

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

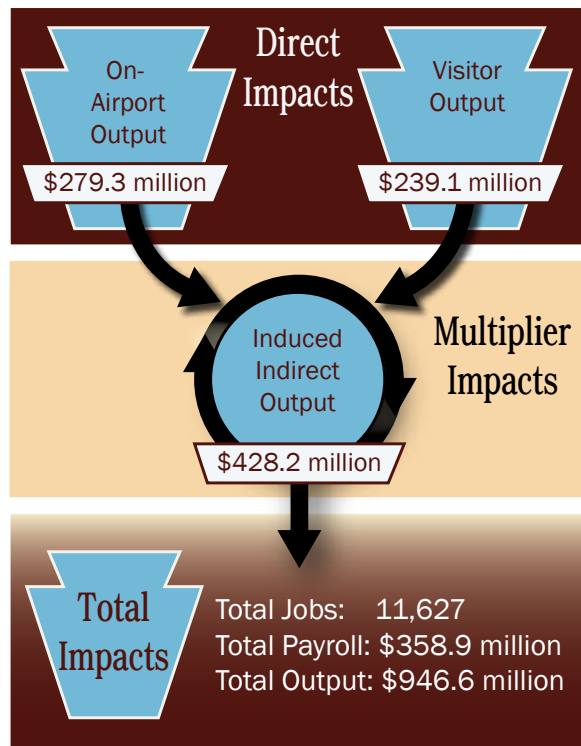
Study Process

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 Harrisburg 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

The Harrisburg International Airport is located in Middletown, Pennsylvania, approximately five miles southeast of downtown Harrisburg, the capital of the Commonwealth. Harrisburg International Airport serves as the primary scheduled service airport for this area, with seven airlines providing commercial air service.

Harrisburg International Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has a single runway (13/31) which is 10,002 feet long by 200 feet wide and is equipped with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). Operations at the airport are supported by four precision approaches and three non-precision approaches. The airfield is supported by an FAA air traffic control tower (ATCT) that is attended 24 hours a day, and a U.S. Customs Border Patrol facility to handle international activity. Harrisburg International Airport experiences over 77,000 annual operations and is home to 36 based aircraft.

Harrisburg International Airport is one of Pennsylvania’s most important scheduled service airports. The airport is used extensively by state government employees and departments, as well as by many visitors who fly into Harrisburg to conduct business with state government. The airport provides a vast array of scheduled airline, general aviation, cargo, and small package services. These services support many of the businesses in the airport’s market area. Businesses with corporate aircraft based at the airport include: Hershey Foods, Rite Aid Corporation, and Cleveland Brothers. Fortune 500 companies that utilize the airport include General Electric, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Coca-Cola, and Hartford Financial. With its U.S. CBP presence, Harrisburg International Airport is equipped to handle international arrivals for charter and scheduled airline carriers. The airport serves as a gateway for many business and pleasure-related visitors each year. The airport also hosts the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

The airport routinely serves as a staging area for community events, and it provides a location for the various community facilities and services. The airport supports state and local law enforcement agencies. It is used by the Civil Air Patrol for search and rescue activities. The airport supports aerial photography and surveying services, and it is often used to support emergency medical services, including patient and organ transport. The airport supports local T.V. and radio stations with their news and traffic reporting efforts. The airport also supports recreational flying and flight instruction.