Washington’s Airports Support Our State

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Division conducted an Aviation Economic Impact Study (AEIS) of Washington’s 134 public-use airports to measure the annual economic impact that airports provide to local communities, geographic regions, and statewide. The study offers a detailed look into how airports contribute to our state and serves as a useful tool in communicating the economic value they bring to our world.

**Study Approach**

Economic impact is quantified by first calculating the effects of on-airport activity and visitor spending, then analyzing how these effects continue to generate money as they flow through the economy. Economic impacts are calculated by individual airport, then modeled to quantify the total statewide impact of Washington’s airport system. Resulting economic impacts for each airport are expressed in terms of jobs, labor income, value added benefits, and business revenues.

**AIRPORT PROFILE**

Snohomish County Airport-Paine Field (PAE) is a publicly-owned airport located six miles southwest of the central business district of Everett, Washington. PAE supports 158,227 jobs and has a total economic impact/business revenues of $59.9 billion annually. The airport is most notably home to The Boeing Company’s primary production facility for 747-, 767-, 777-, and 787-series aircraft. The airport has two parallel runways for arrivals and departures: Runway 16L/34R serves general aviation aircraft, while the 9,010-foot-long Runway 16R/34L accommodates large jet airliners. Paine Field hosts a multitude of aircraft and avionics modification and repair operations. In 2019, Paine Field began offering scheduled commercial service to destinations around the country. The airport is also home to the Boeing Future of Flight Aviation Center.

**AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Service Classification</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legislative District: 21</td>
<td>Federal: NATIONAL</td>
<td>Ownership Type: PUBLIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associated City: EVERETT</td>
<td>State: MAJOR</td>
<td>Owner/Sponsor: SNOHOMISH COUNTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County: SNOHOMISH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**AVIATION ACTIVITIES**

**Key Activities**

- Air cargo
- Agriculture
- Skydiving/recreational flying
- Shipping of perishable goods
- National security/military
- Aerospace manufacturing
- Aerial photography
- Search and rescue
- Environmental patrol
- Firefighting
- Personal transportation
- Medical air transport
- Commercial passenger service
- Business and corporate travel
- Pilot training and certification
- Emergency preparedness and disaster response

**Ground Transportation Options**

- Bus
- Taxi
- Courtesy car
- Rideshare
- Limousine service
- Rail
- Other:

**Airport Activities (2018)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Operations</th>
<th>Enplanements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled commercial service</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Operations**

- Operations: 100,200
- Percent GA transient: 51%

Sources: FAA Air Carrier Activity Information System (ACAIS), 2018 Airport Manager’s Survey, FAA Terminal Area Forecast, FAA 5010 Airport Master Record (as applicable)
**ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

Direct economic impacts comprise on-airport activities including employment and construction as well as money spent off-airport by out of state visitors who depart via scheduled commercial service or general aviation.

Direct impacts have additional effects as money generated at and by airports flows through the economy. These effects are caused when a portion of direct business revenues are used to purchase goods and services in Washington (i.e., supplier sales) and worker income is re-spent within the state.

**Airport Economic Impacts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Types</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Labor Income</th>
<th>Value Added</th>
<th>Business Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-Airport Activity</td>
<td>46,124</td>
<td>$7,027,370,000</td>
<td>$17,006,916,000</td>
<td>$40,709,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Spending</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>$9,404,000</td>
<td>$15,621,000</td>
<td>$23,180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Direct Effects</td>
<td>46,353</td>
<td>$7,036,773,000</td>
<td>$17,022,537,000</td>
<td>$40,732,531,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Sales</td>
<td>52,896</td>
<td>$3,418,820,000</td>
<td>$5,350,348,000</td>
<td>$10,720,760,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-Spending of Worker Income</td>
<td>58,977</td>
<td>$2,583,888,000</td>
<td>$4,776,601,000</td>
<td>$8,462,004,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Economic Impact</td>
<td>158,227</td>
<td>$13,039,480,000</td>
<td>$27,149,486,000</td>
<td>$59,915,294,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TAX IMPACTS**

Airports’ direct economic impacts result in local and state tax revenues. On-airport businesses pay business and operating (B&O) taxes. Visitor spending generates taxes and fees associated with sales; hotel stays; and use of transportation services including rental cars, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), and taxis.

**Airport’s Estimated Taxes to Each Jurisdiction**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Types</th>
<th>Local (County &amp; Municipal)</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-Airport Activity</td>
<td>$11,712,380</td>
<td>$261,851,150</td>
<td>$273,563,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Spending</td>
<td>$379,800</td>
<td>$2,014,630</td>
<td>$2,394,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Taxes</td>
<td>$12,092,180</td>
<td>$263,865,780</td>
<td>$275,957,960</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statewide Tax Collections**

The Washington State Department of Revenue reports that the state collected **$3.18 million** in aircraft fuel and aircraft excise taxes. Together with taxes generated by on and off-airport aviation-related activities, the state’s airport system, including SeaTac, generated over **$913.3 million** in total statewide tax impacts (2018).

**STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

**STATEWIDE IMPACTS**

- **Jobs:** 406,580
- **Labor Income:** $26.8 billion
- **Business Revenues:** $107.0 billion

*Note: Value added is not available for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. As a result, value added is not presented at the statewide level.*