

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

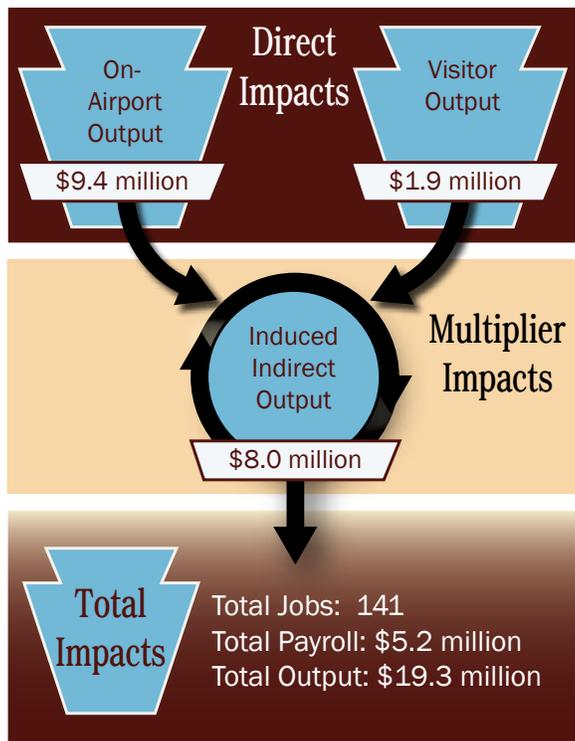
Study Process

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 York 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

York Airport is located in York County, approximately 30 miles south of the City of Harrisburg. Access to the airport is available via U.S. 30.

York Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 99 based aircraft and experiences more than 50,000 annual operations. The airfield’s only runway, Runway 17/35, measures 5,188 feet long by 100 feet wide, and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is served by three non-precision approaches (NDB RWY 17, RNAV RWY 17, and RNAV RWY 35).

York Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. The privately-owned airport runs its own fixed base operator, which offers a broad range of services including fueling and aircraft storage. Other businesses include STAT Medivac, which operates emergency medical evacuation and transfer, serving an area from Pittsburgh to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Other businesses at the airport include Ag Air, an aerial applicator company, Kitty Hawk Restaurant, and a corporate flight department for Hanover Foods.

York Flight Training offers full time flight instruction to students, and has a program that works directly with Northeastern High School. The airport is also attractive to transient students due to the restaurant and affordable fuel prices. Students on cross-country training missions typically originate out of airports in New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, stopping at York for fuel.

Corporate flights are a daily activity at York Airport. The airport’s modern FBO facilities make it an attractive general aviation option for many businesses, and as a result several local and regional businesses utilize the airport regularly. The following are but a few of the businesses that frequently fly out of York:

- Harley-Davidson
- U.S. Army
- Media News
- Chick-fil-A
- Penske Trucking
- Purdue Farms

In addition to corporate activity and flight training, York Airport experiences daily recreational flying. Other frequent activities include air cargo, aerial sightseeing, military exercises, and operations by law enforcement and the Civil Air Patrol. The airport hosts the annual York Aviation Days event, which draws approximately 900 attendees to the airport. The airport is also a tourism gateway for visitors touring nearby Civil War battlefields and the Harley-Davidson plant. Flying clubs at the airport include the Experimental Aircraft Association and the White Rose Flying Club.