

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

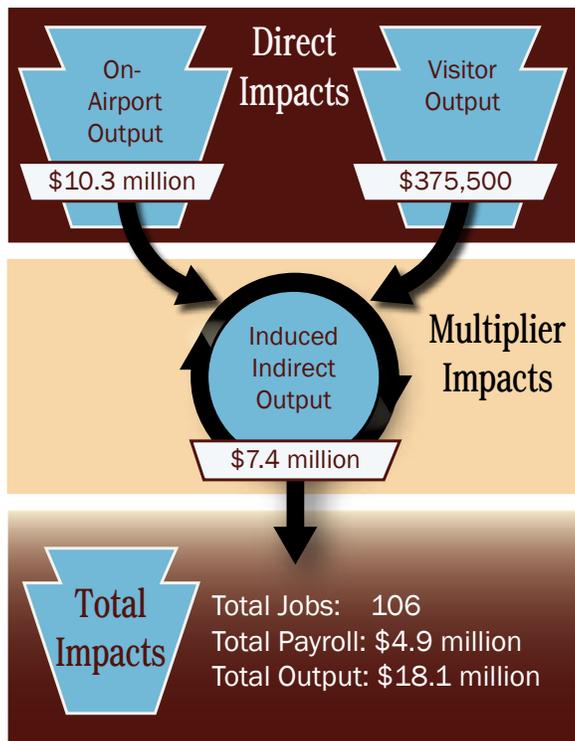
Study Process

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 Heritage Field



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

Heritage Field is located just east of Pottstown in Montgomery County, approximately 25 miles northwest of the center of Philadelphia. Access to the airport is available via U.S. 422.

Heritage Field is classified as an Intermediate airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 92 based aircraft and experiences over 37,000 annual operations. Heritage Field has one runway, Runway 10/28, which measures 3,371 feet long by 75 feet wide, and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is equipped with four non-precision approaches (LOC RWY 28, GPS RWY 10, GPS RWY 28 and VOR/DME-A), and an ASOS weather reporting system.

Heritage Field is a privately-owned, public-use airport that serves the general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. The airport has approximately 10 on-site business tenants, including fixed base operator Penn Airways, who offer aviation gas and jet fueling service, with self-service fueling to arrive soon. Other businesses include Limerick Flight Center, a flight school, charter operator FareShare, and companies offering other services such as maintenance and hangar rental.

The airport experiences corporate flight activity daily. Services at the airport, particularly jet fuel, make it an attractive option for companies with aviation needs. The following are but a few companies that regularly use Heritage Field:

- Teleflex (based corporate jet)
- Quest Diagnostics
- Drug Plastics
- Sikorsky Global Helicopters
- Pfizer
- Myers Aviation

In addition to corporate activity, recreational flying, flight training, touch-and-go operations, and emergency medical flights all occur daily at Heritage Field. Hahnemann Hospital Medevac has based helicopters at Heritage Field, while Quest Diagnostics operates medical air cargo flights at the airport for the transport of medical laboratory samples and equipment to and from local hospitals. Seasonal activities include aerial utility inspections, aerial sight-seeing, prisoner transport, and aerial photography and surveying.

Heritage Field hosts two fly-in breakfasts each year, which attract visitors to the airport by plane and car. The airport is also home to a local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter, is used as a meeting place for the local Civil Air Patrol, has an active pilots club with a club house, and provides tours to the public to spread knowledge of the facility and aviation in general. In addition, the local fire department keeps a foam truck parked in one of the airport’s hangars.