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
ARANSAS COUNTY AIRPORT (RKP)

BASIC INFORMATION:

Aransas County Airport is a public-use, general aviation facility that serves the region's air transportation needs. Major facilities at the airport include a 5,608-foot runway (Runway 14/32) and a 4,498-foot runway (Runway 18/36), both 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 services, hangar storage, and tiedown parking. Aransas County is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, making it eligible for federal Airport Improvement Program grants.

QUALITATIVE BENEFITS:

Aransas County is home to four on-airport businesses as well as a county-operated FBO, which offer services such as fueling, aircraft maintenance, and charter operations. Aransas County's location near the Gulf of Mexico attracts numerous tourists, from fishermen, hunters, birders, and kayakers, to beach vacationers. In addition to tourists, oil workers fly between off shore oil rigs and the airport. Two businesses, Rotorcraft Leasing and Island Operators, operate specifically to ensure the efficiency of this process.

Since Hurricane Harvey, Aransas County Airport has served as a staging area for recovery efforts. The airport hosted numerous airplanes just days after the hurricane to begin the recovery process with out-of-town donations readily accessible by air.

Direct Impacts

On-Airport Impacts
17 JOBS
$3.3 MILLION OUTPUT

Capital Improvement Impacts
2 JOBS
$328,000 OUTPUT

Visitor Impacts
77 JOBS
$4.5 MILLION OUTPUT

Multiplier Impacts

Recirculation of Impacts

Multiplier Impacts
64 JOBS
$7.3 MILLION OUTPUT

Recirculation of Impacts

Total Impacts

Total Impacts
160 JOBS
$5.3 MILLION PAYROLL
$15.4 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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