

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

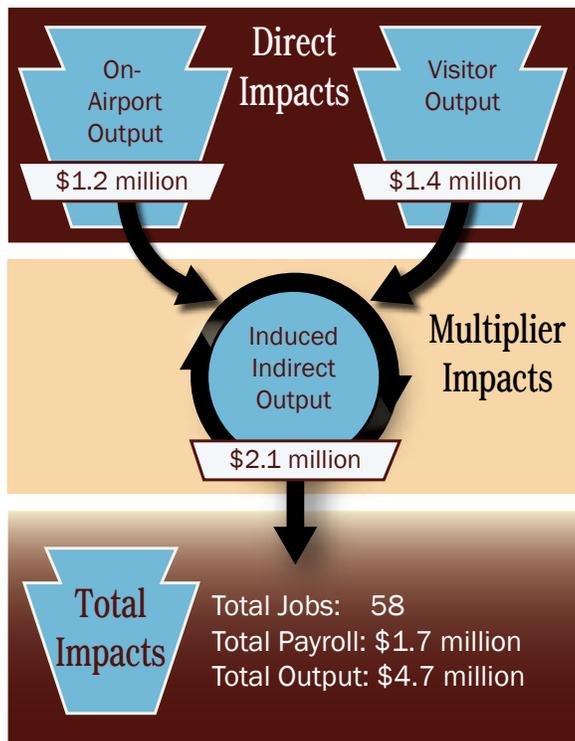
Study Process

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 Schuylkill County/ Joe Zerbey 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

Schuylkill County/Joe Zerbey Airport is located in Foster Township, approximately 10 miles west of Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and seven miles south of Frackville, Pennsylvania. The airport is accessible via a direct interchange off Interstate 81.

Schuylkill County/Joe Zerbey Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 27 based aircraft and experiences more than 28,000 annual operations. The primary runway, Runway 11/29, is 4,594 feet long by 75 feet wide and outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The secondary runway, turf Runway 04/22, is 2,270 feet long by 140 feet wide. The airport is served by two precision approaches with height above ground level at 200 feet (LPV/GPS RWY 11, LPV/GPS RWY 29), and one non-precision approach (VOR RWY 04).

Schuylkill County/Joe Zerbey Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local business community and surrounding region. The airport-run fixed base operator offers 24/7 services, including self-service aviation gas and jet fuel, aircraft maintenance, a ground power unit, courtesy cars, and catering. Other on-site businesses include Three in the Green Paint Shop, which specializes in aircraft paint projects, and Bright Sky Aviation, which offers flight training.

Corporate flights are a daily occurrence at Schuylkill County/Joe Zerbey Airport. FBO services, most importantly the availability of jet fuel, make the airport an ideal option for businesses with aviation needs. Businesses in the abutting industrial park often utilize the airport for the shipment of products and supplies. The following companies utilize the airport on a regular basis:

- Walmart
- Universal Forest Products
- Yuengling Brewery
- International Papers
- Wegman’s
- Lowe’s
- Sara Lee
- Gordon Foods

Schuylkill County/Joe Zerbey Airport experiences many other types of daily aviation activity in addition to corporate flights. These activities include recreational flying, flight training, touch-and-go operations, real estate tours, sightseeing, medical flights, aerial photography, and operations by Ft. Indiantown Gap and Pennsylvania State Police. Other common activities include pipeline utility inspections, prisoner transport, and operations by the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. In addition, several local organizations, such as the Kiwanis, Pottsville Lions, and Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, use the airport as a meeting place. The airport also provides tours for schools, the Boy Scouts, and other local groups.