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
COULTER FIELD (CFD)

BASIC INFORMATION:

Coulter Field is a public-use, general aviation facility that serves the region's air transportation needs. Major facilities at the airport include a 4,000-foot primary runway (Runway 15/33) equipped with medium intensity runway lighting. Operations at the airport are supported by VOR/DME and RNAV(GPS) approaches. Other services include avgas and jet fuel, aircraft storage in corporate and T-hangars, and apron tiedowns. Coulter Field is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, making it eligible for federal Airport Improvement Program grants.

QUALITATIVE BENEFITS:

Coulter Field is home to five on-airport businesses which offer services such as FBO amenities, flight instruction, and sightseeing. The most frequent general aviation operations at Coulter Field include flight instruction, recreational flying, power and pipeline patrols, and search and rescue missions.

The airport is actively engaged with the local community hosting fly-ins throughout the year and providing school tours to local students. The airport also attracts individuals visiting the region to attend the Great American Steak Out, a fundraiser for Scotty's House, a child advocacy center. The airport hosts other aviation events associated with the Experimental Aircraft Association, the Texas Flying Club, Young Eagles, and the Civil Air Patrol. Other non-profit organizations have also held events at Coulter Field in the past, including Brazos Valley Cares, and the Red Wasp Film Festival.

City leadership consistently supports the airport and its capital improvement efforts as evidenced by the most recent $1.2 million hangar construction project. Additional support is provided through the local Economic Development Corporation and TxDOT.

Direct Impacts

On-Airport Impacts
18 JOBS
$4 MILLION OUTPUT

Capital Improvement Impacts
7 JOBS
$1.9 MILLION OUTPUT

Visitor Impacts
5 JOBS
$281,000 OUTPUT

Multiplier Impacts

Recirculation of Impacts

Multiplier Impacts
36 JOBS
$5.3 MILLION OUTPUT

Recirculation of Impacts

Total Impacts

Total Impacts
66 JOBS
$3.6 MILLION PAYROLL
$11.5 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.

TEXAS AVIATION
Economic Impact Study