

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

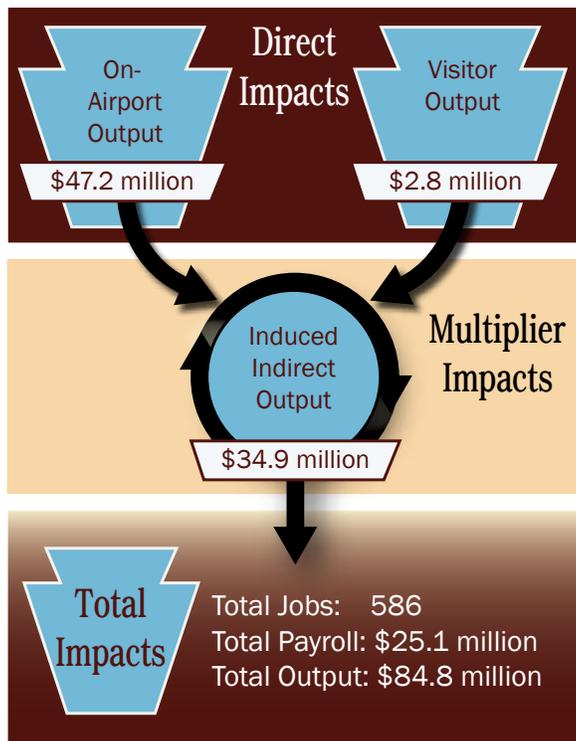
Study Process

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 Chester County/ G.O. Carlson 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

Chester County/G.O. Carlson Airport is located about three miles west of the City of Coatesville in southeastern Pennsylvania, about 50 miles west of Philadelphia and 30 miles east of Lancaster. The airport is accessible via U.S. 30.

Chester County/G.O. Carlson Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 93 based aircraft, 19 of which are jets, and experiences approximately 52,000 annual operations. The single runway, Runway 11/29, is 5,400 feet long by 100 feet wide and outfitted with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). The airport is supported by a precision approach (ILS RWY 29) and two non-precision approaches (RNAV RWY 11 and RNAV RWY 29).

Chester County/G.O. Carlson Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community and greater region, while also serving as a reliever for Philadelphia International Airport. The airport’s 65 T-hangars and 150,000 square feet of conventional hangar space accommodate private tenants and nearly 20 on-site business tenants offering various aviation services. Major tenants include fixed base operator Chester County Aviation Holdings, Sikorsky Helicopters, Sureflight, EraMed, and Universal Aviation Management, a broker providing shared aircraft ownership. The Flying Machine Café serves patrons and employees of the airport.

Chester County/G.O. Carlson Airport is one of Pennsylvania’s major corporate airports, with over 95 percent of corporate aircraft operations being by Fortune 500 companies. The following are a few of the corporations that use the airport:

- Barnes & Noble
- General Motors
- Sherwin-Williams
- Costco
- J.C. Penney
- Walmart
- Exxon Mobil
- McDonald’s
- Xerox
- FedEx
- Procter & Gamble
- General Electric

Corporate activity and daily recreational flying are two of many activities regularly seen at Chester County/G.O. Carlson Airport. Due to its proximity to Philadelphia and Baltimore, the airport is a convenient gateway for visitors of these cities. Celebrities frequently use the airport for guest appearances at nearby QVC Studios. Medical flights at Chester County/G.O. Carlson Airport include those by Brandywine Hospital in support of transplant operations. In addition, The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has an agreement with the airport to allow staging and filling of fixed wing firefighting aircraft during forest fires.