# 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*
## SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE / WICHITA FALLS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (SPS)

### BASIC INFORMATION:

Sheppard Air Force Base/Wichita Falls Municipal Airport is a joint-use, military and commercial service aviation facility that serves the region's air transportation needs. Major facilities at the airport include four runways – Runway 15R/33L (13,100 feet), Runway 15C/33C (10,002 feet), Runway 15L/33R (6,000 feet), and Runway 17/35 (7,021 feet). All runways are equipped with high intensity runway lighting and Runways 17/35 and 15R/33L are provided with full length parallel taxiways.

Operations at the airport are supported by a ILS, LOC/DME, RNAV(GPS), and VOR/DME approaches. Other services include avgas and jet fuel, and passenger service activity. Sheppard AFB/Wichita Falls Municipal Airport is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems, making it eligible for federal Airport Improvement Program grants.

### QUALITATIVE BENEFITS:

Sheppard AFB/Wichita Falls Municipal Airport serves as an access point to the 3,800-acre Sheppard AFB training facility which is home to the 82nd Training Wing and the 80th Flying Training Wing, accommodating approximately 67,000 technical training graduates per year. Wichita Falls Municipal is served by Envoy, a subsidiary of American Airlines, offering three daily flights to Dallas-Fort Worth International airport using Embraer ERJ-140 regional jets. There were approximately 40,000 enplanements in 2017. The airport consistently opens its doors to blood drives, pet adoption days, and onsite rental events. Considered an important asset to the City of Wichita Falls and the surrounding communities, the airport receives continuous support from both the Economic Development Corporation and city leadership.

*Direct Impacts*

**On-Airport Impacts**
79 JOBS
$14 MILLION OUTPUT

**Capital Improvement Impacts**
27 JOBS
$4.1 MILLION OUTPUT

**Visitor Impacts**
521 JOBS
$29.6 MILLION OUTPUT

*Multiplier Impacts*

Recirculation of Impacts

**Multiplier Impacts**
335 JOBS
$44.8 MILLION OUTPUT

Recirculation of Impacts

*Total Impacts*

**Total Impacts**
962 JOBS
$32.9 MILLION PAYROLL
$92.5 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