

# 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**

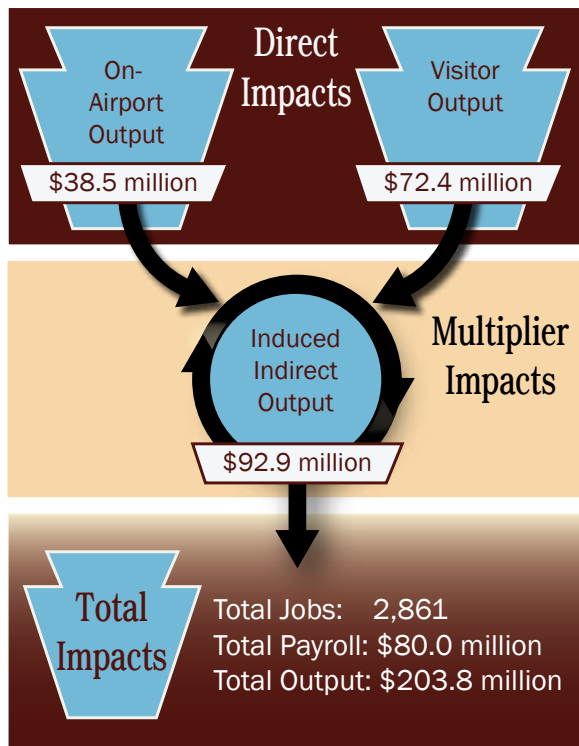
## Study Process

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 University Park 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

University Park Airport is located just north of The Pennsylvania State University and State College. Access to the airport is available via Interstate 99 and U.S. Route 322.

University Park Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 62 based aircraft and experiences approximately 56,000 annual operations. The sole runway, Runway 06/24, is 6,701 feet long by 150 feet wide and equipped with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). Runway 06/24 is outfitted with one precision approach (ILS RWY 24) and three non-precision approaches. In 2010, the airport completed construction on an air traffic control tower.

University Park Airport is owned and operated by The Pennsylvania State University, and the Airline Terminal Building is owned and operated by the Centre County Airport Authority. The airport serves the commercial service and general aviation needs of the local community and the surrounding region, as well as providing direct access to The Pennsylvania State University. Three airlines—Delta, United Express, and US Airways Express—offer several daily flights to hubs in Detroit; Washington, D.C.; and Philadelphia.

The airport also offers extensive general aviation services and facilities. The airport-run fixed base operator offers fueling, parking and hangar rental, maintenance, de-icing, and pilot supplies. Over 20 other on-site businesses offer car rentals, flight instruction, maintenance, and cargo. The Pennsylvania State University manages an FAA Certified Repair Station and Flight Department at the airport. Due to these services and proximity to the university, the airport sees corporate flight activity on a daily basis. These companies use the airport regularly:

- Raytheon
- Semcoa
- Blackberry Aviation
- Shaner Hotel Group
- AirNet Systems, Inc.
- AviaTerra
- Geospatial, Inc.
- Wiggins Airways (FedEx Express)
- Geisinger LifeFlight
- First Quality Enterprises, Inc
- Thoroughbred Aviation
- PA Air National Guard's 112th Air Operations Squadron

Daily activities include recreational flights, air cargo, flight training, and emergency medical operations. Other common activities include touch-and-go operations, flights by Civil Air Patrol charters, and flights by the Pennsylvania State Police. The Centre County Airport Authority and the airport run an Airport Awareness campaign, which markets the airport throughout the region to spread knowledge and increase awareness of University Park Airport at sporting events.