

PENNSYLVANIA Airports Economic Impact



The Pennsylvania Airport System

Pennsylvania's aviation industry continues to provide high quality jobs and spur important local spending by on-airport businesses and agencies. The commonwealth's system of 15 commercial service and 117 general aviation airports connects Pennsylvania businesses and residents to the national and global economy. This system is comprised of a network of airports, airlines, air cargo businesses, corporate flight departments, pri-

vate aircraft owners, and recreational airplane pilots. Manufacturers in the state rely on airports to access markets and to receive supplies. Businesses rely on airports to conduct face-to-face meetings with customers and business associates within the United States and abroad. Leisure travelers use airports to reach recreational and tourist sites and to visit with family and friends.

Pennsylvania's Total Annual Economic Impacts from Aviation

When all of the impacts of Pennsylvania's system airports are added together, nearly 304,500 total jobs can be traced to the aviation industry. These employees receive more than \$9.2 billion in total payroll, and generate nearly \$23.6 billion in total economic activity. In addition, Pennsylvania's airports provide a number of health, welfare, and safety benefits, the impacts of which are immeasurable. Such services include aerial agricultural spraying, medical transport and evacuation, flight training, law enforcement, wildlife management, military exercises, and search and rescue operations.

Impact Measures

Employment measures the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs related to airport activity, including on-airport

construction. A part-time employee is counted as half a full-time employee.

Payroll measures the total annual wages and benefits paid to all workers whose salaries are directly attributable to airport activity.

Economic Activity (Output) measures the value of goods and services related to airports in Pennsylvania. The output of on-airport businesses is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures.

Total Jobs – 304,464

Total Payroll – \$9.2 billion

Total Output – \$23.6 billion

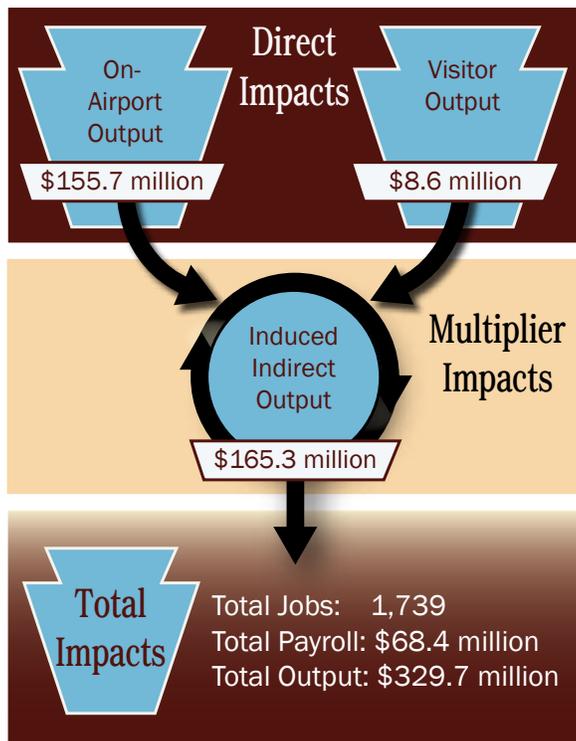
Study Process

This study, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation, analyzes the economic impact of Pennsylvania's aviation industry as a whole, as well as the impacts of its individual airports. The study confirms that many people—beyond the immediate environs of each airport—derive significant economic benefits from the daily operation of the airport system. The study also evaluates some of the less-quantifiable impacts linked with aviation, such as health, safety, recreation, education, and overall community strength.

A detailed modeling effort was undertaken to quantify the economic impacts of on-airport activities (airlines, fixed base operators, flight schools, corporate flight departments, government, and various other business). Also quantified were the impacts derived from the expenditures of visitors who arrive via scheduled service and general aviation aircraft. These on-airport impacts and visitor expenditures support additional economic activity throughout Pennsylvania.

As initial waves of activities associated with the airport system are released into Pennsylvania's economy, successive waves of employment, payroll, and economic benefit occur. These additional benefits are measured using sector-specific employment, payroll, and economic impact multipliers.

Economic Impact of Allegheny County Airport



Source: Wilbur Smith Associates

Impact Types

Direct Impacts include both direct impacts related to on-airport businesses and government agencies, and off-airport impacts, which are usually attributable to visitor spending.

Multiplier Impacts are comprised of indirect and induced impacts. These impacts are attributed to employees spending their earnings at local businesses, and the on-airport businesses purchasing goods and services locally. This re-circulation is commonly referred to as the “multiplier effect.”

Total Impacts are the combination of all direct, indirect, and induced impacts.



Qualitative Benefits

Allegheny County Airport is located approximately eight miles southeast of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County. The airport is accessible via Interstate 376 and State Route 885.

Allegheny County Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport is home to approximately 120 based aircraft and experiences nearly 70,000 annual operations. There are two runways and one helipad. Runway 10/28 is 6,501 feet long by 150 feet wide, while Runway 13/31 is 3,825 feet long by 100 feet wide. Both are equipped with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). Airport operations are supported by two precision instrument approaches (ILS RWY 10 and ILS RWY 28) and three non-precision approaches.

Allegheny County Airport serves as the primary FAA-designated reliever airport for Pittsburgh International Airport and is the seventh-busiest airport in the Commonwealth. The airport is served by two fixed base operators, Voyager Jet Center and Corporate Air. The terminal opened in 1931 and is a designated landmark by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

The airport’s prime location and extensive FBO services make it one of the most important corporate airports in the Commonwealth. Partially due to the airport being closer to downtown Pittsburgh than Pittsburgh International Airport, many large corporations base their aircraft at the airport. The businesses charter aircraft, ship and receive supplies and products, and have customers and suppliers who arrive routinely via the airport. Major corporations that base aircraft there include CONSOL, ALCOA, PPG Industries, and PNC Financial Corporation. Other area businesses that rely on the airport include Anthony Holdings, Federated Investments, and J.J. Gumberg, as well as several Fortune 500 companies.

The airport supports the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics—recognized as the premiere training school for aviation maintenance. Many graduates become high level managers with major airlines, the FAA, and contract maintenance facilities. Currently, PIA offers Associate of Specialized Technology Degree programs in A&P and avionics schools. Pittsburgh Flight Training Center is also located on the airport, offering flight instruction and aircraft rentals.

Allegheny County Airport is also used extensively to support emergency medical services. Air Methods is located at Allegheny County Airport, where it provides maintenance, overhaul, and logistics for their aircraft fleet operating in the eastern U.S. STAT MedEvac provides medical service support for air medical transport.