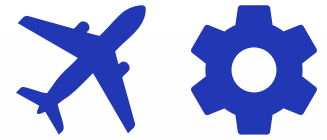


Flight Path to Prosperity



The Impact of Aviation in Cambridgeshire and the East of England

AVIATION'S IMPACT IN NUMBERS



7,218 jobs

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority area has 7,218 jobs directly generated by aviation.



1,403 jobs

Of these, Ely and East Cambridgeshire constituency has the largest share with 1,403 jobs.



49,000 jobs

The wider East of England region boasts 49,000 jobs directly generated by aviation.



£3.6 billion

Stansted Airport contributes around £3.6 billion in GVA to the East of England.



30 million

30 million passengers travel through Stansted Airport every year.

INTRODUCTION TO AVIATION IN CAMBRIDGE AND THE EAST OF ENGLAND

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.

Aviation is a major driver of the economy in Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, and the wider East of England. Stansted Airport, based in Essex and operated by Manchester Airports Group, is the UK's fourth largest airport and serves more than 200 European destinations. Ryanair leads in leisure and budget travel, while new long-haul routes such as

a twice daily service to Dubai are opening global connections for regional businesses.

The East of England is an economic powerhouse, with key clusters in IT, life sciences, agri-tech, and advanced manufacturing. The life sciences industry, which is particularly concentrated along the UK innovation corridor from London to Cambridge, is boosted by the connectivity and research provided by aviation industries. Meanwhile, Greater Cambridge is a global hub of advanced manufacturing, a sector that has grown with investment from supply chain firms seeking well connected locations.

“By continuing to support the growth of Stansted...the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough economy can deepen its integration into the global economy, accessing new markets, and *creating new business opportunities.*”



STANSTED AIRPORT

INNOVATION CORRIDOR AND LIFE SCIENCES

Stansted airport

Stansted Airport is investing £1.1 billion to upgrade its facilities, including a major terminal expansion. It has plans to serve up to 51 million passengers.

The airport is located at the heart of the London-Stansted-Cambridge corridor – A.K.A. the UK's Innovation Corridor – which connects the East of England to the capital and beyond. This corridor is home to major assets like GSK, Harlow Enterprise Zone, and top London universities.

Stansted gives direct access to European and Middle Eastern markets – boosting trade, attracting investment, and enabling global collaboration for businesses across the region.

Life sciences and aerospace

Cambridge is a powerhouse of life sciences, tech, and advanced manufacturing. Aviation has a key role in securing more investment into Cambridge, specifically to further develop the world-leading life sciences cluster.

To stay ahead, Cambridge needs strong international links. A survey by MAG and Cambridge& found that three-quarters of local life science and tech scale-ups expect their international travel needs to grow in the immediate term. The need for international connectivity was driven by a desire for face-to-face meetings – seen as vital for securing investment, attracting global talent and building international partnerships.

Developing connections to places in the US that also have strengths in life sciences, such as Boston, Silicon Valley and Massachusetts, is of high importance.

SUSTAINABLE AVIATION IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The aviation industry has a clear and credible plan for decarbonising the sector. 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.

Cambridge is at the cutting edge of green aviation. The Aviation Impact Accelerator (AIA) at the University of Cambridge's Whittle Laboratory is leading research into ultra-low-emission aircraft and low-carbon power. The AIA brings together more than 100 global experts to fast-track sustainable aviation solutions. Its partners include Boeing, Rolls-Royce, Emirates, and the UK Government.

Airlines are also stepping up and leading the way with Jet2 using blended SAF on its Stansted routes in 2024, before the UK SAF mandate came into force.

HOW AVIATION SUPPORTS THE EAST OF ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC AMBITIONS

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review identified four priority sectors: agri-tech, advanced manufacturing and materials, life sciences, and digital and IT. Stansted Airport is central in connecting these industries with international markets.

The ability to better connect businesses with global hubs is on Cambridge's doorstep. Research by York

Aviation shows that a direct route from Stansted to innovation hubs like San Francisco or Boston could unlock £185 million in new investment and boost exports by £85 million a year.

Better global links mean bigger opportunities for Cambridge's high-growth industries and the wider economy in the East of England.

