

## COMMERCIAL AIRLINES

Each year, an estimated 1.3 million aircraft operations are conducted at airports throughout Iowa. Significant activity occurs in each aviation category, including commercial airlines, air cargo, military, and general aviation.

In addition to making Iowa a better place to live, nearly 12 percent of Iowa's gross state product is in one way or another linked to aviation. Across Iowa, aviation helps to support more than 47,000 jobs and contributes an estimated \$5.4 billion in economic activity. The use of aviation increases the productivity of nonaviation businesses throughout Iowa by an estimated \$13 billion each year.

Iowa generates 2.5 million passenger boardings each year that are primarily served by one of eight commercial airports in Iowa or by nearby airports in bordering states. Approximately 40 percent of the passengers using commercial airports in Iowa are visitors, and more than half of all passengers are traveling for business.



## AIR CARGO CARRIERS

From large air freight facilities at commercial airports to deliveries by smaller aircraft using general aviation airports, the timely transportation of cargo keeps Iowa's economy moving.

## MILITARY AVIATION

Airports and airspace in Iowa accommodate military aircraft operations that support national defense, training exercises and emergency response. From the operation of fighter jets, helicopters and aerial refuelers, to providing aerial surveillance and command, the military is a key user of Iowa's aviation system.

Army National Guard helicopters are located in Boone, Davenport and Waterloo. Air National Guard units are located in Des Moines, Fort Dodge and Sioux City. The Civil Air Patrol also uses airports throughout Iowa for search and rescue, disaster relief, and support of other military and civilian activities.



### Business aviation

Major employers and small businesses in Iowa use business aircraft to increase productivity, provide direct access to more communities, support flexible itineraries, and quicken customer response times. Business aircraft users in Iowa report their top aviation uses include conducting customer visits, visiting branch locations, visiting vendors, and bringing their customers to Iowa.



### Personal aviation

Becoming a pilot opens up possibilities for business and personal travel. Flight instruction is available at airports throughout Iowa. There are approximately 4,000 aircraft and 5,600 pilots in Iowa.



### Air medical transport

When emergency medical care is needed, time is a critical factor in saving lives. The availability of transport by helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft supports advanced medical services for all Iowans. More than 4,000 emergency medical service (EMS) missions are flown each year in Iowa. Aviation is also used to transport healthcare professionals, organs, blood, and medical equipment.

### Agricultural aviation

Most general aviation airports in Iowa support agricultural operations. The application of fungicides and insecticides helps farmers increase yields and keep Iowa a world leader in agriculture. Approximately 4 million acres of crops are treated in Iowa each year by aerial applicators, boosting crop production by an estimated \$214 million.

## GENERAL AVIATION

General Aviation includes all aviation activities other than commercial and military operations. It is estimated that 88 percent of all flights in Iowa are general aviation related. Below are some typical general aviation uses in Iowa.

### Law enforcement

Law enforcement relies on aircraft to support many facets of its operations, including surveillance, pursuit, search and rescue, traffic enforcement, and prisoner transport.



### Recreational activity

Whether building a kit aircraft, parachuting out of an airplane, taking a scenic flight in a hot air balloon or soaring the thermals in a glider, aviation offers a host of ways to enjoy the thrill of flight.



### Air charter service

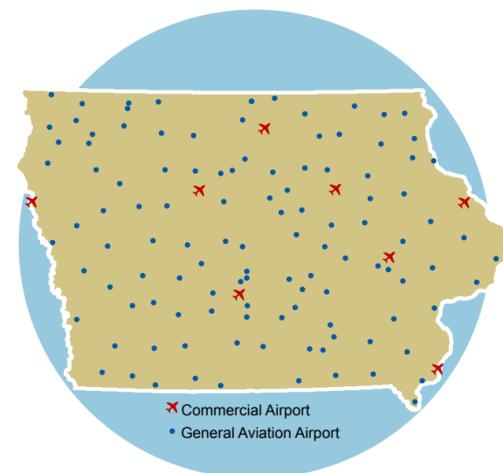
Air charter companies are certified by the Federal Aviation Administration to provide air transportation services for individuals, businesses and cargo. Air charter providers allow users to experience the advantages of general aviation without aircraft ownership.



# AVIATION ... GIVES IOWA A LIFT

## Public airport system

Airports are the on-ramps to the national air transportation system and act as the front door to the communities they serve. Airports of different sizes and capabilities support aviation activities appropriate to the regions they serve. For information and links to airports in Iowa, see the Iowa DOT's Office of Aviation Web site at [iowadot.gov/aviation](http://iowadot.gov/aviation).



## Flight support

Fixed base operators (FBOs) provide or coordinate services such as fueling, ground transportation, aircraft charter, maintenance, avionics repair, flight training, aircraft rental, and aircraft sales. Passengers and pilots rely on FBOs located at airports throughout Iowa.



## Aviation-related industry

From small businesses that manufacture general aviation aircraft, to multibillion dollar companies whose clientele are worldwide in scope, many businesses in Iowa are engaged in aviation or aerospace manufacturing.



## Aviation career opportunities

The aviation industry offers a wide range of career opportunities, including training for pilots, mechanics, airport managers, engineers, and travel agents. Several formal aviation educational programs are available in Iowa. See the Iowa DOT's Office of Aviation Web site at [iowadot.gov/aviation](http://iowadot.gov/aviation) for more information on aviation careers.



## Youth education

Aviation education programs connect aviation to disciplines such as math, science, physics, and communications. Fly-ins, air shows and youth camps provide firsthand learning experiences for Iowa youth. Additionally, the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles program has provided tens of thousands of free airplane rides to Iowa children since 1992.

# AVIATION HISTORY IN IOWA

Iowa has a long and varied aviation history. Among others, early pioneers such as Clyde Cessna, the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart lived in Iowa in their childhood years. Balloon and glider flights began in Iowa in the late 1800's. In 1910, just seven years after the first powered flight by the Wright Brothers, the first powered flight took place in Iowa.

The remainder of the 20th century witnessed the development of a mature air transportation system throughout Iowa and around the globe. From the development of airports and aviation services to the introduction of modern aircraft, Iowa has experienced significant increases in the utilization and safety of its air transportation system.

Several aviation museums document Iowa aviation history, including:

**Airpower Museum**  
Blakesburg  
[www.antiqueairfield.com](http://www.antiqueairfield.com)  
641-938-2773

**Great Plains Wing Museum**  
Commemorative Air Force  
Council Bluffs Municipal Airport  
[www.greatplainswing.org/museum](http://www.greatplainswing.org/museum)  
712-322-2435

**Iowa Aviation Museum**  
Greenfield Municipal Airport  
[www.flyingmuseum.com](http://www.flyingmuseum.com)  
641-343-7184

**Iowa Aviation Heritage Museum**  
Ankeny Regional Airport  
[www.iowaaviationheritagemuseum.webs.com](http://www.iowaaviationheritagemuseum.webs.com)  
515-964-2629

**Iowa Children's Museum**  
Coral Ridge Mall  
Coralville  
[www.theicm.org](http://www.theicm.org)  
319-625-6255

**Mid America Transportation & Aviation Museum**  
Sioux City  
[www.matamuseum.org](http://www.matamuseum.org)  
712-252-5300

**National Balloon Museum**  
Indianola  
[www.nationalballoonmuseum.com](http://www.nationalballoonmuseum.com)  
515-961-3714

# AVIATION RESOURCES

There are many Web-based aviation resources. The following list provides Web sites for various organizations that can provide information on aviation in Iowa and across the nation.

- Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Aviation: [www.iowadot.gov/aviation](http://www.iowadot.gov/aviation)
- Federal Aviation Administration: [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov)
- Iowa Public Airports Association: [www.iowaairports.org](http://www.iowaairports.org)
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association: [www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org)
- National Business Aviation Association: [www.nbaa.org](http://www.nbaa.org)
- Experimental Aircraft Association: [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org)
- Iowa Aviation Promotion Group: [www.flyiowa.org](http://www.flyiowa.org)
- Iowa Air National Guard: [www.iowanationalguard.com/ANG/](http://www.iowanationalguard.com/ANG/)
- National Agricultural Aviation Association: [www.agaviation.org](http://www.agaviation.org)
- United States Parachute Association: [www.uspa.org](http://www.uspa.org)



Office of Aviation  
Iowa Department  
of Transportation

Office of Aviation  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, IA 50010  
515-239-1691  
[www.iowadot.gov/aviation](http://www.iowadot.gov/aviation)

## Office of Aviation

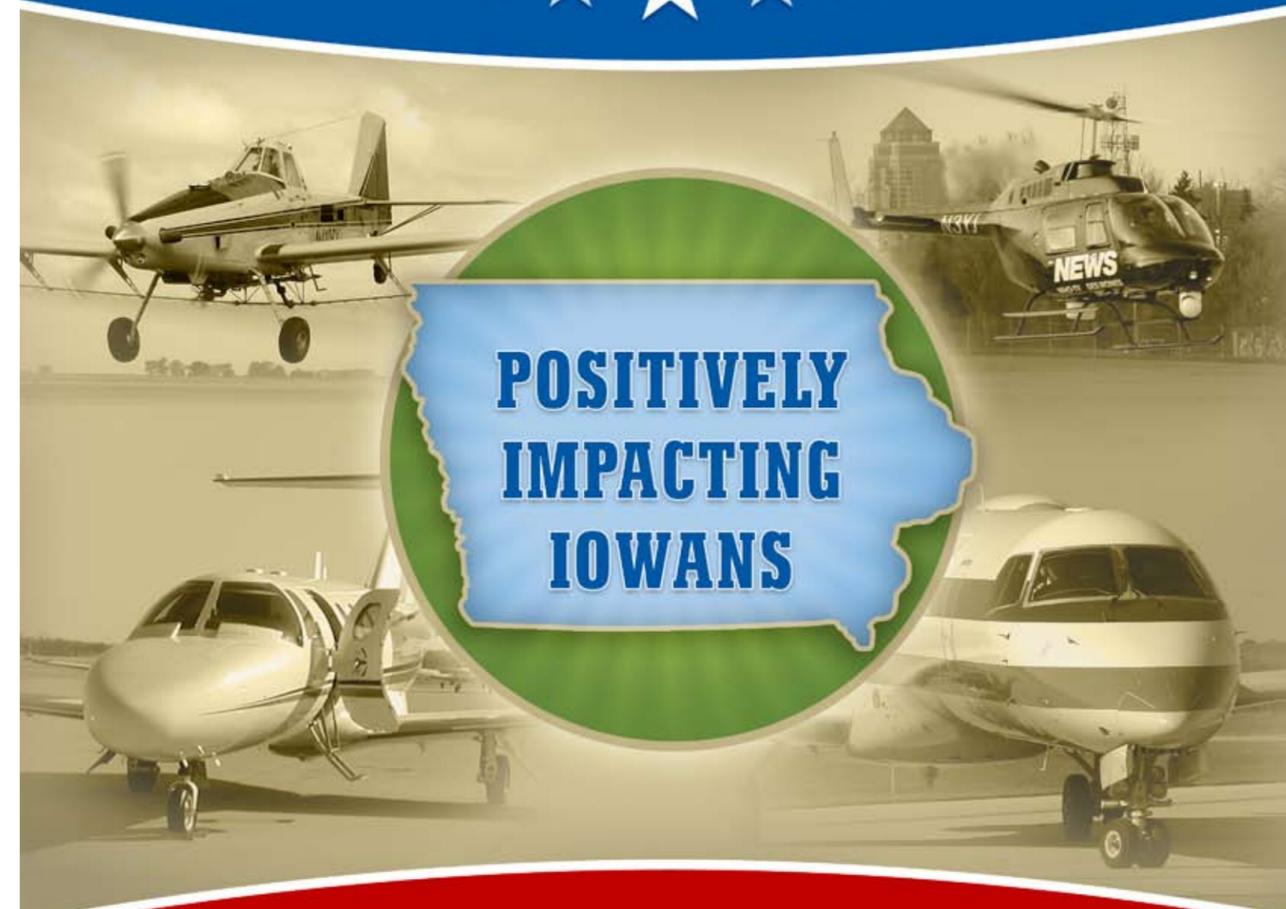
The Iowa Department of Transportation's Office of Aviation advocates for and delivers services that promote and enhance a healthy air transportation system. For more information on the Office of Aviation and the services it provides, call the Office of Aviation or see its Web site.

The preparation of this report was financed in part through a planning grant from the Federal Aviation Administration, as approved under the Airport and Airways Improvement Act of 1982. The contents of this report reflect the views of the consultant for a 2009 study titled "The Uses and Benefits of Aviation in Iowa."

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation's affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation's services, contact the agency's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.

April 2010

# DISCOVER AVIATION IN IOWA



AIRLINES

FLIGHT TRAINING

AIR CARGO

MEDICAL TRANSPORT

CAREERS

MILITARY

SKYDIVING

BUSINESS AVIATION

AIR CHARTER

NEWS REPORTING

ECONOMIC IMPACT

AGRICULTURAL AVIATION

AIRPORTS

LAW ENFORCEMENT

TOURISM

AVIATION HISTORY

FLIGHT SUPPORT

GENERAL AVIATION