

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

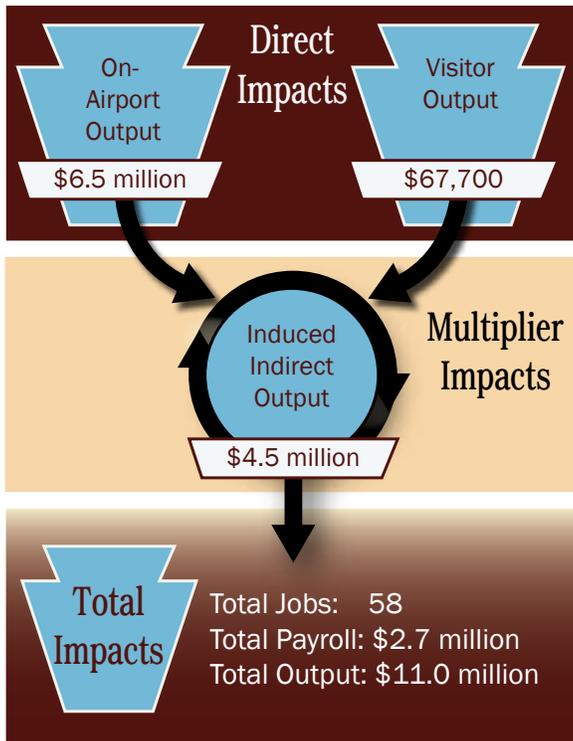
Study Process

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 Jake Arner Memorial 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

Jake Arner Memorial Airport is located approximately three miles west of Lehighton in Carbon County, Pennsylvania. Primary access to the airport is via State Route 902.

Jake Arner Memorial Airport is classified as a Basic airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 38 based aircraft and experiences more than 27,000 annual operations. The airport has one runway, Runway 08/26, that measures 3,000 feet long by 60 feet wide. The runway has medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport has two non-precision instrument approaches (GPS RWY 26 and GPS RWY 08).

Jake Arner Memorial Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community and region. The airport’s fixed base operator is run by the Carbon County Airport Authority, offering services such as fueling, aircraft parking, and hangar rental. The FBO also maintains a full general aviation terminal with a pilots’ lounge. The airport has several on-site business tenants in addition to the FBO, including Arner Flying Service, which offers flight training and aircraft rental. St. Luke’s Hospital, located in Lehigh Valley, has a helicopter based at the airport for emergency operations which take place up to 15 times per week.

The most common activities at Jake Arner Memorial Airport are recreational flights, flight training, and emergency medical operations. Touch-and-go operations, aerial sightseeing, corporate flights, military exercises, and operations by local law enforcement are also common activities at the airport. Visitors will also utilize the airport to visit area attractions such as the Borough of Jim Thorpe or to go whitewater rafting in the Lehigh River Gorge.