

# 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**

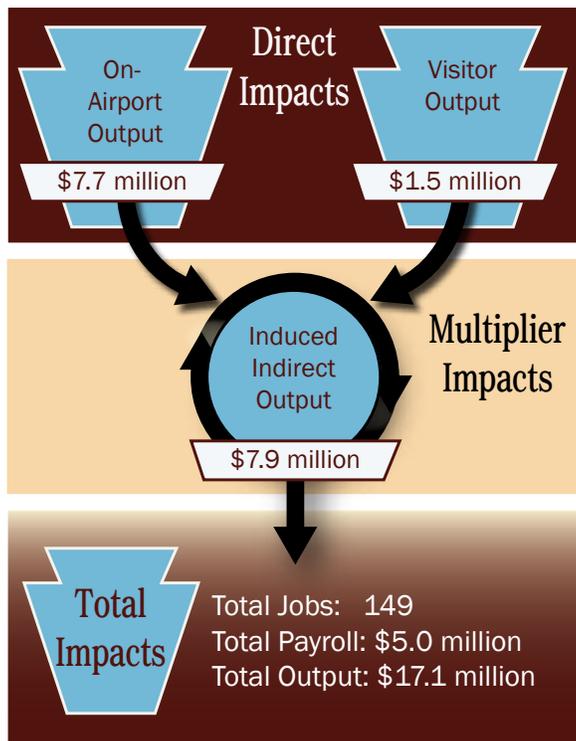
## Study Process

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 Venango Regional 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

Venango Regional is located directly southwest of Franklin, Pennsylvania, in Venango County, approximately 80 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. The airport is accessible via State Route 8.

Venango Regional Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has approximately 50 based aircraft and experiences nearly 20,000 annual operations. The primary runway, Runway 03/21, is 5,200 feet long by 150 feet wide and is outfitted with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). The secondary runway, Runway 12/30, is 3,698 feet long by 100 feet wide and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is supported by a precision approach (ILS RWY 21) and four non-precision approaches.

Venango Regional Airport supports the commercial and general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. Commercial service is provided by Continental Connection, which operates daily flights to Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. Including the airline, the airport has a total of nine on-site businesses. The airport’s fixed base operator, Venango County, offers fueling service and ground handling for commercial and general aviation aircraft. PennAir Sales and Tom’s Aircraft Service both offer aircraft sales, while the latter also provides maintenance and ramp services. KB Aviation offers full-time flight training at Venango Regional Airport. The airport is home to one of the region’s premier fine dining establishments, Primo Barone, which is open seven days a week from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and draws customers from both the aviation community and surrounding region.

Venango Regional Airport experiences regular corporate and business flight activity. Several local companies utilize the airport for business uses, also maintaining based aircraft at the airport. Businesses and government entities that use the airport with the most frequency include The Channellock Corporation, ConAir, Joy Global Mining Equipment Corp., PA State Police Helicopter Detachment, and The Miller Safety Division of Honewell Corp.

Recreational flying and state law enforcement activity are other daily activities at Venango Regional Airport. Aerial inspections, operations by the Civil Air Patrol, and medical flights are also frequent. In addition, the airport is used for two large community events each year—the EAA fly-in and Franklin Applefest, a three-day festival that draws nearly 100,000 people to the City of Franklin.