Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Constr.	4884	Support Activities for Road Transportation
2381	Foundation, Structure, and Bldg Exterior Contractors	4931	Warehousing and Storage
2382	Building Equipment Contractors	5413	Architectural, Engineering, and Related Serv.
2383	Building Finishing Contractors	5414	Specialized Design Services
2389	Other Specialty Trade Contractors	5416	Management, Scientific, and Technical Consulting Serv.
3141	Textile Furnishings Mills	5611	Office Administrative Services
3149	Other Textile Product Mills	5612	Facilities Support Services
3151	Apparel Knitting Mills	5613	Employment Services
3152	Cut and Sew Apparel Mfg.	5614	Business Support Services
3159	Apparel Accessories and Other Apparel Mfg.	5615	Travel Arrangement and Reservation Serv.
3161	Leather and Hide Tanning and Finishing	5616	Investigation and Security Services
3162	Footwear Manufacturing	5617	Services to Buildings and Dwellings
3169	Other Leather and Allied Product Mfg.	5619	Other Support Services
3231	Printing and Related Support Activities	8113	Comm. and Ind. Machinery and Eq. Repair and Maint.
3251	Basic Chemical Manufacturing		
3252	Resin, Synthetic Rubber, and Artf./Syn. Fibers and Filaments Mfg.		
3253	Pesticide, Fertilizer, and Other Agricultural Chemical Mfg.		
3254	Pharmaceutical and Medicine Mfg.		
3255	Paint, Coating, and Adhesive Mfg.		
3256	Soap, Cleaning Compound, and Toilet Prep. Mfg.		
3259	Other Chemical Product and Preparation Mfg.		
3329	Other Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.		
3333	Commercial and Service Industry Machinery Mfg.		
3336	Engine, Turbine, and Power Transmission Eq. Mfg.		
3341	Computer and Peripheral Equipment Mfg.		
3353	Electrical Equipment Mfg.		

- **331,073 total jobs** within the Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, and Supportive sectors to Aerospace Manufacturing

- **Competitive Advantage:** The region has a concentration in Metalworking Machinery Manufacturing and Nonferrous Metal Production and Processing\* with LOs of 2.2 and 3.0 respectively, providing an industry competitive advantage

Codes Source: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS); Aerospace Core Jobs include JobsEQ/Chmura data and job additions from Boeing and Gulfstream expansions

# ST. LOUIS REGION'S FIVE BUSIEST AIRPORTS







## ST. LOUIS LAMBERT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (STL)

The primary commercial airport providing scheduled air service for the bi-state St. Louis region, St. Louis Lambert International Airport (STL) is the largest and busiest airport in Missouri. Hosting operations of 12 airlines with Southwest Airlines offering the most daily flights, it served 15.9 million passengers in calendar year (CY) 2019 and was ranked as the 33rd busiest airport nationwide in terms of total passengers by the Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA). The airport also handled 197 million pounds of air cargo in 2021. With all this activity, the airport generates significant business revenues, jobs, and incomes as an economic hub.

In June of 2022, STL added direct international service to Frankfurt, Germany, marking the first time in nearly two decades that the airport offers non-stop flights to continental Europe. Many St. Louis businesses have an international reach,

so this direct connection to Europe is a crucial step in growing the region and making it easier to do business here. In 2020, the airport also added livestock as a new source of air cargo.

In May of 2023, St. Louis Lambert International Airport received initial federal approval for an estimated \$2.8 billion plan to consolidate its two terminals into one new, single passenger concourse and replace the parking garage with a larger one. Federal Aviation Administration approval is contingent to environmental approval and lease agreement negotiations with airlines. Once completed, architectural designs could start in 2024.



[flystl.com](https://flystl.com)



## ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN AIRPORT (KCPS)

Located just minutes from downtown St. Louis and the Gateway Arch in Cahokia Heights and Sauget, Illinois, St. Louis Downtown Airport (KCPS) is positioned as the St. Louis region's downtown front door for business aviation. An FAA-designated reliever airport, KCPS is the busiest general aviation airport in Illinois outside of Chicago due to its strategic location. KCPS contributed more than \$422 million in economic impact for the region in 2019, according to the latest study released in 2021 by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

The airport supports significant activity from recreational and business flying to flight instruction from Saint Louis University's Oliver L. Park Department of Aviation Science, the nation's oldest flight school, along with Ideal Aviation and St. Louis Flight Training. In addition to several aircraft and helicopter maintenance organizations, one of the largest maintenance, repair, and overhaul organizations, Gulfstream Aerospace, is a tenant. Additional activities include government operations, military training, real estate tours, medical transport, aerospace technology research, and glider flying.

The airport is a major employer, contributing to more than 1,522 full-time and part-time jobs in the region. A planned expansion announced by Gulfstream this past summer will boost that number by an estimated 200 positions, on top of the 140 new positions the company announced in 2022. To support Gulfstream and other aircraft maintenance providers, construction was completed in 2023 on a new Ground Engine Run-Up and Compass Calibration Pad. This project supports existing and future high-tech aerospace manufacturing jobs at the airport by improving production safety, reliability and efficiency.

Owned and operated by Bi-State Development, KCPS is a premier option for safe, convenient, and private air service in the St. Louis region offering easy aircraft access to three runways, pilot amenities and a robust variety of world-class Fixed Base Operator (FBO) services provided by Jet Aviation.





## MIDAMERICA ST. LOUIS AIRPORT (BLV)

MidAmerica St. Louis Airport, a commercial service airport located in St. Clair County, Illinois, is a \$3.1 billion economic engine for the bi-state St. Louis region. The airport is a joint-use military/civilian facility including MidAmerica St. Louis Airport and Scott Air Force Base (SAFB) and is governed by the St. Clair County Public Building Commission. In addition to significant air carrier activity, BLV sees regular usage for corporate/business, military, air cargo operations, aerospace manufacturing, and aerospace technology research. The facility accounts for 23,442 jobs between the operations at the airport, SAFB and the various tenants onsite.

BLV is located in Mascoutah, Illinois, in the eastern portion of the St. Louis metropolitan area, where it enjoys easy access to five interstate highways via I-64. Low-cost passenger service to a dozen different destinations is offered by Allegiant. The airport has an annual capacity of 200,000 operations. Significant tenants include Boeing, North American Helicopter and North Bay Produce.



Boeing announced in 2021, it would be investing \$200 million in a new manufacturing facility totaling approximately 300,000 square-foot at MidAmerica. Scheduled for completion in 2024, it initially will employ approximately 150 mechanics, engineers and support staff who will build the MQ-25 Stingray, the Navy's first operational, carrier-based unmanned aircraft.

Construction was recently completed on the \$34 million expansion of the terminal at MidAmerica St. Louis Airport and the \$37 million Taxiway Lima project to serve the Boeing expansion and other future tenants. Construction is also underway on the \$96 million MetroLink extension from Scott Air Force Base to MidAmerica St. Louis Airport, which will serve both passengers and tenants at the airport.



[flymidamerica.com](http://flymidamerica.com)



## ST. LOUIS REGIONAL AIRPORT (ALN)

At the crossroads of major interstate and Illinois highways, St. Louis Regional Airport is centered on 2,300 acres in flourishing southwestern Illinois only thirty minutes from downtown St. Louis. This general aviation airport provides more than 1,500 jobs and has an annual economic impact of \$480 million, serving a diverse clientele from private aviators to Fortune 500 companies, the U.S. military, and regional aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul customers.

Its role as an economic engine for the region is largely driven by tenant West Star Aviation, which has nearly 600 employees on site and is expanding. West Star Aviation has ranked as the top maintenance, repair and overhaul services provider for eight consecutive years in an annual survey compiled for *Professional Pilot* magazine.

With West Star serving as the airport's Fixed Base Operator (FBO), pilots can expect prompt fueling, quality maintenance, aircraft rental and a full-service pilot's lounge. Pilots also appreciate the fast, tower-guided approach to St. Louis

Regional with wide, long runways able to accommodate aircraft as large as a C-5A or Boeing 747. Around the clock security, firefighting and rescue capabilities rank St. Louis Regional with large hub airports in readiness.

The airport has several sites totaling more than 600 acres available for future development and is focused on facility improvements. This includes a \$5.5 million runway rehabilitation project completed in September 2023 and an ongoing \$18 million investment from West Star Aviation. Additional fuel facility improvements, parking lot rehabilitations, and apron construction projects are in the near future.

St. Louis Regional also hosts an annual Fly-in and Car Show event for families, featuring an assortment of modern Cessna, Piper and Beach aircraft, a number of ultra-lights, several helicopters, and, occasionally, even historic planes and specialty aircraft.



[stlouisregional.com](http://stlouisregional.com)





## SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS AIRPORT (SUS)

Spirit of St. Louis Airport is the busiest business aviation airport in the FAA Central Region and is consistently second or third busiest of all airports in the region and one of the highest rated when it comes to FAA Annual 139 Air Carrier Certification Inspections.

Spirit is the Business Aviation Center of the Midwest and, as one of five Ports of Entry in Missouri, clears more than 330 international arrivals per year. As one of the busiest airports in the region, only behind STL, Spirit has nearly 155,000 operations per year.

A self-supporting Enterprise Fund of St. Louis County Government, Spirit has strong reserves and receives no taxpayer dollars from the General Revenue Fund. It also gives back to community through the Spirit of St. Louis Air Show, supporting STEM education and our veterans. The airport also is proud to be a partner in the Red Tail Cadet Program, which offers young people from Ferguson, MO, the opportunity to learn to fly and gain other valuable life experiences at Spirit.



[spiritairport.com](http://spiritairport.com)

## EVENT HOST ST. LOUIS REGIONAL FREIGHTWAY

A Bi-State Development enterprise, the St. Louis Regional Freightway is a regional freight district and comprehensive authority for freight operations and opportunities within eight counties in southwestern Illinois and eastern Missouri which comprise the St. Louis metropolitan area. Public sector and private industry businesses are partnering with the St. Louis Regional Freightway to establish the bi-state region as one of the premier multimodal freight hubs and distribution centers in the United States through marketing and advocacy for infrastructure development that supports the movement of freight.

The St. Louis Regional Freightway hosts the annual FreightWeekSTL each May to spotlight the latest freight industry trends and innovations while highlighting the global access available from the St. Louis bi-state region. The organization also compiles an annual list of priority projects that represent the infrastructure needs of the manufacturing and logistics industries in the eastern Missouri and southwestern Illinois area. The St. Louis Regional Freightway's 2024 Priority Projects List includes 26 projects, totaling \$7.2B (including \$2.8B for the new airport terminal at St. Louis Lambert International Airport).

One of the most significant advancements on the list is the 2022 completion of the \$222 million replacement of the Merchants Bridge connecting Missouri and Illinois near Downtown St. Louis. It had been the region's highest priority infrastructure project since 2016 and is a model for public-private partnerships. More than \$1 billion in funded projects on I-270 and \$403 million in funded improvements to I-70, represent other landmark investments in the region's freight network, including some that will benefit the region's airports.

The airports are a key component of the region's freight network, helping to move diverse types of cargo and/or providing commercial and private aviation flight options for the executives of major manufacturers and other corporations in the logistics and supply chain arena.

Please contact Mary Lamie at 314-982-1562 or [MCLamie@thefreightway.com](mailto:MCLamie@thefreightway.com) for more details or visit [TheFreightway.com](http://TheFreightway.com).



**I-270 IMPROVEMENTS  
FROM I-70 (MO) TO  
RTE. 157 (IL)**



**MERCHANTS BRIDGE (TRRA)  
REPLACEMENT, COMPLETED 2022**



**MULTI-MODEL EXPANSION,  
MADISON YARD, VENICE, ILLINOIS**





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