

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

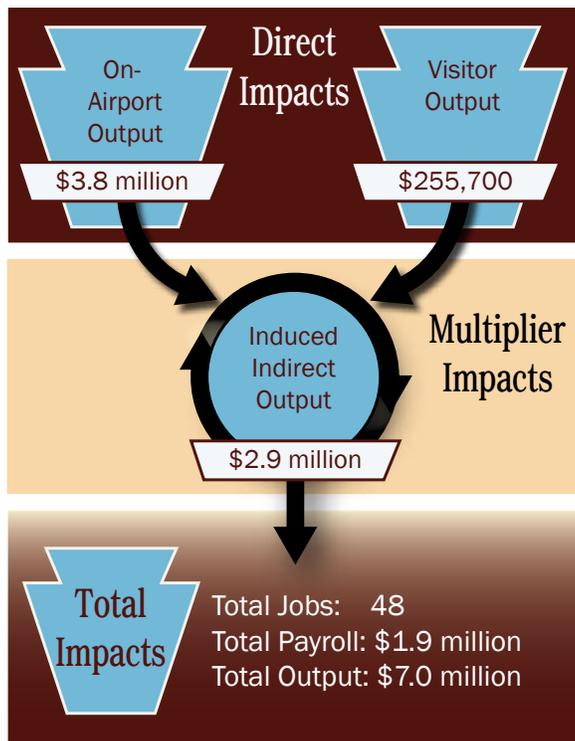
Study Process

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 Carlisle 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

Carlisle Airport is located just south of Carlisle in Cumberland County, approximately 15 miles west of downtown Harrisburg. The airport is accessible via Interstate 81.

Carlisle Airport is classified as an Intermediate airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 60 based aircraft and experiences approximately 24,500 annual operations. There is one runway, Runway 10/28, that is 4,008 feet long by 60 feet wide and equipped with a non-standard lighting system (NSTD). The airport is supported by two non-precision instrument approaches (NDB RWY 28 and VOR-A).

Carlisle Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. The airport has multiple on-site business tenants that offer services such as flight training and aircraft maintenance. Fueling is available from the airport itself. Air ambulance provider Lifeline operates 24 hours a day at Carlisle Airport, often running as many as three operations daily.

Facilities and FBO services at Carlisle Airport make it a convenient choice for area businesses. As a result, corporate flights are an almost daily occurrence at the airport. The following businesses and government agencies operate regularly at Carlisle Airport:

- Keen Transport
- Daily Express
- Bret Whitcomb
- Pennsylvania State Police
- Forbes
- Giant Foods
- PPG Industries
- Fischer Auto Parts

Carlisle Airport is also the site of many other types of aviation and community activities. In addition to daily recreational flights, touch-and-go operations, aerial sightseeing, military exercises, utility inspections, and flights by law enforcement are also frequent activities. Doctors often fly into the airport to conduct clinics at local hospitals. The airport’s strong ties to the local community include the Wounded Warriors program, in which wounded war veterans are given helicopter flights. The airport has strong affiliations with Penn State University’s Dickinson School of Law and the United States Army War College. The USAWC often attracts dignitary flights from Washington D.C. The JAARS Missions organization hosts its annual missions event at the airport to showcase aircraft used in missions around the world. Carlisle Airport is also used as a gateway to area attractions such as car shows held at the Carlisle Fairgrounds, for which the community is renowned.