

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

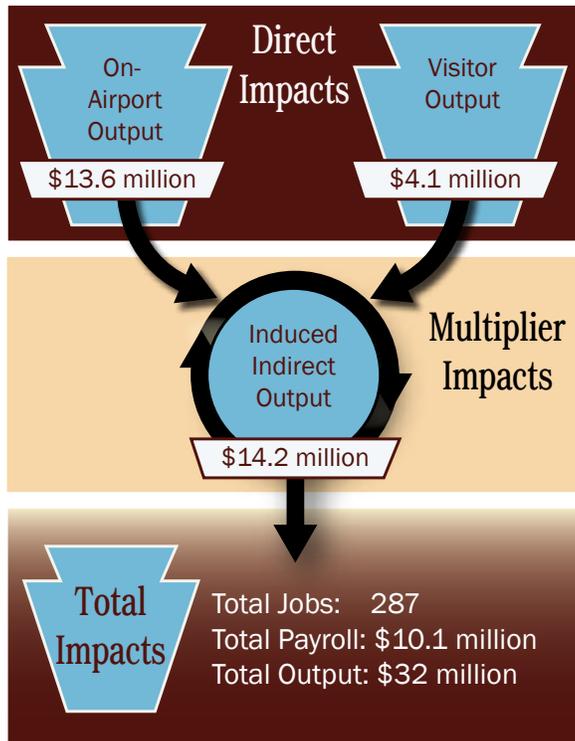
Study Process

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 Altoona-Blair County 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

Altoona-Blair County Airport is located near the Borough of Martinsburg in Blair County, approximately 15 miles south of Altoona. The airport is accessible via State Route 866.

Altoona-Blair County Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 58 based aircraft and experiences more than 23,000 annual operations. There are two paved runways. The primary runway, Runway 03/21, is 5,465 feet long by 100 feet wide, and outfitted with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). The secondary runway, Runway 12/30, is 3,668 feet long by 75 feet wide, and is equipped with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is supported by one precision approach (ILS RWY 21) and three non-precision approaches.

Altoona-Blair County Airport supports the commercial service and general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. Commercial flights are served by Colgan Air, operating as United Express and providing service to Washington-Dulles International Airport on a route shared by Johnstown-Cambria County Airport. DeGol Jet Center II operates as the airport’s full time fixed base operator. Other businesses include Hertz Car Rental, New Wings Gifts & Novelties, Kitty Hawk Restaurant, and Cove Helicopter.

Corporate flights are a daily activity at Altoona-Blair County Airport. Some companies that have aircraft based at the airport and run regular operations include Sheetz Corporation, Say-Core Industries, and New Pig Corporation.

Many other activities are common at Altoona-Blair County Airport. Military units at Johnstown-Cambria County Airport and Pittsburgh International Airport fly touch-and-go and night training operations to the airport. The flight school at Johnstown State College also uses the airport for training flights. The Pennsylvania State Police bases a helicopter unit at the airport, and also runs touch-and-go and training operations at the airport. Air cargo and emergency medical operations are also common. The airport is seen as a gateway for area attractions such as Raystown Lake Resort and Bedford Springs Resort. Altoona-Blair County Airport also hosts numerous events throughout the year, including Wings of Freedom tours, Young Eagles flights, an Airport open house, school tours, and non-aviation events such as car shows. During the holidays, the local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter hosts the Santa Rides program, offering free flights to community children.