

# 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

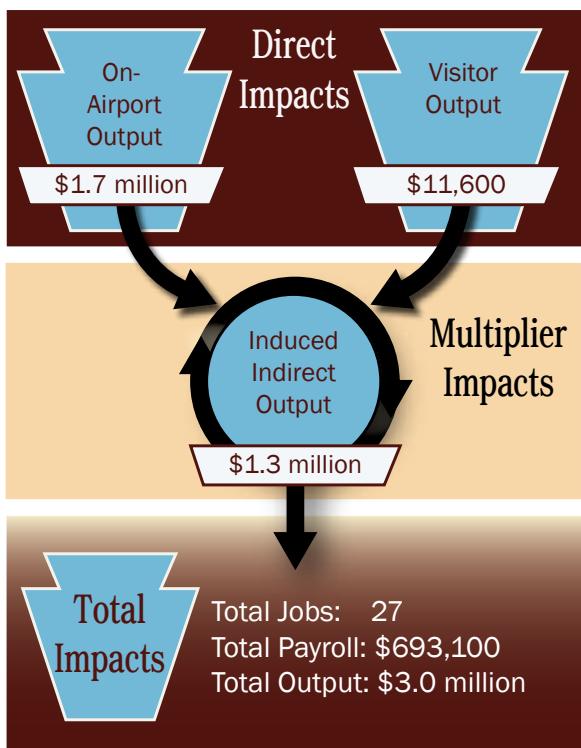
This study, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation, analyzes the economic impact of Pennsylvania's aviation industry as a whole, as well as the impacts of its individual airports. The study confirms that many people—beyond the immediate environs of each airport—derive 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 Grove 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

Grove City Airport is located four miles west of Grove City in southeast Mercer County, approximately 40 miles north of Pittsburgh. The county is located on the Ohio/Pennsylvania border, north of the Pittsburgh metropolitan area. The airport is accessible via Interstate 79.

Grove City Airport is classified as a Basic airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has six based aircraft and experiences approximately 6,000 annual operations. The airport's single runway, Runway 10/28, is 4,500 feet long by 75 feet wide, and outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is supported by three non-precision approaches (RNAV RWY 10, RNAV RWY 28, and VOR A).

Grove City Airport offers general aviation services to the local community and region. There are currently two on-site business tenants at the airport.

Quality Avionics provides avionics sales and service, while STAT Medivac conducts medical evacuation and other medical flight operations on a daily basis. The airport provides fuel service.

Corporate flights are a frequent activity at Grove City Airport. The following companies conduct regular operations and also keep aircraft based at the airport:

- Hawbaker Construction
- Interstate Chemical
- Petroleum Products
- Oregon Aero

Grove City Airport supports a number of additional activities. Recreational flights are a daily occurrence, while ad hoc air cargo, charter operations, aerial inspections, military exercises, and law enforcement flights happen with regular frequency. The airport is also utilized to access area attractions. Skydiving takes place on weekends during the warmer months. There are two annual events held at the airport in the spring and fall, one hosted by airport staff and the other hosted by EAA 161.

