

# 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**

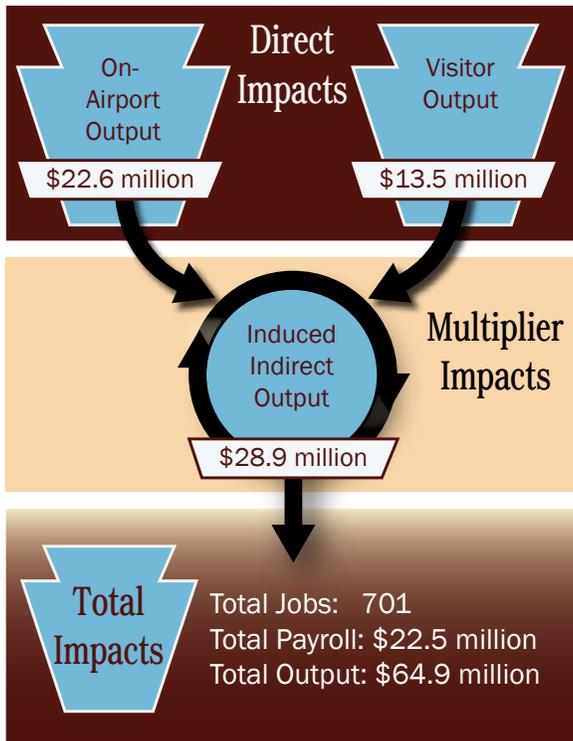
## Study Process

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 Williamsport Regional 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

Williamsport Regional Airport is located east of the City of Williamsport, just north of the Susquehanna River. Access to the airport is available via Interstate 180.

Williamsport Regional Airport is classified as a Commercial Service airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport experiences 27,000 annual operations and is home to 35 based aircraft. The primary runway, Runway 09/27, is 6,825 feet long by 150 feet wide and is outfitted with high intensity runway lighting (HIRL). The second runway, Runway 12/30, is 4,280 feet long by 150 feet wide and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is served by a precision approach (ILS RWY 27).

Williamsport Regional Airport serves the commercial and general aviation needs of the region. US Airways (Piedmont Airlines) offers nonstop service to Philadelphia. Including the airline and the Transportation Security Administration, the airport has 22 on-site businesses and government agencies. Hertz and Avis provide car rentals, while the Skyview Restaurant and Timberland Coffee Company provide food and drink for airport patrons. DeGol Jet Center is a full-service fixed base operator (FBO), offering fuel, oxygen, aircraft maintenance, aircraft storage, and a pilots’ lounge, among other services.

Williamsport Regional Airport’s primary aviation activity is corporate and business travel. Numerous area businesses utilize the airport’s general aviation facilities, several of which base aircraft at the airport. The Marcellus Shale natural gas industry accounts for approximately one third of the airport’s commercial activity, while activity related to natural gas now accounts for more than 50 percent of general aviation activity (among aircraft 12,500 pounds and heavier). Companies utilizing Williamsport Regional Airport for general aviation flights related to the Marcellus Shale gas industry include Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Polear Inc., Warrior Energy, XTO Energy, United Fire & Casualty, and Frac-Tech Services Inc.

In addition, recreational flying, air cargo, flight training, law enforcement activity, and medical flights are all daily activities at Williamsport Regional. The latter are primarily run by Geisinger Medical Center Life Flight. Williamsport Regional Airport receives a major peak in passenger and general aviation activity during the Little League World Series. Commercial and charter activity increase dramatically during this time, as dignitaries, announcers, and fans fly in for this world class sporting event.