



# 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.

# STROTHER FIELD (WLD)

Strother Field is located in Winfield, a pproximately 45 miles southeast of the Wichita metropolitan area. The airport is included in the FAA's National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), making it eligible to receive federal monies. Additionally, its role within the Kansas Aviation System Plan is identified as a Regional airport, which is intended to accommodate regional economic activities, connecting to state and national economies, and serve all types of general aviation aircraft.

Strother Field has two runways that accommodate corporate business jets, multi-engine aircraft, and single-engine aircraft. Its primary runway, Runway 17/35, is 5,506 feet long, while its secondary runway, Runway 13/31, is 3,137 feet long. The field has on-site weather reporting, and the airport's primary runway is equipped with an ILS approach, both of which provide access during most weather conditions.

The airport's fixed based operator, B Four Flying, Inc., provides fuel, charter services, flight instruction, aircraft rental, and aircraft maintenance. General Electric operates an engine overhaul facility at the airport. While trucks bring in many of the engines for overhaul, General Electric also performs work on aircraft that fly into the airport.

The majority of activity that occurs at the airport consists of business and corporate aircraft operations and flight training. The airport also accommodates aerial pipeline inspections, highway patrol operations, United States Department of Agriculture flights, air ambulance flights, aerial photography operations, and flights by hunters traveling to and from the area during hunting season. Businesses that regularly use the airport include General Electric, ADM, Winfield Consumer Products, Rubbermaid, and Skyline.

The airport supports the community in a variety of ways. During the floods of 2007, the airport and its associated industrial park were used for the flood evacuation efforts. Strother Field hosts the local Experimental Aircraft Association chapter as well as an annual fly-in that draws between 200 and 300 attendees. These events, coupled with tours that airport staff give to school children and families, provide the community with a sense of pride for their community and airport.

