

# 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**

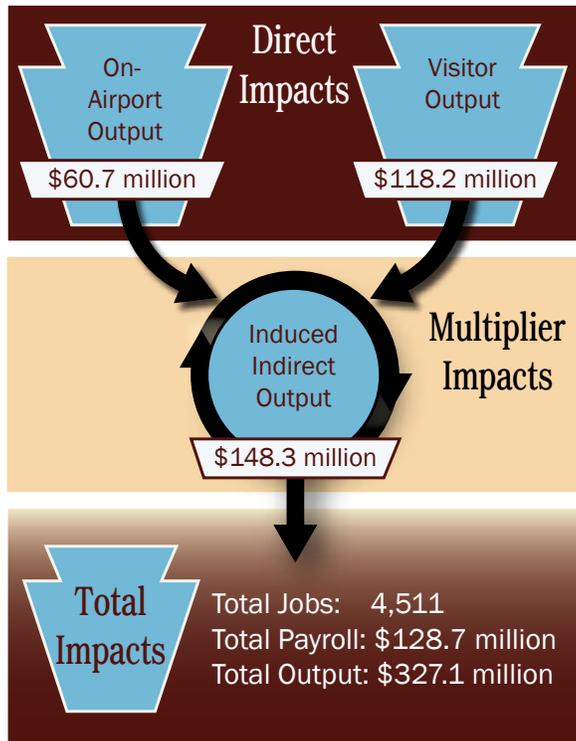
## Study Process

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 Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International 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

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport is located in Luzerne County in the northeast portion of Pennsylvania, approximately 100 miles from both Philadelphia and Harrisburg. Access to the airport is available via Interstate 81.

The airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airfield is home to 37 based aircraft and experiences more than 65,000 operations a year. The primary runway, Runway 4/22, is 7,501 feet long by 150 feet wide and is equipped with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). A secondary runway, Runway 10/28, is 4,300 feet long by 150 feet wide and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is served by two precision approaches (ILS RWY 04 and ILS RWY 22) and three non-precision approaches.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport serves the commercial service and general aviation needs of the local community and beyond. The airport is served by five airlines, American Eagle, Continental Connection, Delta Connection, United Express, and US Airways Express, with nonstop flights to six locations in the U.S. Car rentals are available from several companies. Including the airlines, the airport has more than 20 on-site business tenants. Saker Aviation, the fixed base operator, provides a full range of services such as fueling, aircraft maintenance, and corporate aviation services. Tech Aviation Flight School offers flight instruction. The terminal has a restaurant, and a Holiday Inn Express is located on-site.

Corporate flights and air cargo are both daily activities at the airport. Air cargo is handled by FedEx and UPS, both of which have aircraft based at the airport. Businesses conducting corporate activity on a regular basis include:

- Procter & Gamble
- Prime Inc.
- Pride Mobility
- Guard Insurance
- Mains Food Source
- Nationwide Insurance
- Walmart
- Lowe's

Recreational flying, flight training, and medical flights are additional daily activities at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport. The latter are operated by Geisinger Life Flight. The airport is also seen as the prime gateway to the Pocono Mountains for hiking, fishing, nature tourism, and attractions such as Mohegan Sun Casino, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Yankees AAA Baseball, and the new Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Shamrocks Lacrosse Team. An annual “Aviation Day” fly-in event, designed to educate youth about aviation, brings approximately 1,000 total attendees and 25 fly-ins.