



# AIRPORT SUMMARY

## The Kansas Airport System

There is a strong relationship between Kansas' economy and aviation. The state's system of seven commercial service and 73 general aviation airports, listed in the National Plan of Integrated Airports System (NPIAS), provide the gateway to the nation's air transportation system and the world's economy. Airports support the Kansas economy by increased efficiency and productivity for all business activity, including the transportation of passengers for both recreational and business purposes. Airports are important economic catalysts, supporting thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity. Most of Kansas' largest employers - both large and small - rely on the state's aviation system to transport employees, customers, supplies, and products. Kansas' 80 NPIAS airports serve as the base of operations for a variety of businesses, including airlines, air cargo companies, flight instructors, charters, concessionaries, government entities, and many others. Kansas tourism industry also depends on the state's system of airports to accommodate thousands of visitors each year.

## Study Process

The Kansas Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation, implemented this study through a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grant, to quantify the economic impact and relationship between the state's system of airports and the economy. The study follows an approved methodology that has successfully quantified the value of airports and airport systems throughout the United States.

The economic contribution of each NPIAS airport in Kansas was measured in terms of employment, payroll, and output. A comprehensive survey process was used to calculate the direct economic benefits related to on-airport businesses and government agencies, including the indirect benefits associated with visitor-related expenditures. Secondary, or induced, impacts from these airport activities were calculated using economic models specific to Kansas. For example, when an airport employee purchases goods and services, those dollars circulate through the local economy which results in additional economic activity in the region. The total economic impact is the sum of all direct, indirect, and multiplier impacts.

## Statewide Impacts

Based on information gathered during the study, approximately 91,000 jobs are attributed to the aviation industry, including 42,000 from Aerospace Manufacturing. These employees receive more than \$4.4 billion in total payroll, and generate more than \$20.5 billion in total economic activity. In addition, the 80 NPIAS airports in Kansas provide a number of health, welfare, and safety benefits, including aerial agricultural spraying, medical transport and evacuation, emergency response, search and rescue, flight training, law enforcement, wildlife management, military training, search and rescue operations, and education.

## Kansas' Total Annual Economic Benefits from Aviation

<b>Total Jobs</b>	<b>91,279</b>
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$4.4 Billion</b>
<b>Total Output</b>	<b>\$20.6 Billion</b>

## Impact Measures

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

**Payroll** measures the total annual wages and benefits paid to all workers whose salaries are directly attributable to airport activity.

**Economic Activity (Output)** measures the value of goods and services related to airports in Kansas. The output from on-airport business activity is assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures.

# ABILENE MUNICIPAL (K78)

Abilene Municipal Airport (K78) is located in central Kansas, approximately one mile southwest of Abilene. The airport is listed in the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), making it eligible to receive federal funds. Additionally, its role within the Kansas Aviation System Plan is identified as a Business Airport, which is intended to accommodate local business activities and general aviation users.

K78 is a general aviation airport serving the City of Abilene and the surrounding communities. The airport's primary runway is 4,100 feet long and equipped with a non-precision approach. A single fixed base operator on the field, Abilene Flying Service, provides fuel, maintenance, hangar space, apron tie-downs, aircraft rental, and flight instruction.

The airport accommodates a variety of air traffic, including student pilots from Kansas State University for instrument training and touch-and-go's, while the sky diving team uses the airport for practice. The airport is used by business travelers, aerial applicators, medical personnel, law enforcement, Civil Air Patrol, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The airport attracts visitors to local historical places, such as the Eisenhower Center and Presidential Library, Greyhound Hall of Fame and Registry, and the Brookville Hotel, and numerous antique and specialty shops.

K78 serves an important role in transporting critically injured patients via air ambulance to trauma centers in Wichita or Kansas City employing fixed wing aircraft.

The FAA, local groups, and civic organizations, such as the boy scouts, use K78 for educational programs and meetings. The local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter regularly gives free airplane rides to children interested in aviation. The airport and its local pilots hold annual airport "fly-ins" and pancake breakfasts for both the flying and non-flying patrons. These events are provided to attract visitors to the community and to raise money to fund scholarships for Dickinson County residents who seek a career in the field of aviation.

