

# 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**

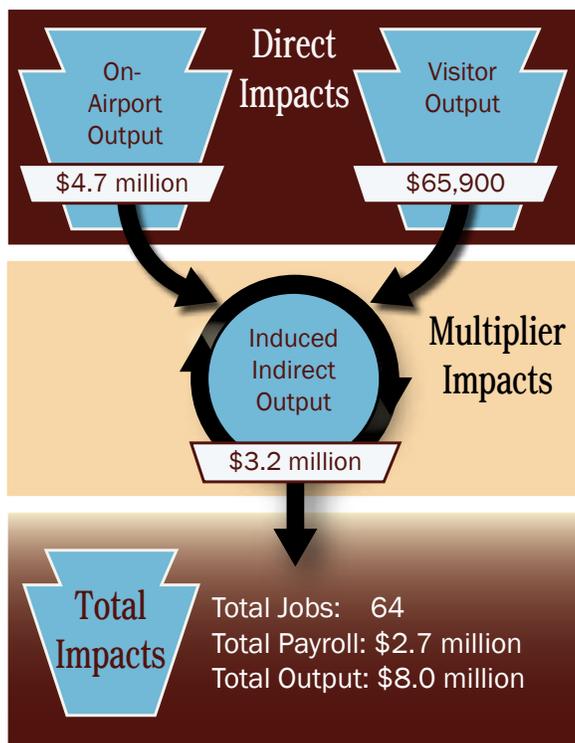
## Study Process

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 Seamans 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

Seamans Airport is located northeast of Factoryville in Lackawanna County, approximately 15 miles north of Scranton. Access to the airport is available via State Route 107.

Seamans Airport is classified as a Limited airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 62 based aircraft and experiences more than 35,000 annual operations. There is one runway, Runway 04/22, that is 2,500 feet long by 50 feet wide and outfitted with low intensity runway lighting (LIRL). The airport is supported by a non-precision approach (RNAV RWY 04).

Seamans Airport supports the general aviation needs of the local community. The airport’s fixed base operator, Endless Mountains Air, Inc., offers a wide variety of general aviation services to local and transient passengers and pilots. These services include 24-hour fueling, aircraft rental, charter, aircraft storage, flight instruction, and aerial sightseeing. The FBO also runs a pilot shop at the airport. The airport’s other on-site business tenant is O&N Aircraft Modifications.

Daily activities at Seamans Airport include recreational flying, including ultra-light activity; corporate flights; flight training; and touch-and-go operations. The most common business user of the airport is Linde Enterprises, which utilizes the airport several times each week and keeps an aircraft based on-site. Aerial sightseeing and air cargo are also common activities at Seamans Airport. Young Eagles events are held in the summer and fall to spread knowledge of aviation to area youth. The airport also hosts a number of non-aviation community events throughout the year, including a summertime spaghetti dinner, a concert in the fall, and drag racing events. The airport offers excellent access to Elk Mountain Ski Resort as well as local summer camps, and is used by local horseback riders, hikers, and hunters. EAA Chapter 1458 uses the airport pavilion and grounds, as does the Scranton Pocono Amateur Radio Club during their field day. A local bus company uses the airport occasionally for driver testing.

Finally, Skyline Estates is a planned, residential community adjacent to the airport with 46 properties on more than 155 acres. The community is unique in that 31 of the 46 lots offer direct access to Seamans Airport, allowing pilots to land and taxi directly to their homes.