

# 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**

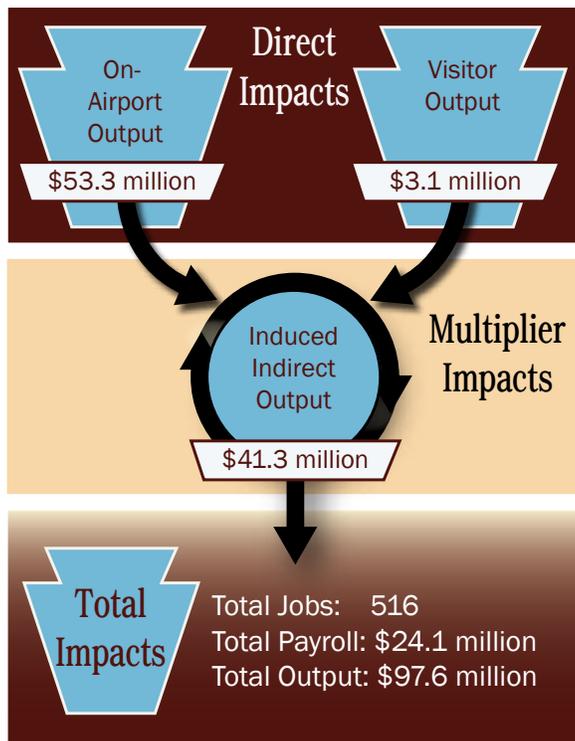
## Study Process

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 Arnold Palmer Regional 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

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport is located two miles south of Latrobe, approximately 35 miles east of Pittsburgh. The airport is accessible via U.S. Route 30.

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 115 based aircraft and experiences more than 28,000 annual operations. The primary runway, Runway 05/23, measures 8,223 feet long by 100 feet wide, and is equipped with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). A secondary runway, Runway 03/21, is 3,613 feet long by 75 feet wide, and is equipped with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). Runway 05/23 is served by one precision approach (ILS RWY 23) and two non-precision approaches (NDB RWY 23 and RNAV RWY 05).

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport serves the general aviation and commercial service needs of the region. Commercial service is provided by Spirit Airlines, which offers flights to Fort Lauderdale and Myrtle Beach. Spirit began service in February 2011 and the public response has been positive, attracting passengers from all parts of western Pennsylvania as well as Ohio and New York. The airport has two fixed base operators, Vee Neal Aviation and LJ Aviation, in addition to several other on-site businesses that offer services such as rental cars, maintenance, charter, and food service. Westmoreland Aviation Academy offers flight training at the airport, also partnering with Westmoreland Community College to offer Ground School instructional classes.

Due to its extensive general aviation facilities and services, corporate flights are a daily activity at Arnold Palmer Regional Airport. Businesses that use the airport regularly include Westmoreland Mechanical Testing, Trib Total Media, RK Mellon, and Allegheny Power.

Recreational flights are common at the airport, with an estimated 60 percent of based aircraft being used primarily for recreational purposes. The airport acts as a gateway for area attractions, including Hidden Valley, Seven Springs, Latrobe Country Club, Laurel Valley, and the Pittsburgh Steelers Training Camp at St. Vincent College. There is significant touch-and-go activity by military units such as the 911th in Pittsburgh, which uses the airport for C130 training. The airport has been utilized by Andrews Air Force Base for the Presidential Fleet, including Boeing 727s and Gulfstream IIIs. The airport is a fuel stop for air ambulance services such as StatMedivac, Lifeflight, and MedVac. The Pennsylvania State Police have helicopter and fixed wing aircraft based at the airport.