

# 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**

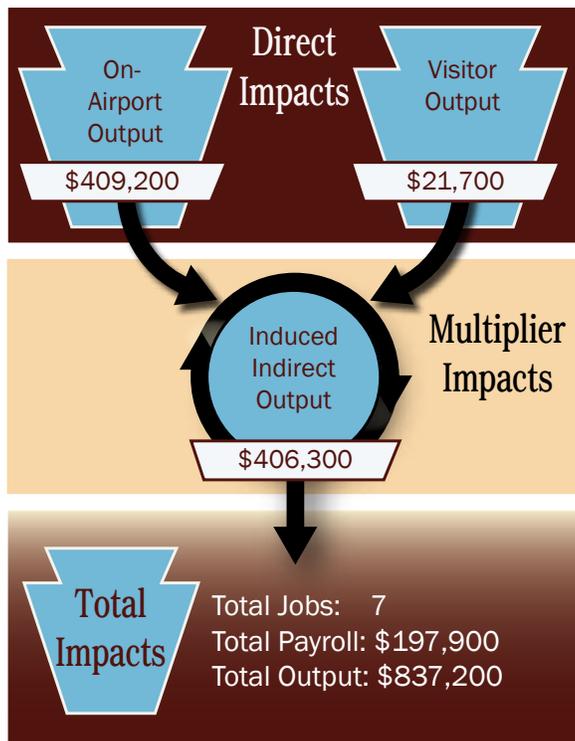
## Study Process

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 Ebensburg 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

Ebensburg Airport is located in central Cambria County, 20 miles north of Johnstown and approximately 20 miles west of Altoona, Pennsylvania. Access to the airport is available via U.S. 422, U.S. 219, and U.S. 22. The airport sits in a scenic area, on top of a ridge in the Allegheny Mountains at an elevation of 2,099 feet above mean sea level.

Ebensburg Airport is classified as a Basic airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 11 based aircraft and experiences approximately 8,000 annual operations. There are two runways at the airport. The primary runway, Runway 07/25, is 3,204 feet long by 50 feet wide and outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). Runway 11/29 is a turf runway that is 1,636 feet long by 150 feet wide. The airport is supported by three non-precision approaches (RNAV RWY 25, RNAV RWY 07, and VOR A).

Ebensburg Airport supports the general aviation demands of the local community and region. Fixed base operator services at the airport are provided by a not-for-profit, R.A.C.R.A., which provides 24-hour fueling service. The airport’s one on-site business tenant, Mountain Top Aviation, is primarily a flight training company.

The most common activities at Ebensburg Airport are recreational flying and aviation education, including flight instruction, touch-and-go exercises, and career training. Other common activities include corporate flights and military exercises by the Army Air National Guard unit based at Johnstown. Other aviation entities occasionally use the airport to fuel their aircraft, such as aerial pipeline inspection operators, the Civil Air Patrol, agricultural sprayers, the U.S. Forest Service, and air ambulance operators. The airport hosts the annual “Autopilot,” a car show that promotes aviation and typically attracts approximately 200 visitors. FAA data indicates the airport has been visited by pilots from Virginia, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Maine, and New York. Area attractions include the world famous Horsehoe Curve, the Portage Railroad Museum, Johnstown Flood Museum, Prince Gallitzin State Park, and Blue Knob Ski Resort.