

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

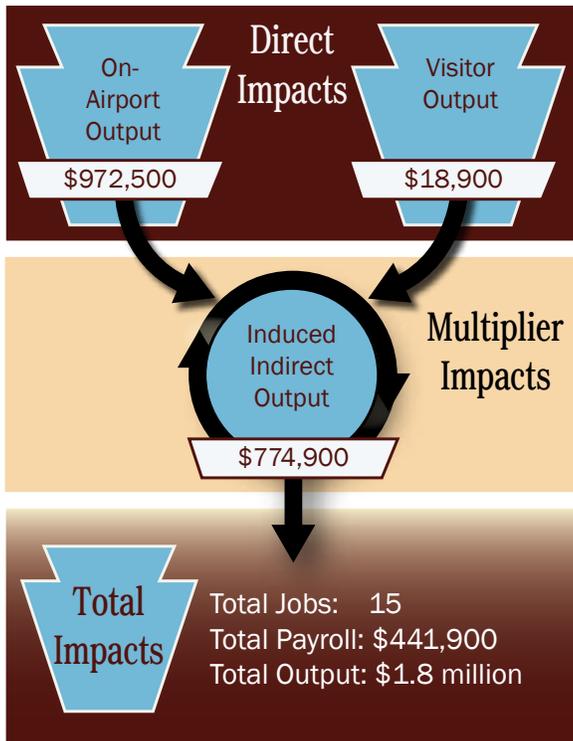
Study Process

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 Skyhaven 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

Skyhaven Airport is located three-quarters of a mile south of Tunkhannock in Wyoming County, approximately 15 miles northwest of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Access to the airport is available via State Route 92, State Route 29, and U.S. 6.

Skyhaven Airport is classified as a Limited airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 56 based aircraft: 51 single engine and 5 multi-engine. Skyhaven experiences more than 21,000 annual operations. The airport has one runway, Runway 01/19, that is 2,007 feet long by 50 feet wide. In the spring of 2011 the airport, with the assistance of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation, purchased land to extend the runway to 3000 feet. Construction began soon after.

Skyhaven Airport supports the general aviation needs of the local community. The airport-run fixed base operator offers services such as fueling, aircraft parking and hangar leasing, flight instruction, aircraft rental, and aircraft maintenance/restoration. The airport has three additional on-site business tenants, which offer services such as skydiving, aircraft customizing, and aerial surveying.

Corporate flights are common. Marcellus shale drilling has caused an increase in transient use by oil, gas, and pipeline companies. Many other businesses use the airport due to its convenient location and the availability of FBO services seven days a week. These companies include Ace Robbins Oil/Propane, Linde Corp., Meshoppen Stone, Vision Air Research, Shamrock Auction Service, and Natures Creations.

Daily activities at the airport include recreational flying, flight training, and skydiving instruction at Endless Mountains Skydivers. Skydiving brings large groups of people to the airport from adjoining states and New York City. The Skydive club is the highest volume airport fuel customer. Other common activities include touch-and-go operations, aerial sightseeing, aerial surveying, real estate tours, medical operations, and flights by local law enforcement. The airport is used as a gateway to area attractions and for day flights to the area for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Like many airports in rural environs, Skyhaven Airport also experiences seasonal agricultural spraying.

Since 1985, the airport has hosted a pancake breakfast and airport open house twice a year, in June and September. There are also a number of other community events throughout the year, such as an annual Red Cross fundraiser, concerts, a craft show, and Airport Day. Growth of the local area has located businesses, stores, restaurants, and a hotel within walking distance of the airport.