

Aviation in California: Fact Sheet (March 2022)

Aviation Facilities

- **214** General Aviation (GA) Airports
- **27** Commercial Service Airports
- **62** Special-Use Airports
- **170** Hospital and **189** Special Use Heliports
[Corporate, Police, Fire, Agricultural or private]
- **22** Federal Air Bases / **1** Joint Use Facility
- **144** Weather Reporting System Locations

Scheduled Passenger Service

- In CY 2021, Commercial Service airports reported handling 67.8 percent more passenger traffic than in CY 2020 for a total of 138.1 million passengers, but reports remain 44.0 percent fewer than CY 2019, pre-COVID.
- The Federal Aviation Administration awarded a total of \$60 million in federal FY 2021 to 23 of these airports from the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Passenger Entitlement Program, based on CY 2019 enplanements.
- According to the FAA AIP Entitlement Program, California (CA) airports reported 12.9 percent of U.S. passenger enplanements based on 2019 enplanements.
- According to the FAA AIP Entitlement Program, 12 of CA's 23 enplanement reporting airports ranked in the top 100 Primary airports. [U.S. Rank: LAX-5th, SFO-16th, SAN-24th, SMF-37th, SJC-41st, OAK-42nd, SNA-47th, ONT-54th, BUR-58th, PSP-78th, LGB-91st & FAT-93rd]

Air Cargo

- According to the FAA AIP Cargo Airport Entitlement Program, 13 California (CA) All Cargo airports were awarded \$12.3 million in FFY 2021 based on 2019 reported Landed Weight.
- According to the FAA, CA's top four reporting airports accounted for 82.7 percent of CA's combined Landed Weight, LAX & ONT handled 48.5 percent.
- In CY 2021, one GA and 20 Commercial airports reported the most freight handled on record, an estimated 5.9 million U.S. Tons.
- In CY 2021, California airports (13) share of all 2020 reported Landed Weight: 10.1 million U.S. Tons, or 11.1 percent share of U.S. total [U.S. Rank: LAX-4th, ONT-9th, OAK-11th, SFO-29th, SMF-40th, SAN-42nd, MHR-47th, SBD-60th, RIV-69th, SCK-89th, SJC-96th, FAT-112th, LGB-120th]

Certified Pilots and Registered Aircraft

- GA operations account for approximately four of every five aircraft operations.
- FAA Registered Aircraft (January 2022): 24,890 (9 percent of the U.S. total)
- FAA Active Certified Pilots (December 2020 estimate): 66,533 (10.2% of the U.S. Certified Pilots; includes Students-22,911, Private-19,739, Commercial-11,099, Airline-12,233, Miscellaneous-551, however excludes: flight instructors-10,181 and remote pilots-21,147)

Aviation Supports a Vibrant, Resilient Economy

- Airports support aeronautical operations in air commerce (cargo and passengers), provide jobs in flight support (fueling, maintenance and training), aviation services and supplies (parts, pilot supplies and equipment), as well as airport operations and management.
- Airports generate tax revenues that contribute to community needs. With jobs, studies estimate the annual economic impact of aviation in California to be as high as \$203 billion.*
- The 2020 COVID pandemic severely impacted the Airline Industry, although recovery continued throughout 2021. COVID variants' surges and flight restrictions continue to occur.

Aviation's Emergency Preparedness Facilities

- California's 241 public-use airports are potential staging areas for emergency response activities, including Search and Rescue and firefighting agencies, which rely on aircraft to transport personnel, equipment and supplies, and reconnaissance efforts.
- In California, U.S. Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management coordinates 9 Federal Firefighting Airtanker Bases, 3 Airtanker Reload Bases and 20 Helibases. For more information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/aviation>
- To provide air support within 20 minutes, Cal Fire supports ground forces with firefighting efforts via 24 air attack and helitack bases. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/mlhjahd3/aviation-program-2020-6.pdf>

Aviation in California: Fact Sheet (March 2022, cont'd)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF) Fact Sheet total (FFY 2020): \$17.6 billion to invest in Operations; Facilities/Equipment; Research, Engineering & Development; and Airports.

FAA AIP Grants Awarded to California (FFY 2021)

AIP Grant by Service Level	# of Grants	Award Amount [90% of total project cost]
Commercial	23	\$158,240,273
Reliever	12	\$5,655,526
General Aviation	40	\$47,654,789
Total	75	\$211,550,588

Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program

Grants (168): \$288.6 million [12.6 percent of U.S.Total]

Airport Rescue Grants (June 2021)

Allocations: \$899.8 million [12.1 percent of U.S.Total]

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (December 2021)

Allocations (168): \$294.6 million

California Aid to Airports Program (CAAP) Grants

FY 2020/21: \$1.63 million

- State AIP Matching Grant (1): \$150 thousand
- Annual Credit Grants (148): \$1.48 million
- Acquisition and Development Grants (0): \$0

California Aviation System Plan (CASP)

The 10-year capital need outlook for California Public Use airports is \$4.68 billion – Commercial airports: \$3.17 billion, and General Aviation airports: \$1.51B (Capital Improvement Plan – July 2021)

General Aviation Fuel Sales & Fuel Excise Tax Revenue Transfers to the State Aeronautics Account

Fiscal Year	AvGas ¹	Jet Fuel ²	Combined Aviation Fuel	Aeronautics Account Revenue ³		
	Gallons Sold (in millions)	Gallons Sold (in millions)	Gallons Sold (in millions)	Avgas	Jet Fuel	Annual Total
2001-02	28.8	120.0	148.8	\$5,200,000	\$2,400,000	\$7,600,000
2002-03	28.1	122.6	150.7	\$5,100,000	\$2,452,000	\$7,552,000
2003-04	27.3	135.7	163.0	\$4,922,000	\$2,832,000	\$7,754,000
2004-05	23.6	144.3	167.9	\$4,858,000	\$2,763,000	\$7,622,000
2005-06	25.8	149.2	175.0	\$4,408,000	\$3,001,000	\$7,409,000
2006-07	24.7	149.8	174.5	\$2,006,000	\$5,284,000	\$7,290,000
2007-08	28.9	152.7	181.6	\$3,831,000	\$3,627,000	\$7,458,000
2008-09	19.2	123.8	143.0	\$4,457,000	\$2,774,000	\$7,232,000
2009-10	19.6	112.3	131.9	\$3,459,000	\$1,729,000	\$5,188,000
2010-11	16.9	116.9	133.8	\$3,174,000	\$2,371,000	\$5,545,000
2011-12	17.3	125.8	143.1	\$3,114,000	\$2,497,000	\$5,611,000
2012-13	16.3	132.0	148.3	\$2,871,000	\$2,370,000	\$5,241,000
2013-14	15.9	127.7	143.6	\$2,944,000	\$2,801,000	\$5,745,000
2014-15	16.5	135.6	113.5	\$3,010,000	\$2,472,000	\$5,482,000
2015-16	16.3	155.7	172.0	\$3,031,000	\$2,947,000	\$5,978,000
2016-17	14.9	165.9	180.8	\$2,698,000	\$3,366,000	\$6,064,000
2017-18	15.5	162.1	177.6	\$2,766,000	\$3,251,000	\$6,017,000
2018-19	16.3	155.7	172.0	\$2,314,000	\$3,369,000	\$5,683,000
2019-20	14.9	139.2	154.0	\$2,916,000	\$3,187,000	\$6,103,000
2020-21	14.4	162.5	176.9	\$2,479,000	\$2,987,000	\$5,466,000
Fuel Tax Rates:	¹ \$0.18/gallon	² \$0.02/gallon				

^{1&2}Source: California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA)

³Source: State Controller's Office transfers to Aeronautics Account per Revenue and Taxation Code Section 8352.3 (a).



***Division of Aeronautics**
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/aeronautics>

