

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

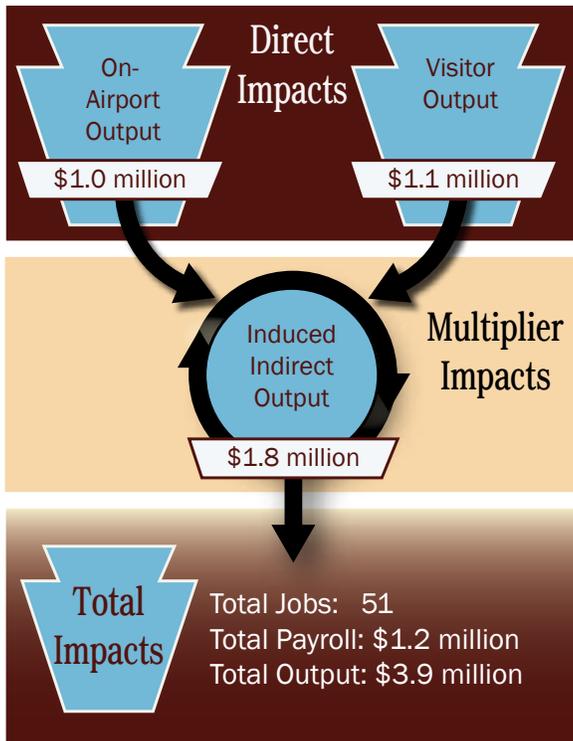
Study Process

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 Penn Valley 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

Penn Valley Airport is located just north of Selinsgrove in Snyder County, approximately 30 miles south of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Access to the airport is available via U.S. 11/15 and U.S. 522.

Penn Valley Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 29 based aircraft and experiences approximately 28,000 annual operations. Penn Valley Airport has one runway, Runway 17/35, that is 4,760 feet long by 75 feet wide and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is equipped with two non-precision approaches (RNAV RWY 17 and VOR-A).

Penn Valley Airport supports the general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. The airport currently has four on-site business tenants, including fixed base operator Heritage Aviation. The FBO offers a full range of services, including fueling, oxygen service, parking, hangar leasing and sales, and flight training. The FBO also maintains the general aviation terminal, which includes amenities such as a pilots lounge. Avis also provides rental car service to transient pilots and passengers.

Due in part to the high level of FBO services available at Penn Valley Airport, corporate activity is a daily occurrence. The following are but a few of the local and area businesses which utilize the airport with regularity, all of which also keep aircraft based on-site:

- Weis Markets
- Ritz-Craft
- Sunbury Textile Mills
- Haverfield Corp.
- Len Krautheim Auto Sales
- Diehl Auto Sales
- Still AirVentures
- Massor Farms
- Keystone Building Products

Recreational flying is also common at the airport. Much of this can be attributed to ultra-light activity or the two university-affiliated flying clubs located at Penn Valley Airport. Flight training, touch-and-go operations, and aerial sightseeing are additional daily activities at the airport. Other frequent activities include utility inspections, military exercises, and operations by local law enforcement and the Civil Air Patrol. Penn Valley Airport also experiences seasonal agricultural spraying.

From spring through fall, fly-in events are held monthly. In addition, in July of 2010 the airport held their first annual air show. This event was attended by over 10,000 attendees, but the airport expects over 50,000 attendees for the two-day air show in future years.