TEXAS AVIATION
Economic Impact Study

THE TEXAS AIRPORT SYSTEM

The Texas airport system with 289 airports is one of the largest airport systems in the country. It consists of 25 commercial service airports and 264 general aviation airports. These airports play an important role in the Texas economy by providing well-paying jobs, stimulating growth, and serving as critical components in a transportation network that permits the movement of people and goods across the state, throughout the country, and around the world. These airports are responsible for billions of dollars of economic activity, and support a wide assortment of businesses and activities. The state's commercial service airports serve as hubs for United Airlines, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, FedEx and UPS Airlines. The general aviation airports are host to a variety of businesses. Aerial applicators, such as M&M Air Service, help crops thrive. Air ambulance services, like PHI Air Medical and CareFlight, are based at general aviation airports throughout Texas in order to provide life-saving emergency flights where needed. Aircraft manufacturing takes place at Kerrville Municipal Airport in the Mooney factory. These airports support firefighting and disaster relief efforts. Aviation schools found on general aviation airports feature training for aircraft mechanics, fixed-wing pilots, helicopter pilots, skydivers, and even drone pilots. Military aircrews make use of many general aviation airports for training purposes. Finally, more than a dozen Texas general aviation airports host aviation museums and other nonprofit aerospace organizations that educate and promote the history of aviation.

Thanks to these businesses and organizations, and the millions of visitors that pass through Texas airports each year, the state's economy thrives and grows.

STUDY PROCESS

This study was undertaken by the Texas Department of Transportation's Aviation Division to improve their strategic planning and funding decisions. Knowledge of each airport's economic impacts helps the Aviation Division allocate its resources in its efforts to develop and maintain the airport system as a world-class system capable of attracting businesses and visitors to Texas. This, in turn, aids the Aviation Division in supporting infrastructure development projects intended to promote economic growth around the state.

Through an extensive data gathering effort, information from each Texas system airport was compiled and validated. This data served as the input for a linear economic input-output model that expressed each airport's economic impacts in terms of employment, payroll, and output. Each airport was analyzed for its on-airport, construction, and visitor-related impacts. Multiplier impacts were calculated to show how direct airport activity creates additional benefits. The process followed Federal Aviation Administration guidelines and has been used in previous Texas airport economic impact studies. Additionally, certain qualitative benefits were identified for the system airports.

STATEWIDE BENEFITS FROM AVIATION

The total impacts of Texas system airports amount to 778,955 jobs that received $30.1 billion in wages and benefits. These workers generated $94.3 billion in economic output. On top of this, the Texas airport system provides countless benefits that improve the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life for the people of Texas.

Furthermore, more than 17 million visitors passed through the state's commercial service airports, with another 1.5 million visitors making use of the Lone Star State's general aviation services.

TOTAL JOBS:
778,955

TOTAL PAYROLL:
$30.1 BILLION

TOTAL OUTPUT:
$94.3 BILLION

Economic Impact of ELLINGTON FIELD (EFD)

BASIC INFORMATION:

Ellington Field is a public-use, general aviation reliever facility that serves the region's air transportation needs. Major facilities at the airport include three runways. Runway 4/22 is 8,001-feet, Runway 17R/35L is 9,001-feet, and Runway 17L/35R is 4,609-feet. Runways 4/22 and 17R/35L are equipped with high intensity runway lighting. Runway 17R/35L offers a full length parallel taxiway while the other runways are accessed via connectors. Operations at the airport are supported by ILS, RNAV (GPS), and TACAN approaches. Other services include avgas and jet fuel, and aircraft storage in box and T-hangars and apron tiedowns. Ellington Field is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, making it eligible for federal Airport Improvement Program grants.

QUALITATIVE BENEFITS:

Ellington Field is home to nine on-airport businesses and one museum, which offer services such as FBO amenities, military training, and flight instruction. The most frequent general aviation operations at Ellington Field include flight instruction, recreational flying, medical transport, search and rescue, law enforcement, powerline and pipeline patrols, military exercises, and corporate flights.

With close proximity to Johnson Space Center, Ellington Field not only accommodates and supports activities affiliated with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), it is home to the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base. In addition, the airport is home to the Houston Spaceport, the nation's 10th licensed commercial spaceport. The airport was a critical staging point for Hurricane Harvey volunteers providing food, drinks, and supplies to rescue workers and storm victims. The airport also hosts the annual Wings Over Houston Airshow with public attendance over 80,000.

Direct Impacts

On-Airport Impacts
1,148 JOBS
$135.7 MILLION OUTPUT

Capital Improvement Impacts
205 JOBS
$29.6 MILLION OUTPUT

Visitor Impacts
145 JOBS
$8.4 MILLION OUTPUT

Multiplier Impacts

Recirculation of Impacts

Multiplier Impacts
1,101 JOBS
$159.1 MILLION OUTPUT

Recirculation of Impacts

Total Impacts

Total Impacts
2,599 JOBS
$130.1 MILLION PAYROLL
$332.9 MILLION OUTPUT

IMPACT MEASURES

Employment measures the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs related to airport activity including visitor-supported and on-airport construction jobs. A part-time employee counts as half of a full-time employee.

Payroll measures the total annual salary, wages, and benefits paid to all workers whose livelihoods are directly attributable to airport activity.

Output measures the value of goods and services related to airports in Texas. The output of on-airport businesses is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures.

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