

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

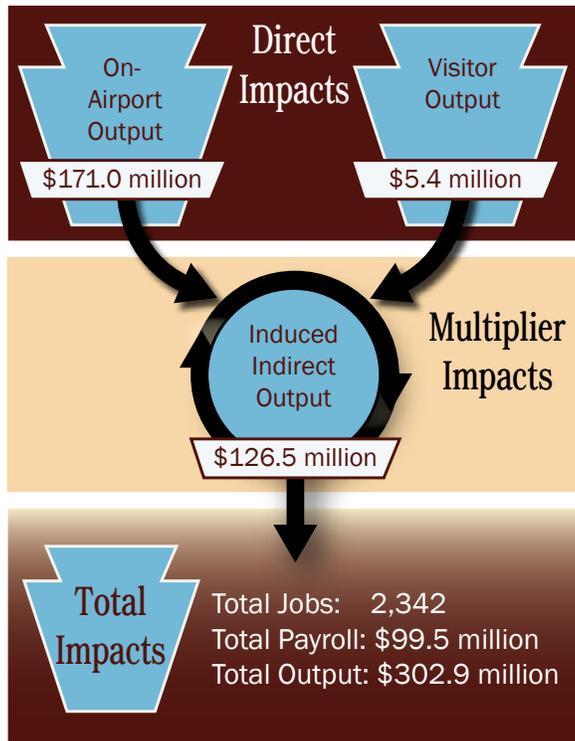
Study Process

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 John Murtha Johnstown-Cambria 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

Johnstown-Cambria County Airport is located about five miles east of the City of Johnstown. The airport is accessible via U.S. 219 and State Route 56.

The airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 62 based aircraft, both civilian and military, and experiences over 55,000 annual operations. The primary runway, Runway 15/33, is 7,003 feet long by 150 feet wide, and is equipped with high intensity runway lighting. Runway 5/23 is 4,386 feet long by 100 feet wide and is outfitted with medium intensity lighting. The airport is served by one precision approach (ILS RWY 33), and 11 non-precision approaches.

Johnstown-Cambria County Airport supports the commercial and general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. Colgan Air, operating as United Express, provides service to Washington-Dulles International Airport on a route shared by Altoona-Blair County Airport. Including the airline, the airport has 11 on-site business tenants, including MTT Aviation, the fixed base operator. The FBO offers fueling, aircraft sales, maintenance, and flight training, among other services. Other businesses at Johnstown-Cambria County Airport include Hertz Car Rental, Audi's Olde World Restaurant, Laurel Avionics, L.R. Kimball Engineering, and East Hills Emergency Services.

Corporate flights are a daily activity at the airport. The following companies use the airport with regular frequency and also keep aircraft based on-site:

- JWF
- GAP Air
- RockWell
- Skodie Aviation
- HRI
- Laurel Aviation
- Appalachian
- PBMJ

The airport has a significant military presence. The Pennsylvania Army National Guard Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, the Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, and the Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775 are all based at Johnstown-Cambria County Airport. All of these units operate helicopter operations for special-ops and night training. In addition, the airport is a backup base for the 171st Air Refueling Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard based at Pittsburgh International Airport.

In addition, recreational flights and flight training are also daily activities at Johnstown-Cambria County Airport. Other activities include operations by local law enforcement and the Civil Air Patrol, aerial photography and surveying, aerial inspections, sightseeing, environmental patrol, and medical flights. The airport hosts a variety of community events such as air and car shows.