

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

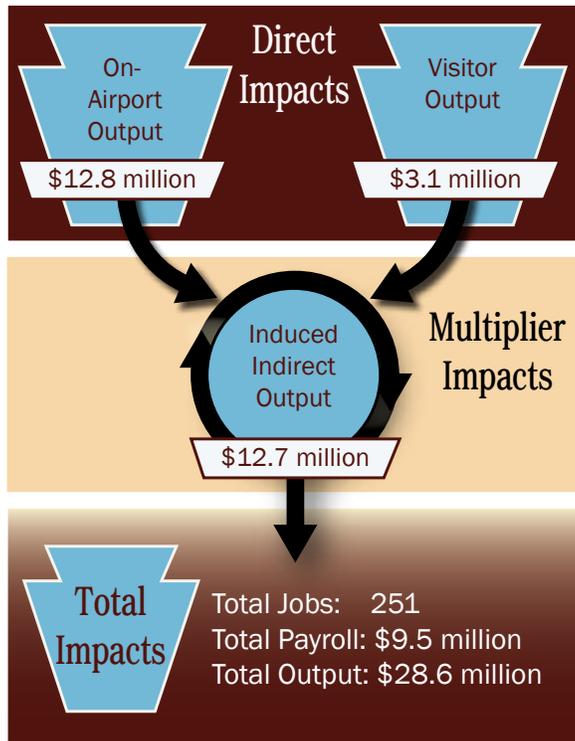
Study Process

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 DuBois 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

DuBois Regional Airport is located approximately 10 miles northwest of the City of DuBois and approximately 115 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. Access to the airport is available via Interstate 80 and State Route 830.

DuBois Regional Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 18 based aircraft and experiences over 5,600 annual operations. The airport’s one runway, Runway 7/25, is 5,503 feet long and 100 feet wide, and has high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). The airport is supported by a precision approach (ILS RWY 25) and three non-precision approaches (VOR/DME RWY 07, RNAV RWY 07, and RNAV RWY 25).

DuBois Regional Airport provides both scheduled service, via Continental Express (Gulfstream International Airlines), and general aviation services. The airport is supported by a multi-jurisdictional airport authority. Including the airline and the Transportation Security Administration, the airport has a total of eight on-site business tenants. These include the Flight Deck Restaurant and the Federal Aviation Administration Sector Field Office. Hertz provides car rentals to passengers, while the airport provides fuel service for pilots.

The airport experiences daily corporate and business activity. Much of this can currently be contributed to the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry in the region, automotive parts manufacturing, and the powdered metals sector. In addition, an adjacent industrial park with full utilities is available for development. It is located within both a Keystone Opportunity Zone and a Foreign Trade Zone. Local businesses that regularly utilize the airport include:

- C & S Wholesale
- R.J. Corman Railroad Group
- Barber Trucking
- Fort Worth Pipe
- Phoenix Pressed Metals
- Black and Decker

Corporate flights also occur at the airport via fractional ownership charter operators such as NetJets, LJ Associates, Presidential Airlines, and Executive Jets. DuBois Regional also experiences recreational flying and occasional military flights, aerial spraying, and law enforcement flights. Ad hoc air cargo operations occur at the airport for businesses in the powdered metal and automotive sectors. The airport is a particular asset to several of the largest hospitals in the region due to its de-icing services.