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, 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
Mid-Atlantic Soaring Center Airport is located two miles south of the Borough of Fairfield, less than five miles north of the Pennsylvania/Maryland state line in Adams County. The airport is accessible via State Route 116.

Mid-Atlantic Soaring Center Airport is classified as a Special Use airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 71 based aircraft and experiences approximately 9,600 annual operations. Mid-Atlantic Soaring Center Airport has one runway, Runway 15/33, which is 2,700 feet long by 50 feet wide.

Mid-Atlantic Soaring Center Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community. The primary activity at the airport is glider soaring, with 60 gliders based at the airport. The Mid-Atlantic Soaring Association (M-ASA) uses the airport heavily, citing surrounding farmland as an excellent location for spring, summer, and fall thermal soaring. The M-ASA conducts flight training and cross-country operations at the airport, as well as hosting the SSA Regional Sailplane Racing Contest. The airport also has a picnic area where M-ASA pilots and members of the public convene to watch the aircraft.

**Qualitative Benefits**

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