GENERAL AVIATION—EVERYONE BENEFITS IN TEXAS

The Texas system of airports not only provides our State with a safe and efficient mode of transportation, it is also an important stimulus for economic growth and development. By providing aviation-related services, the system of approximately 300 airports supports tens of thousands of jobs and produces billions of dollars in economic activity. The State’s largest employers, and many smaller businesses, rely on aviation to rapidly transport personnel, equipment, and supplies. Texas airports serve as the base of operation for a diverse group of businesses, including airlines, air cargo companies, fixed base operators, flight schools, government entities, agricultural applicators, restaurants, and others. Additionally, the vast tourism industry is supported by both commercial service and general aviation. The millions of visitors that flock to Texas each year support a variety of tourist-related business activities, such as lodging, dining, retail, and entertainment.

To better understand the relationship between Texas’ system of approximately 300 airports that support general aviation and the statewide economy, the Texas Department of Transportation, Aviation Division, completed an economic impact analysis using a method that has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and applied to airport systems throughout the United States. The FAA provided funding support for this study.

The total economic impact, or contribution, of each airport in the Texas system was quantified in terms of employment, payroll, and output. Through a comprehensive survey process, the direct economic benefits related to on-airport business tenants and the indirect benefits associated with visitor-related expenditures were determined for each system airport. The multiplier effect of these benefits was then calculated to ascertain the total airport-related impacts. For example, when an airport employee purchases local goods and services, the spending and re-spending spurs additional economic activity in the region. The total economic impact is the sum of all direct, indirect, and multiplier impacts.

When all impacts at Texas airports were summed, more than 56,600 jobs can be traced to general aviation. These employees receive more than $1.9 billion in payroll and benefits. In total, nearly $5.9 billion in economic activity can be attributed to general aviation activity in the State. In addition to economic benefits, the system of airports provides numerous critical services to enhance the quality of life, health, safety and welfare of Texas citizens. Examples include business development, enhancing agricultural production, medical transport and evacuation, access to remote areas, law enforcement, fire protection, wildlife management, and recreation.

First-Round Impacts include both direct and indirect impacts. Direct impacts are those benefits associated with on-airport businesses and government spending that support general aviation. Indirect impacts generally take place off-airport and are usually attributable to the spending of visitors who arrive in a community via general aviation aircraft.

Secondary Impacts primarily consist of induced impacts, which are those benefits that result from the re-circulation of direct and indirect impacts within the economy. This re-circulation is commonly referred to as the “multiplier effect.”

Total Impacts are the combination of all first-round and secondary impacts.

Employment measures the number of full-time equivalent jobs related to general aviation activity.

Payroll measures the total annual wages and benefits paid to all workers whose salaries are directly or indirectly attributable to general aviation activity.

Economic Activity (Output) measures the value of all goods and services related to general aviation in Texas. The output of general aviation businesses is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures.

GEORGETOWN MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Georgetown Municipal Airport, owned and operated by the City of Georgetown, is a general aviation reliever airport located in Williamson County, Texas. The airport, which occupies approximately 600 acres, has two asphalt runways: Runway 18/36, which measures 5,000 feet in length and 100 feet in width; and Runway 11/29, measuring 4,100 feet in length and 75 feet in width.

Georgetown Municipal Airport supports approximately 140 full-time aviation-related jobs, with an estimated direct payroll of more than $6 million. The direct output attributable to the airport is estimated to be more than $44.6 million. Additionally, more than 47,000 general aviation visitors arrive at the airport each year, supporting more than 300 jobs and $6.2 million in payroll. General aviation visitors are also responsible for nearly $9.9 million in direct output.

When combined, the general aviation tenants and visitors at Georgetown Municipal Airport are responsible for $95.2 million in total economic output, approximately 665 full-time positions, and nearly $20 million in payroll.

Some of the recently completed upgrades at the airport include terminal remodeling and expansion, and runway rehabilitation. Aviation activities that occur at the airport on a regular basis include flight instruction, corporate use, and recreational flying. Additionally, the Civil Air Patrol actively uses the airport for search-and-rescue operations. The airport also supports various community outreach programs, such as monthly fly-ins and the Young Eagles flight education program.

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