

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

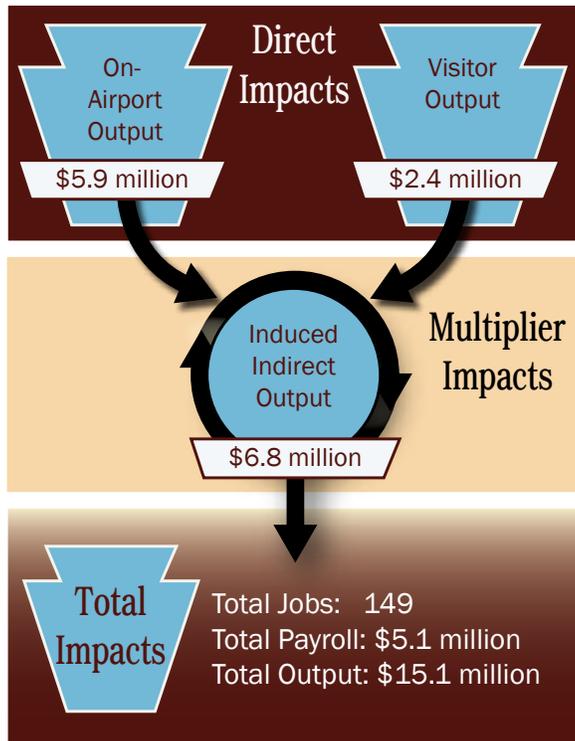
Study Process

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 Bradford Regional 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

Bradford Regional Airport is located approximately 12 miles south of the City of Bradford in McKean County, approximately 16 miles south of the Pennsylvania/New York State border. The airport is accessible via U.S. Route 219 and PA-59.

Bradford Regional Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 30 based aircraft and experiences over 18,900 annual operations. Two runways serve the commercial and general aviation needs of the area. Runway 14/32 is 6,300 feet long by 150 feet wide, and is outfitted with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). Runway 5/23 is 4,500 feet long by 100 feet wide, and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is supported by a precision approach (ILS RWY 32) and four non-precision approaches.

Bradford Regional Airport provides both scheduled commercial and general aviation services to residents of the region. Including Gulfstream Airlines, the Transportation Security Administration, and the airport-run FBO, the airport supports a total of 11 on-site business tenants. Among these are the airport restaurant, Minard Run Well Services, Hilltop Aviation, BK Aircraft Services, Alle-Cat Flight Instruction, and Larry Kissel Flight Instruction. Hertz provides car rentals, while tenants mentioned above offer flight instruction and aircraft maintenance. The airport FBO also provides transient aircraft storage and fuel services.

Corporate aviation is an almost daily activity at Bradford Regional Airport. The extraction of Marcellus Shale gas in the airport’s market area has had a dramatic effect on airport growth. In addition to 32 natural gas wells being located on the airport, industry workers utilize Bradford Regional for commercial service and general aviation flights to transport personnel, parts, and equipment. Additional companies that utilize the airport include: Zippo, Case Cutlery, American Refining Group, Werzalit, Allegheny Bradford Corporation, Bradford Regional Medical Center, University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, Temple Inland, Zito Media/Level 3, Dresser Rand, St. Bonaventure University, Keane Drilling, Castle Brook Trading, Kinzua Development, West Main Development, and Stateline Supply Company. A number of logging and milling companies also use the airport. The Pennsylvania National Guard recently constructed a \$15 million/36,000 square foot Readiness Center on 23 acres adjacent to the airport.

Bradford Regional Airport also experiences daily recreational activity and other aviation activities such as prisoner transport, search and rescue, and medical flights. In addition, the recent movie *Unstoppable* was filmed in the area. The airport was used to fly in the movie’s cast, staff, and equipment, while basing film helicopters at Bradford Regional during production.