

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

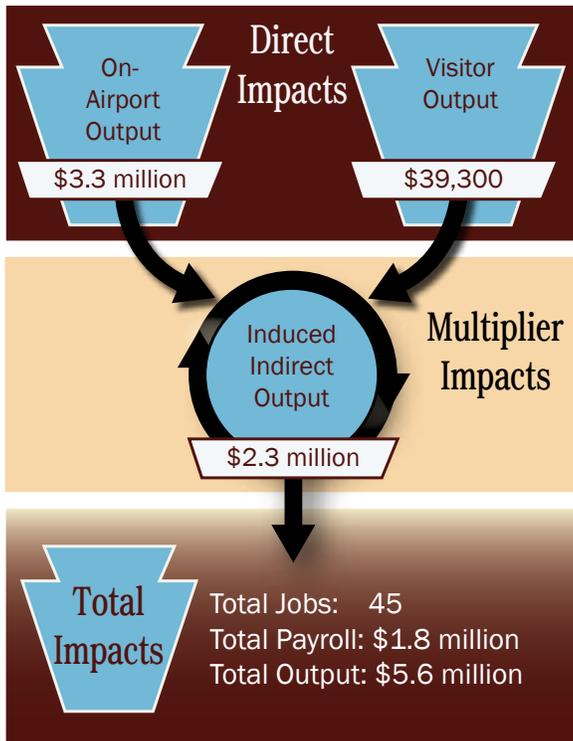
Study Process

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 Smoketown 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

Smoketown Airport is located within Smoketown in Lancaster County, approximately five miles east of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Access to the airport is available via State Route 340 and U.S. 30.

There are 86 based aircraft at the airport, which experiences more than 26,000 annual operations. The airport has one runway, Runway 10/28, that is 2,400 feet long by 50 feet wide and outfitted with low intensity runway lighting (LIRL).

Smoketown Airport is a privately-owned, public use facility that supports the general aviation needs of the local community. The airport’s fixed base operator, Smoketown Aviation, offers a wide variety of general aviation services, including fueling, aircraft parking, hangar leasing, aircraft rental, aerial tours and photography, aircraft maintenance, and charter service. The FBO is also an FAR Part 141 flight school. Other businesses at Smoketown Airport offer additional services such as aircraft restoration, painting, and upholstery work.

These extensive general aviation services and facilities help to support activities of local businesses. Not only do local employers rely on the airport, but their customers and suppliers also use the Smoketown Airport to increase their travel efficiency when conducting business in the area.

Although the majority of aviation activity at Smoketown Airport is recreational flying, the airport serves area emergency medical services and is often used to transport air ambulance patients to Pittsburgh. Police and other law enforcement agencies also utilize the airport.

The airport also functions as a staging area for community events. These events include the Smoketown Airport Criterium, an EAA event in June, the Annual Smoketown Fly-In in August, and the Missions Fest Aviation Fair, also in August.