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.

Kansas’ Total Annual Economic Benefits from Aviation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Jobs</th>
<th>91,279</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Payroll</td>
<td>$4.4 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Output</td>
<td>$20.6 Billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
New Century AirCenter is located in eastern Kansas in the southwest Kansas City 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.

New Century AirCenter has two runways that can accommodate nearly all types of general aviation aircraft. Its primary runway is 7,300 feet long, while a secondary runway is 5,100 feet long. The airport’s primary runway is equipped with an ILS approach. An air traffic control tower operates from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. throughout the year. An automated surface observing system provides pilots with current weather conditions at all times. With approximately 46,000 annual operations, the New Century AirCenter handles a wide variety of aviation activity, including corporate/business flights, military operations, flight training, sight-seeing, emergency medical transport, aerial surveying and photography, and law enforcement operations.

Nearly 20 different companies are located at New Century AirCenter. Both Garmin International and Honeywell test and develop new aviation products at the airport. Fixed base operator services are provided by two companies: Advanced Aviation LLC, and Executive Beechcraft. They provide air charter service, aircraft fueling, pilot lounges, aircraft tie-down service, and corporate line service. Other services available include: aircraft rental, car rental, aircraft and powerplant maintenance, and avionics installation and repair.

Other aviation companies located at the airport include Kings Avionics, Skyway Aviation, Butler National, and Aviation Client AV International. The services provided by these companies and others encompass charter activities, flight instruction, and aircraft maintenance. New Century AirCenter is also home to U.S. Army aviation units, including a component of the 7-158th Aviation Regiment and the 129th Transportation and Support Group.

New Century AirCenter is a vital airport to both the Kansas and national aviation systems, providing quality of life and economic benefits to the community and region.