The Economic Impact of the U.S. Aerospace and Aviation Industry

The Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry commissioned a study to examine the economic impact of the aerospace and aviation industry at the national, state, and local level. This report provides comprehensive and objective statistics on the U.S. aerospace and aviation industry.

*The U.S. Aerospace and Aviation Industry: A State-by-State Analysis* shows the economic importance of the aerospace and aviation industry on the U.S. economy using such key indicators as employment and wages. The first section of this report also includes an analysis of what the aerospace and aviation industry means for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The second section of the report gives objective, comparative economic data for the top ten aerospace and aviation metropolitan areas in the United States. These top aerospace and aviation metropolitan areas include Atlanta, Boston, Los Angeles, and Seattle.

**Key U.S. Aerospace and Aviation Industry Findings**

More than 2 million workers are directly employed by the nation’s civilian and commercial aerospace and aviation industry, based on the U.S. government data analyzed in the report, *The U.S. Aerospace and Aviation Industry: A State-by-State Analysis*. These employees earned an average wage of $47,700 annually, or 35 percent more than the U.S. average.

Other key U.S. findings contained in the report include:

- U.S. aerospace and aviation industry employment jumped by 7 percent between 1996 and 2001, with the addition of 138,200 jobs.
- Most of the job gains since 1996 were concentrated in the air transportation industry.
- Overall employment declined in such key aerospace segments as guided missiles and space manufacturing and space research and technology between 1996 and 2001.
- Employment in the nation’s aircraft and parts manufacturing industry was nearly unchanged from 1996.

**Key State Aerospace and Aviation Industry Findings**

The Commission also wanted to understand the economic impact of the aerospace and aviation industry on the nation’s state economies. The report covers the aerospace and aviation industry in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
The major state findings showed:

- California, with nearly 300,000 employees, was the nation’s aerospace and aviation industry leader.
- Texas and Washington ranked near the top by most of the metrics examined.
- Texas ranked first nationwide in aerospace and aviation job creation between 1996 and 2001, adding 15,600 jobs to its economic base.
- When controlling for population size, Washington led the nation with 44 aerospace and aviation industry jobs per 1,000 workers in 2001.

Also, the state-by-state economic metrics demonstrated that states like Alabama, Arizona, and Kansas are home to strong aerospace and aviation industry clusters.

**Key Metropolitan Aerospace and Aviation Industry Findings**

The second section of the report examined the ten leading metropolitan areas by aerospace industry employment, wages, payroll, and establishments. The ten metropolitan areas examined in the study were Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Fort Worth, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, Seattle, and Wichita.

The major metropolitan area findings revealed:

- Los Angeles was the nation’s leading metropolitan area with 137,100 workers employed by the aerospace and aviation industry.
- Other leading metropolitan areas by aerospace and aviation industry employment were Seattle, Chicago, Atlanta, and Fort Worth.
- The highest concentration of aerospace and aviation industry jobs was in the Wichita metro area, accounting for one out of every five jobs in 2001.
- Seattle ranked second with one out of every 10 jobs in the aerospace and aviation industry in 2001.