

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

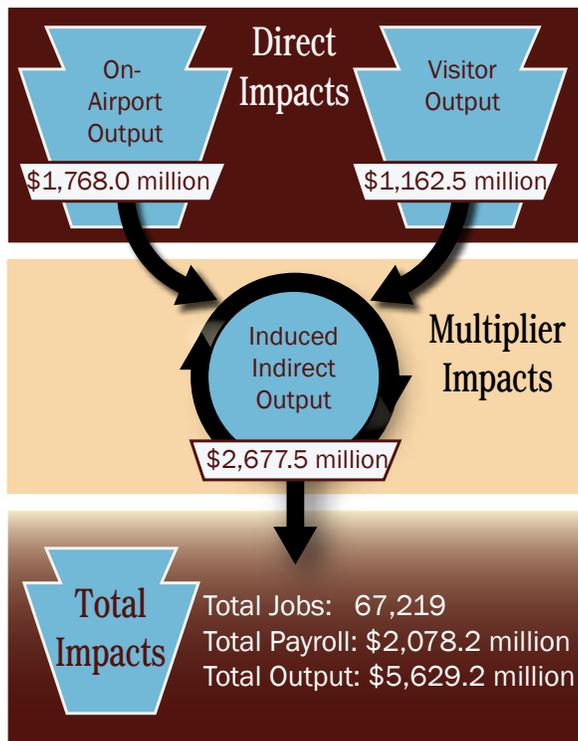
Study Process

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 Pittsburgh 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

Pittsburgh International Airport is located northwest of downtown Pittsburgh in Allegheny County. The airport is accessible via Interstate 376.

Pittsburgh International Airport is designated as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 51 based aircraft and experiences over 100,000 operations per year. There are four runways and one helipad. Runway 10C/28C is 9,708 feet long by 150 feet wide, Runway 10L/28R is 10,502 feet long by 150 feet wide, Runway 10R/28L is 11,500 feet long by 200 feet wide, and Runway 14/32 is 8,101 feet long by 150 feet wide. All are equipped with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). Airport operations are supported by 10 precision instrument approaches and 14 non-precision approaches.

Through its commercial airline service, military presence, general aviation, and air cargo, Pittsburgh International Airport continues to be recognized as one of the cornerstones of Pittsburgh’s regional economy. In 2010, the airport served the air transportation needs of nearly 8.2 million passengers and handled nearly 72,500 tons of cargo. Eleven passenger airlines and their 10 affiliates operate at Pittsburgh International Airport, providing non-stop service to 36 cities with 166 average daily flights. The airport also has low cost carrier service courtesy of Southwest Airlines, JetBlue, and AirTran. US Airways has a significant presence on the airport with its aircraft maintenance facilities as well as its newly completed Operations Control Center.

Military aviation activity is of great importance to the airport. The Pennsylvania Air National Guard’s 171st Air Refueling Wing (ARW) and U.S. Air Force’s 911th Airlift Wing are based at Pittsburgh International Airport. The 171st ARW operates 16 KC-135T Stratotanker aircraft while the 911th Airlift Wing operates eight C-130H “Hercules” aircraft. Pittsburgh International Airport has more than 100 on-airport businesses and government agencies, many of which offer general aviation services, while many more provide amenities for commercial passengers in AIRMALL, a state-of-the-art shopping mall in the airport terminal.

In 2010, the airport hosted the 19th Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) Conference and Exhibition. The conference was a showcase for the Allegheny County Airport Authority. In 2009, the City of Pittsburgh was the site of the annual G20 economic summit. The international event brought more than 50 jets and dignitaries from foreign governments to the airport.