

# 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**

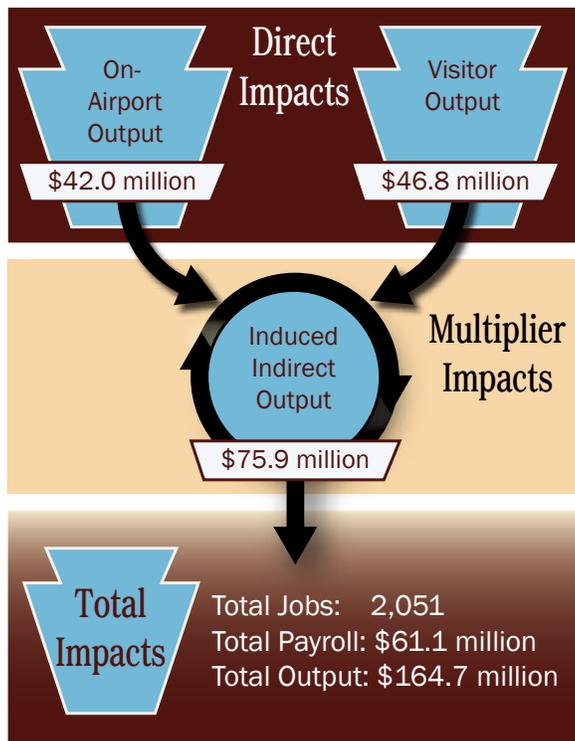
## Study Process

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 Erie International 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

Erie International Airport is located three miles west of downtown Erie, Pennsylvania, and one mile south of Lake Erie. The airport is accessible via Interstate 90, Interstate 79, and State Route 5.

Erie International Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 39 based aircraft and experiences over 30,000 annual operations. There are two runways at the airport. Runway 06/24, the airport’s primary runway, is 6,500 feet long by 150 feet wide and equipped with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). Runway 2/20 is 3,507 feet long by 150 feet wide and has medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is supported by two precision approaches (ILS RWY 24 and ILS RWY 06) as well as four non-precision approaches.

Erie International Airport supports the commercial service and general aviation needs of the local community and greater surrounding region. The airport is currently served by three airlines, Continental Connection, Delta, and U.S. Airways Express, which offer flights to connecting hubs in Cleveland, Detroit, and Philadelphia, respectively. The Transportation Security Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection also operate at the airport.

In addition to commercial service, Erie International Airport has several on-site business tenants offering a wide range of general aviation services. The airport’s fixed base operator, North Coast Air, offers aviation gas, jet fuel, aircraft parking, charter service, aircraft maintenance, catering, and many other aviation services. Other businesses include the ERI Café and an FAA-certified Part 145 Repair Station. Several rental car agencies serve commercial and general aviation passengers at the airport.

Corporate flights are a daily activity at Erie International Airport. The airport’s extensive FBO services, as well as the option for international flights, make it an ideal option for businesses with aviation needs. Companies that utilize the airport regularly include Snap Tite, Lord Corp., FedEx, General Electric, and Erie Insurance.

Erie International Airport is used extensively by fixed wing and helicopter air ambulance companies such as Critical Care Medflight and the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania. In addition to corporate flights, other daily activities at Erie International Airport include recreational flying, air cargo, touch-and-go operations, and career training. Flight training at the airport by off-airport flight instruction entities includes Kent State University, Bowling Green State University and the International Airline Training Academy. Other common activities include aerial sightseeing, search and rescue flights, and operations by the Civil Air Patrol.