

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

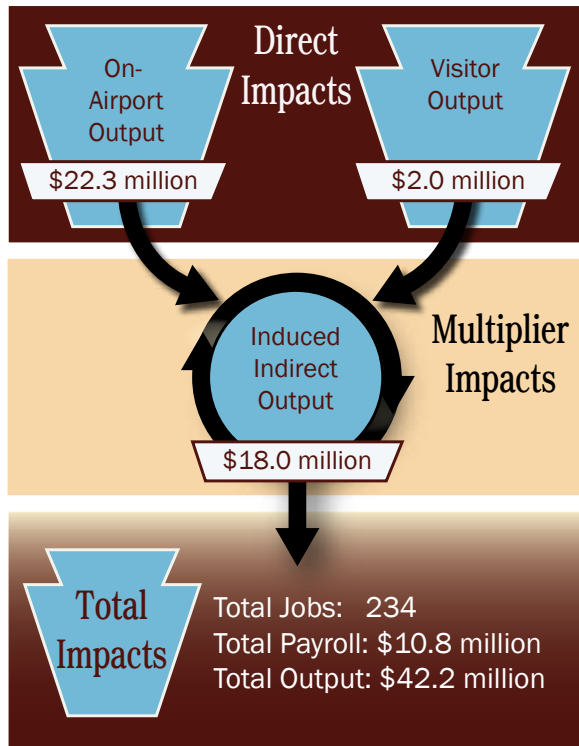
Study Process

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 Capital City 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

Capital City Airport is located near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on the west shore of the Susquehanna River. The airport is accessible via I-76 and I-83.

Capital City Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 96 based aircraft and experiences over 57,000 annual operations. The airport has two runways. The primary runway, Runway 08/26, is 5,001 feet long by 150 feet wide, and is outfitted with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). The crosswind runway, Runway 12/30, is 3,925 feet long by 100 feet wide, and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is supported by a precision approach (ILS RWY 8) and two non-precision approaches (RNAV RWY 26 and RNAV RWY 08).

Capital City Airport supports the general aviation needs of the local community and greater region and is a reliever airport for Harrisburg International Airport. There are approximately 13 on-site business tenants, including fixed base operator CXY Aviation. The FBO and other businesses offer a full range of services such as fueling, flight instruction, aircraft sales, charter, maintenance, a pilot shop, avionics, and aircraft storage. The Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation also maintain a presence at the airport.

The airport’s high level of service and proximity to Harrisburg make it an attractive option for corporate flights. Many area businesses base aircraft in rented hangars and regularly use Capital City Airport for their corporate flight operations. The following businesses and government agencies use the airport regularly:

- Sutliff Chevrolet
- Carlisle Travel Management
- Harsco
- Keystone Petroleum
- Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General
- United States Aluminate Company
- Waveline Direct, Inc.
- York Transportation and Leasing Inc.

Capital City Airport is among Pennsylvania’s busiest general aviation airports, and corporate activity is only one of many daily activities. Also occurring daily are flight instruction and education, recreational flying, touch-and-go operation flights by local law enforcement, and military helicopter operations. Aerial sightseeing, real estate tours, operations by the Civil Air Patrol, and aerial photography and surveying are also common activities. The EAA Young Eagles gather at the airport each May with 100 attendees.