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, private 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
Flying M Aerodrome is situated two miles north of the Village of Germansville in Lehigh County, approximately 18 miles northwest of Allentown. Access to the airport is available via Interstate 476.

Flying M Aerodrome is classified as a Limited airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 23 based aircraft and experiences approximately 7,900 annual aircraft operations. There is one turf runway, Runway 8/26, which is 2,370 feet long by 100 feet wide.

Flying M Aerodrome is a privately-owned, public use facility that serves the general aviation needs of the local community. Airport operations and services are provided by Blue Mountain Aviation, which offers aircraft storage on tie-downs or in hangars, as well as aviation maintenance. Bi-plane and sailplane rides are also offered by the airport.

Nearly all activity at the airport is associated with recreational flying, including extensive ultra-light and glider activity. Training activities for power and sailplane flight instruction also occur at Flying M Aerodrome. The airport is also often used as a gateway for tourists visiting area attractions such as the Appalachian Trail, game preserves, horseback riding trails, and country inns.

**Economic Impact of Flying M Aerodrome**

**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**

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