



# 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.

# AMELIA EARHART (K59)

Amelia Earhart Airport (K59), named for the most famous woman aviator of all time and Atchison, Kansas native, is located in northeast Kansas, west of the Missouri River.

The airport is included 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 Community Airport, which is intended to serve a supplemental role in the local economies, primarily serving smaller businesses and general aviation users.

K59 is a charming general aviation facility serving the City of Atchison and its surrounding communities. The airport's primary runway is 3,000 feet long and equipped with a non-precision instrument approach.

An automated weather observation system provides continuous weather information for the airport. Heartland Aircraft provides aircraft maintenance, aircraft rental, and flight instruction.

K59 accommodates a variety of activities, including corporate/business flights, flight training, Civil Air Patrol operations, emergency medical transport, medical doctor transport, police and law enforcement, pipeline patrols, and real estate tours.

The airport also serves as a staging area for community events such as the Young Eagle Rallies hosted by the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Boy Scout Aviation Day, and the Amelia Earhart Festival.

Annual "fly-in" events sponsored by the city and airport draws pilots and passengers from the region. Atchison, the birthplace of Amelia Earhart, attracts visitors from all over the world to the Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum, as well as the International Forest of Friendship. A courtesy car is available at the airport to provide transportation to the city and the historical sites.

Additionally, the airport serves an important role in transporting critically injured patients to trauma centers around the state. Without this valuable service, critical time is lost when these patients travel by ground instead of by air.

