

# 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**

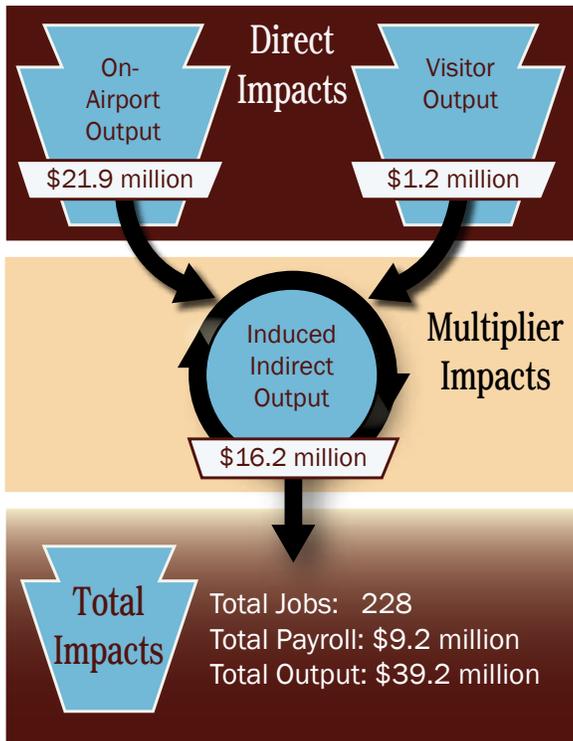
## Study Process

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 Butler 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

Butler County Airport is located just south of Butler in Butler County. The airport is situated approximately 30 miles north of downtown Pittsburgh. Access to the airport is available via State Route 8.

Butler County Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 123 based aircraft and three helicopters, and experiences more than 73,000 annual operations. There is one runway, Runway 8/26, that is 4,801 feet long by 100 feet wide and equipped with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). The airport is supported by one precision approach (ILS RWY 08) and two non-precision approaches (RNAV RWY 26 and RNAV RWY 08).

Butler County Airport serves the general aviation needs of the community. The airport has seven on-site business tenants, including fixed based operator AirQuest Aviation. AirQuest offers 24-hour FBO services, such as both aviation and jet fuel, ground transportation, modern terminal facilities, flight planning, flight training, aircraft maintenance, and aircraft storage in heated hangars. The airport is also home to the Runway Restaurant and several corporate flight departments.

Business and corporate flights are a daily activity at Butler County Airport. Several businesses rely on the airport with regular frequency, also keeping based aircraft stored on site. The following businesses utilize Butler County Airport at least twice weekly:

- Ibistek
- Harsco
- West Penn/Allegheny General Hospital
- Armstrong
- Allegheny Raw Materials
- Gaven Industries

Several other types of activity occur at Butler County Airport, including daily recreational activity and flight training. The West Penn/Allegheny General Hospital’s LifeFlight Unit is based at the airport, operating medical flights such as evacuation or patient transfer. The Civil Air Patrol also maintains a presence at the airport, and law enforcement utilizes the facility when necessary. Two large annual events are also held at the airport: a car show in July, and Warbird Weekend. These events attract up to 1,000 attendees to the airport.