

# 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**

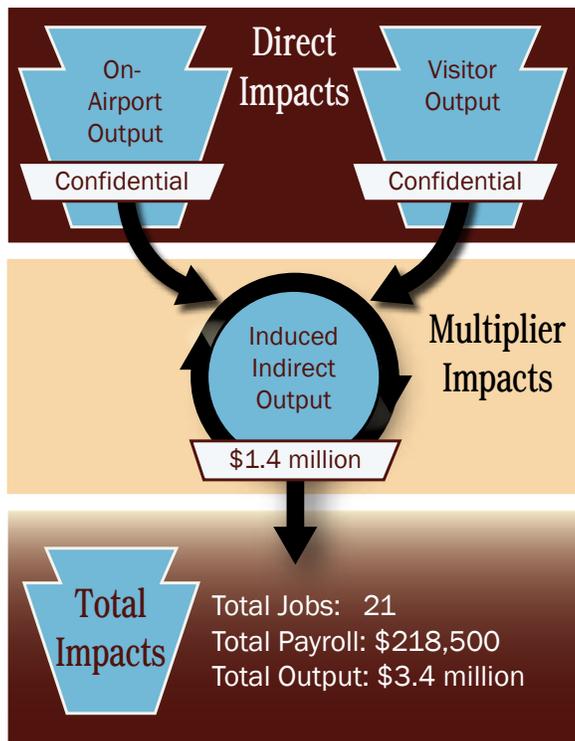
## Study Process

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/Wyoming 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

Wilkes-Barre/Wyoming Valley Airport is located on the north side of Wilkes-Barre in Luzerne County. Access to the airport is available via State Route 309 and U.S. 11.

The Wilkes-Barre/Wyoming Valley Airport is classified as a Basic airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 50 based aircraft and experiences approximately 25,125 annual operations. The Wilkes-Barre/Wyoming Valley Airport has two runways. The primary runway, Runway 6/25, is 3,375 feet long, 75 feet wide, and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The secondary runway, Runway 9/27, is 2,191 feet long and 100 feet wide.

Located in Luzerne County, Wilkes-Barre/Wyoming Valley Airport is a public-use general aviation airport that provides a variety of economic, health, and social and welfare benefits to the communities it serves. The airport is sponsored by Luzerne County. In addition to providing general aviation services, the fixed base operator provides specialized training, and runs fundraising events for non-profit organizations.

Survey results from this study indicate that the airport serves the needs of local businesses. The airport is used as an alternative to more congested airports in the area. Air taxi services available at the airport help to promote business use. Many area employers also have customers and suppliers who fly into the airport when they are visiting.

Aside from supporting area business, the Wilkes-Barre/Wyoming Valley Airport supports flight training and recreational flying. The airport is also often used for aerial photography and surveying, aerial inspections, real estate tours, and aerial advertising. The airport is used by local law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Forest Service Fire Suppression Service, multiple utility helicopter services, and the Civil Air Patrol for search and rescue operations. The airport is also used by local television and radio stations for news and traffic reporting. The airport also supports aviation-related education and career training. Local emergency medical services also use the airport on a routine basis.