

The Strategic Advantages of Los Angeles for International Aerospace and Defense Enterprises



Los Angeles is the hub of research, innovation, and manufacturing for the aerospace and space industry and is home to major aerospace companies such as the Aerospace Corporation, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, NASA, and SpaceX.¹

The economic activity of the Aerospace and Space industry produces \$189.8 billion which represents approximately 5.3% of the state's economy. The Southern California region saw over \$111 billion of direct economic activity supported by the security industry.² Industries that have the largest impacts from Aerospace and Space activity in the Los Angeles region include scientific research and development, manufacturing aircraft, and search, detection, and navigation instruments.³

California State University - Los Angeles, California Institute of Technology, University of California-Los Angeles, and University of Southern California are universities with outstanding engineering schools and programs located in the Los Angeles area. These renowned research institutions foster a culture of innovation and provide opportunities for collaboration on cutting-edge Aerospace and Space projects.⁴

With a diverse and highly educated workforce, including engineers, scientists, and skilled technicians with expertise in various STEM fields, access to this talent pool can benefit companies looking to hire qualified professionals for research, development, and manufacturing. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim region has approximately 53,000 engineers, logisticians, mathematicians, technicians, and surveyors working in the Aerospace and Space industry.⁵

The region's established aerospace and space ecosystem provides access to robust supply chain networks that help reduce logistical challenges and lead times for sourcing components and materials needed for manufacturing. Los Angeles boasts a well-developed transportation and communication infrastructure with the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which ranks as the eighth-busiest airport globally; the twin ports of Los Angeles (L.A.) and Long Beach, which handle approximately 20 million cargo containers and managed over 40% of all inbound containers for the entire United States; and the Alameda Corridor, a 20-mile-long rail cargo expressway linking the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to the transcontinental rail network, ensuring efficient cargo transportation.⁶

¹ <https://www.builtinla.com/articles/aerospace-companies-los-angeles>

² https://www.library.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/crb-reports/2023_California_Statewide_MEIS.pdf

³ https://www.library.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/crb-reports/2023_California_Statewide_MEIS.pdf

⁴ https://learn.org/articles/Which_Engineering_Schools_are_in_the_Los_Angeles_CA_Area.html

⁵ <https://data.bls.gov/oes/#/geoOcc/Multiple%20occupations%20for%20one%20geographical%20area>

⁶ <https://laedc.org/industry-cluster-development/trade-logistics/>
<https://polb.com/business/port-statistics/#yearly-teus>

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