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, private 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

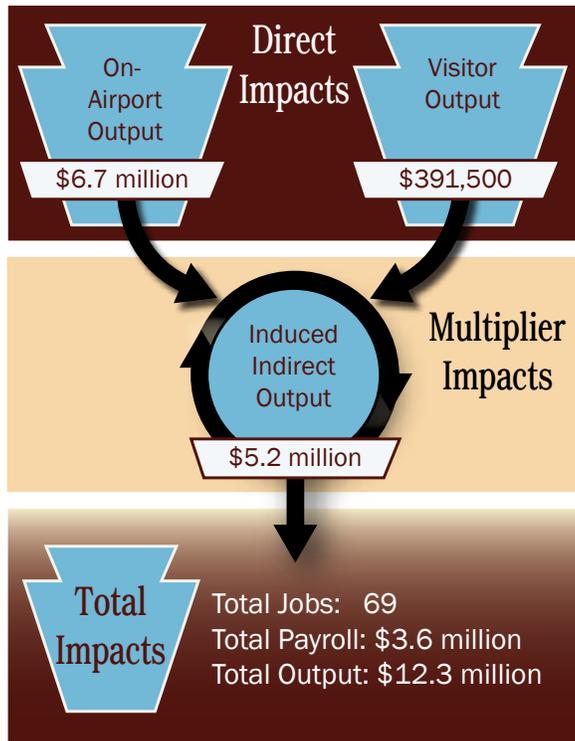### Total Output – $23.6 billion

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
Port Meadville Airport

Direct Impacts

On-Airport Output	Visitor Output
$6.7 million	$391,500

Multiplier Impacts

Induced Indirect Output

$5.2 million

Total Impacts

Total Jobs: 69
Total Payroll: $3.6 million
Total Output: $12.3 million

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

Port Meadville Airport is located in northwest Pennsylvania four miles west of Meadville in Crawford County, approximately 30 miles south of Erie. The airport is accessible via Interstate 79 and U.S. Route 6/19/322.

Port Meadville Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 27 based aircraft and experiences more than 13,000 annual operations. The airport's single runway, Runway 7/25, is 5,002 feet long by 75 feet wide and outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). In addition, the airfield is equipped with four non-precision approaches (LOC RWY 25, VOR RWY 07, RNAV RWY 25, and RNAV RWY 07).

The airport offers fuel service and is home to six on-site business tenants. One of these businesses, All Points Aviation Services, offers a wide range of services including maintenance, aircraft recovery, sales, and overnight services. STAT Medivac is located at Port Meadville and provides medical evacuation and transport operations throughout the area.

Corporate flights are a daily activity at Port Meadville. As a city of 13,000 residents, several local companies utilize the airport to conduct business. The following companies keep aircraft based at the airport and conduct frequent flight operations:

- Ainsworth Enterprises
- Greenleaf
- Aerostar Inc.
- Great Lakes Case and Cabinet

In addition to corporate activity and daily recreational flights, Port Meadville provides other benefits to the community. The Civil Air Patrol conducts operations at the airport, while aerial sightseeing and inspections are additional activities. The airport also serves as a gateway for hunting and fishing at Conneaut Lake, the Erie Wildlife Refuge, Pymatuning Reservoirs, and Tamarack Lake as well as state-owned hunting reserves.

Each third Sunday in June, the airport hosts its annual fly-in which attracts attendees from the community and region. The airport's terminal building serves additional non-aviation needs of the community for business meetings and local events. In addition, the local fire department's smoke training building is located on airport property.