

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

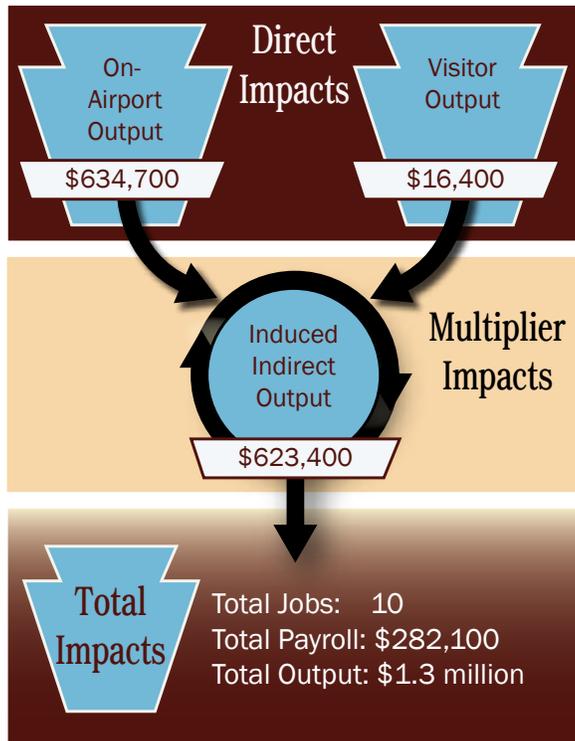
Study Process

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 Clarion County 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

Clarion County Airport is located three miles west of Clarion in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. Access to the airport is available via Interstate 80, State Route 66, or U.S. Route 322.

Clarion County Airport is classified as a Basic airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 24 based aircraft, and experiences approximately 2,700 annual operations. There is one runway, Runway 6/24, which is 5,003 feet long by 75 feet wide with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is supported by three non-precision instrument approaches (VOR A, RNAV RWY 06, RNAV RWY 24).

Clarion County Airport supports the general aviation needs of the local community and region. The Clarion County Airport Authority accommodates all aviation services at the airport, including fueling, aircraft parking, and hangar rentals as well as FAA computer written testing. Aircraft rentals are also available. The airport’s terminal offers amenities such as a pilots’ lounge with free Wi-Fi and Internet access for visiting and local pilots and passengers.

The abundance of aviation services at Clarion County Airport makes it an attractive option for area business and corporate flight activity. The following are common business users of the airport:

- Boelke Veneer
- Allegheny Hardwoods
- Snyder Brothers Inc.
- Universal Forest Products

In addition to corporate flights, other daily activities at Clarion County Airport include recreational flying and flight instruction. Other typical activities include aerial tours, aerial inspections of utility pipelines, power line repairs, air cargo, and medical evacuation or transfer.

Clarion County Airport hosts several events such as fly-in breakfasts and an annual fly-in in conjunction with the local autumn leaf festival. The local Experimental Aircraft Association branch also works with the Boy Scouts related to aviation merit badges, and hosts Young Eagle flights throughout the year. In addition, the airport runs promotions for weekend trips to the Allegheny National Forest and Cook State Forest.