

# 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**

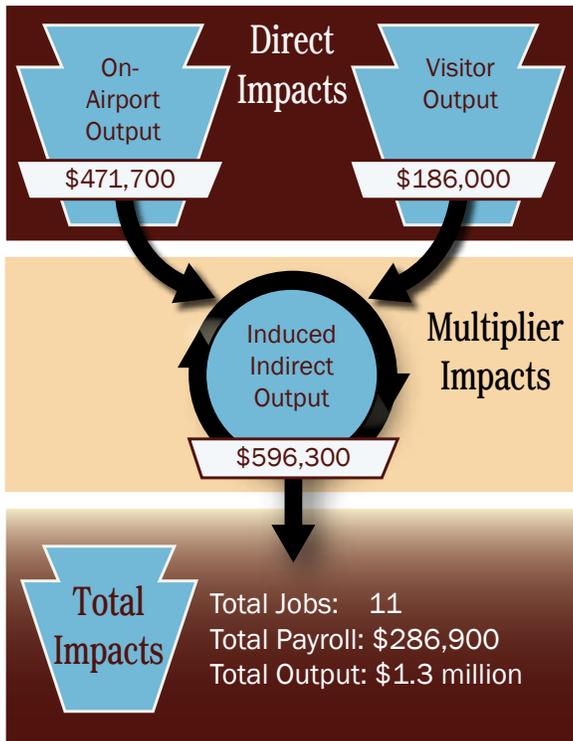
## Study Process

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 Mifflin 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

Mifflin County Airport is located in the Kishacoquillas Valley, approximately 45 miles northwest of the City of Harrisburg. Access to the airport is available via U.S. 322.

The Mifflin County Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 27 based aircraft and experiences approximately 14,700 annual operations. The airport’s lone runway, Runway 06/24, measures 5,001 feet long by 75 feet wide, and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport has three non-precision approaches (LOC RWY 06, RNAV RWY 24, and RNAV RWY 06).

Mifflin County Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. The airport-run fixed base operator offers a full range of services for local and transient pilots. These include fueling, aircraft parking and storage, rentals, skydiving, pilot supplies, and courtesy transportation. The FBO also maintains a general aviation terminal with a pilots’ lounge.

The most common activity at Mifflin County Airport is recreational flying. The airport is nationally recognized for soaring activity at Ridge Runner Soaring, and is becoming renowned for skydiving (both at the FBO and Happy Valley Skydiving) and gyrocopter activity. Other activities include corporate flights and seasonal activities such as agricultural spraying, utility inspections, search and rescue, medical flights, aerial photography, and operations by the Civil Air Patrol.

Mifflin County Airport has strong ties with the local community, resulting in many aviation and non-aviation events being held there each year. The National & Regional Soaring Contest is held each spring, involving 50 contestants and attracting numerous attendees from the region and beyond. Other aviation events include monthly fly-in breakfasts hosted by the local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter, Wycliffe Bible Translators Aviation Community events, and Young Eagles events. Non-aviation events held at the airport include the Boy Scout Camporee, held each fall.