

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

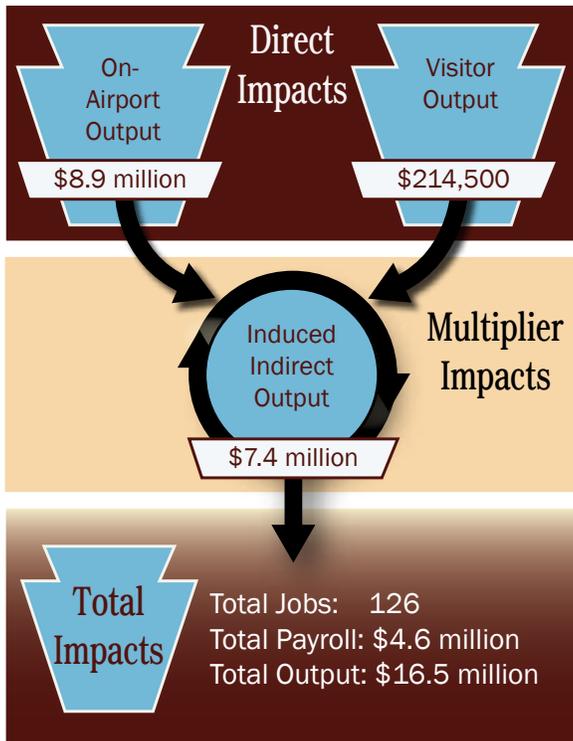
Study Process

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 Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville 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

Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville Airport is located in Fayette County in the southwest corner of Pennsylvania. The airport is accessible via U.S. Route 119 between Uniontown and Connellsville.

Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville Airport is classified as an Intermediate airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 46 based aircraft and experiences more than 19,500 annual operations. There are two active runways at the airport. The primary runway, Runway 5/23, is 3,832 feet long by 100 feet wide. Runway 14/32 is 2,404 feet long by 100 feet wide. Both runways are outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). In addition, the airport is supported by a non-precision approach (LOC RWY 5).

Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville Airport supports the general aviation needs of the surrounding communities and region. The airport has two on-site business tenants and a fixed base operator run by the airport authority that offers fueling and aircraft parking, among other services. The airport is commonly used as a fuel stop for transient pilots. In addition, STAT Medivac operates medical operations out of the airport at the rate of approximately 20 per week, and has a EuroCopter based at the airport. A flight school, North Central Aviation, also operates at the airport.

The airport experiences daily recreational and corporate aviation activity. Aside from STAT Medivac, another frequent user of the airport is Ebtech, Inc., which bases an aircraft on site. Other common activities at the airport include aerial inspections of pipeline and powerline utilities, aerial photography and surveying, sightseeing, real estate tours, and flights by local law enforcement and environmental patrol.

Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville Airport is also used as a gateway to tourism in Fayette County. The county is home to Frank Lloyd Wright’s famous Fallingwater home, and Joseph A. Hardy Connellsville Airport is the closest airfield to the site. The reconstructed Fort Necessity, Ohio State Park, Laurel Ridge State Park, and Seven Springs Mountain Resort are also popular attractions in the county.