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
York Airport is located in York County, approximately 30 miles south of the City of Harrisburg. Access to the airport is available via U.S. 30.

York Airport is classified as an Advanced airport by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Aviation. The airport has 99 based aircraft and experiences more than 50,000 annual operations. The airfield’s only runway, Runway 17/35, measures 5,188 feet long by 100 feet wide, and is outfitted with medium intensity runway lighting (MIRL). The airport is served by three non-precision approaches (NDB RWY 17, RNAV RWY 17, and RNAV RWY 35).

York Airport serves the general aviation needs of the local community and surrounding region. The privately-owned airport runs its own fixed base operator, which offers a broad range of services including fueling and aircraft storage. Other businesses include STAT Medivac, which operates emergency medical evacuation and transfer, serving an area from Pittsburgh to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Other businesses at the airport include Ag Air, an aerial applicator company, Kitty Hawk Restaurant, and a corporate flight department for Hanover Foods.

York Flight Training offers full time flight instruction to students, and has a program that works directly with Northeastern High School. The airport is also attractive to transient students due to the restaurant and affordable fuel prices. Students on cross-country training missions typically originate out of airports in New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia, stopping at York for fuel.

Corporate flights are a daily activity at York Airport. The airport’s modern FBO facilities make it an attractive general aviation option for many businesses, and as a result several local and regional businesses utilize the airport regularly. The following are but a few of the businesses that frequently fly out of York:

- Harley-Davidson
- U.S. Army
- Media News
- Chick-fil-A
- Penske Trucking
- Purdue Farms

In addition to corporate activity and flight training, York Airport experiences daily recreational flying. Other frequent activities include air cargo, aerial sightseeing, military exercises, and operations by law enforcement and the Civil Air Patrol. The airport hosts the annual York Aviation Days event, which draws approximately 900 attendees to the airport. The airport is also a tourism gateway for visitors touring nearby Civil War battlefields and the Harley-Davidson plant. Flying clubs at the airport include the Experimental Aircraft Association and the White Rose Flying Club.