

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

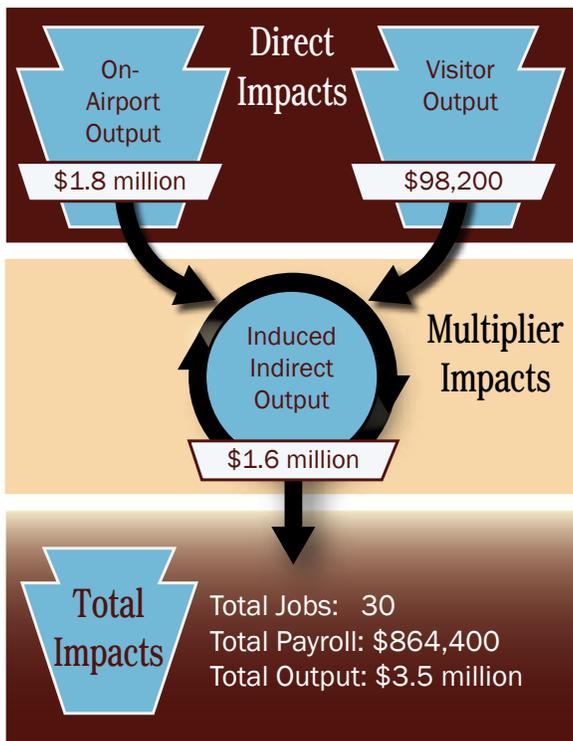
Study Process

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 New Garden 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

New Garden Airport is located in Chester County near Avondale, Pennsylvania. The airport is accessible via U.S. 1 and State Route 41.

New Garden Airport is classified as an Intermediate airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 110 based aircraft and experiences over 28,000 annual operations. The sole runway, Runway 06/24, measures 3,695 feet long by 50 feet wide, and is outfitted with nonstandard lighting (NSTD). The airport is equipped with a non-precision instrument approach (VOR RWY 24).

New Garden Airport supports the general aviation demands of the local community and surrounding area, while also serving as a reliever airport for Philadelphia International Airport. The airport currently has two on-site business tenants: New Garden Aviation provides maintenance services, while New Garden Flight Connection is a fixed base operator and flight school located at the airport.

Daily activities at New Garden Airport include recreational flying, flight instruction, and touch-and-go operations. Other activities include corporate flights, military exercises, aerial advertising, utility inspections, operations by local law enforcement, and youth outreach programs such as the Young Eagles. The airport also hosts the Brandywine Soaring Association and Chapter 240 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA). In addition, Matt Chapman Aerobatics, a top-ranked aerobatic pilot/team, considers New Garden Airport their home airport. In addition, Roger Lehnert is widely regarded as one of the finest Piper J-3 Cub pilots in the air today and he also considers the airport his home airport. Roger performs Piper J-3 Cub truck roof top landings at air shows around the country.

The airport hosts an annual air show, which typically attracts between 5,000 and 10,000 visitors to the airport. Each July, the airport hosts the Future Aviators Summer Camp. This summer camp program offers young people the excitement and discovery of aviation in a day camp setting and is designed for boys and girls ages 8-12.