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

| Total Jobs     | 91,279 |
| Total Payroll  | $4.4 Billion |
| Total Output   | $20.6 Billion |

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.
Lyons-Rice County Airport is located approximately one mile west of the central business district of Lyons in central Kansas. The airport is included in the FAA’s National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS), making it eligible to receive federal funds. Jointly owned by the City of Lyons and Rice County, the airport’s role within the Kansas Aviation System Plan is identified as a Community airport, which is intended to serve a supplemental role in the local economy, primarily serving smaller businesses.

The airport’s primary runway is now 4,400-foot by 75-foot asphalt surface with non-precision instrument approaches to each end. Two turf runways of 2,550 feet and 1,700 feet in length are also available for use. Rice County Aviation serves as the airport’s fixed base operator, providing 24-hour fuel service, aircraft parking, hangar storage, aircraft maintenance, aircraft rental, and flight instruction. Rice County Aerial Spraying, which provides aerial application to area farmers, is also located on the airport.

Aircraft operations stem from several different types of activities, such as aerial spraying services, business transport, emergency medical transport, flight training, and aerial pipeline inspections. JACAM and Cal-Maine are two of the several companies that use the airport for business purposes.

The airport also supports local educational opportunities by sponsoring school tours of the facility where children have an opportunity to see aircraft up close and learn about aviation.

**Impact Types**

**First Round Impacts** include both direct and indirect impacts. Direct impacts are those benefits associated with on-airport businesses and government tenants. Indirect impacts generally take place off-airport and are usually attributable to visitor spending.

**Second Round Impacts** consist of induced impacts, which are those benefits that result from the recirculation and re-spending 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 second-round impacts.