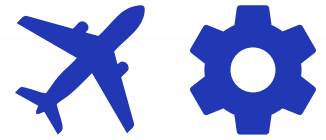


Midlands on the Move



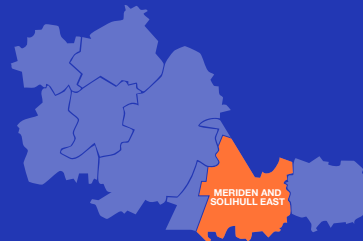
The Impact of Aviation in Birmingham and the West Midlands

AVIATION'S IMPACT IN NUMBERS



16,378 jobs

The West Midlands Combined Authority area has 16,378 jobs directly generated by aviation.



1,233 jobs

Meriden and Solihull East constituency has the largest number of these, with 1,233 jobs.



32,000 jobs

The wider West Midlands region has 32,000 jobs directly generated by aviation.

 **£2.1bn**
£1.5 billion

Birmingham Airport contributes £1.5 billion in GVA to the West Midlands and this is expected to rise to £2.1bn in 2033.



13.6 million

Passengers travel through Birmingham Airport every year.

INTRODUCTION TO AVIATION IN BIRMINGHAM

Aviation is a fast-growing sector in the UK. It supports key industries like advanced manufacturing, tech, life sciences, and tourism – many of which the Government's Industrial Strategy identifies as growth-driving sectors.

Birmingham is an economic powerhouse, with businesses in finance, manufacturing, aerospace and technology. In 2023, Birmingham drew in significant FDI across 67 projects. This set the record for the highest number of FDI projects managed by any city outside London in the past 10 years. Birmingham Airport helps drive this economic

performance, enabling the journeys of around 13 million annual passengers and connecting directly to more than 130 destinations. These include major growth markets such as Qatar, India and Dubai.

The city is also at the heart of the UK – well-connected by air, road and rail. This underpins the thriving visitor economy, with internationally famous destinations such as the home of Shakespeare at Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwick Castle, Edgbaston cricket ground and the NEC event venue.

“**The West Midlands Aerospace Cluster not only stands at the forefront of aerospace innovation, but also continues to catalyse economic growth and technological advancement across multiple sectors.**”



BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION IN BIRMINGHAM

The aviation industry has a clear and credible plan for decarbonisation. This includes more efficient planes, flying more efficient routes, ramping up the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and using new zero-emission technologies such as hydrogen. Research from Sustainable Aviation shows a homegrown SAF industry could boost the UK economy by £1.8 billion by the end of the decade and create 10,300 green jobs. The industry could grow to employ more than 60,000 people and support over £10 billion in GVA in the next 25 years.

The Midlands is playing its part in this. Birmingham Airport is committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2033 and is already well on its way having installed more than 12,000 solar panels which has cut 1,000 tonnes of carbon annually. The airport also uses electric buses and offers EV charging points, with more initiatives planned.

Meanwhile, Midlands Aerospace Alliance has worked with the West Midlands Combined Authority to fund an R&D programme for sustainable aviation fuels. This included the Birmingham-based PyroGenesys company, which conducts development work on transforming bio-oils into more sustainable jet fuel. Another company, Kew Projects in Dudley, carries out testing to ensure its low-carbon kerosene made from waste would meet industry standards once processed to form SAF.

DRIVING INWARD INVESTMENT AND GROWING AEROSPACE

Birmingham Airport and inward investment

Birmingham Airport is the international gateway for the West Midlands. It is a key economic accelerator for the region, providing connectivity for international trade and investment. Business travellers make up 10% of passengers going through Birmingham Airport — the highest proportion outside London airports.

It is therefore no surprise that the West Midlands attracted some 770 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects between 2017 and 2022, representing the strongest regional performance outside London. Continuing this trend, in 2023 the West Midlands attracted more FDI in value than the South East. Birmingham Airport plays a vital role in supporting and maintaining this flow of inward investment.

Aerospace in the West Midlands

The West Midlands has significant strengths in aerospace. The West Midlands Combined Authority highlights the sector as one with huge growth potential in its strategic economic plan and Plan for Growth.

The West Midlands has a concentration of leading advanced manufacturing and engineering businesses, including Rolls-Royce, Meggitt, Moog, and Collins Aerospace — making it one of Europe's strategic aerospace manufacturing hubs. Many of these businesses are firmly rooted in international supply chains, manufacturing essential components such as aerospace actuation and transmission systems. This strength is supplemented by adjacent industries in the West Midlands such as metals and materials, and strong business leadership from the Midlands Aerospace Alliance.

HOW AVIATION IS SUPPORTING THE WEST MIDLANDS' ECONOMIC AMBITIONS

Aviation supports the economy of the West Midlands in many ways, providing jobs at the airport and airlines, driving tourism, and supporting associated industries — particularly aerospace. Birmingham Airport is driving economic growth by exploring opportunities for an expanded cargo operation and securing new routes, particularly transatlantic connectivity to New York and Toronto. Forecasted growth suggests the airport will service 18 million passengers by 2030.

The Combined Authority and West Midlands Growth Company recognise the importance of aviation to the region. Continuing the collaboration between the airport and local growth actors will help ensure that Birmingham continues to attract foreign direct investment and drive growth across the region.

