

# 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**

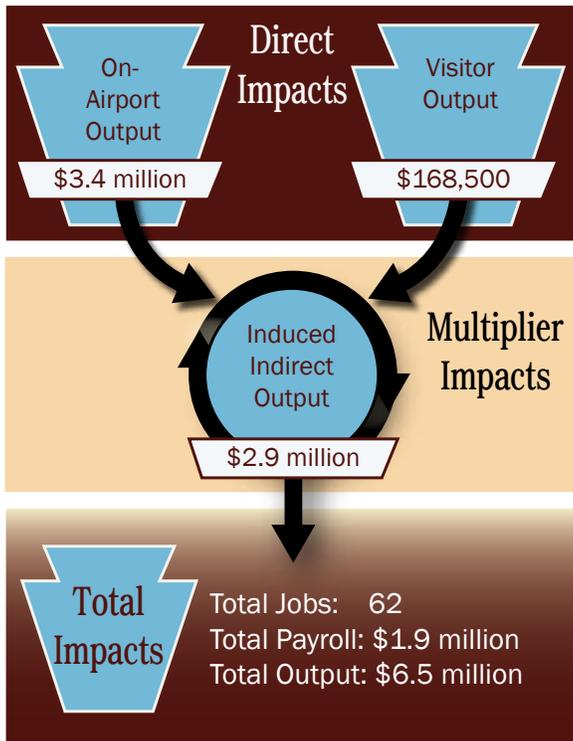
## Study Process

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 Quakertown 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

Quakertown Airport is located near Quakertown in Bucks County, less than 30 miles from downtown Philadelphia. Access to the airport is available via the Pennsylvania Turnpike and State Route 663.

Quakertown Airport is classified as an Intermediate airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has approximately 75 based aircraft and experiences nearly 30,000 annual operations. The airfield’s only runway, Runway 11/29, is 3,210 feet long by 75 feet wide and is outfitted with low, medium, and high intensity pilot-controlled runway lighting. The airport is equipped with two non-precision approaches (RNAV RWY 29 and NDB RWY 29), and will soon be equipped with a third (RNAV RWY 11).

Quakertown Airport supports the general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. The airport currently has six on-site business tenants, including fixed base operator Fowler Aviation. The FBO offers a full range of services, including fueling, aircraft parking, flight training, and maintenance, in addition to maintaining the general aviation terminal and pilots’ lounge. A trio of other maintenance companies also operates at Quakertown Airport: Air Methods, Wold Aviation, and Flury Aircraft Services. The airport’s restaurant is Full Stop Café. An adjacent industrial park supports 50 businesses and more than 1,000 employees.

Daily activities at Quakertown Airport are business and personal transportation flights, including flight training and aerial sightseeing. Additional frequent activities include corporate flights, search and rescue operations, emergency medical and patient transfer, medical doctor transport and activity by the Civil Air Patrol. The airport also experiences limited air cargo operations, military exercises, and some ultra-light activities. During the warmer months the airport is used by utilities for powerline inspections and by visitors to local resorts and state forests and parks. Community events hosted by Quakertown Airport include Young Eagles flights, held once each month, and various open houses and Chamber of Commerce mixers.