A methodology approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was used to calculate the economic impacts associated with South Carolina’s civilian airport system and its four military airfields. Airport related economic impacts were identified for three categories: direct, indirect, and multiplier.

Direct impacts are those associated with on-airport employers, business, and tenants. Direct impacts occur as a result of the provision of aviation services. Indirect impacts are those tied to spending by visitors who arrive in South Carolina through one of the public commercial or general aviation airports. As direct and indirect impacts are released into the local, regional and statewide economies, additional multiplier impacts are created. The economic impacts created by the multiplier effect re-circulate until the benefits ultimately leak outside South Carolina. Multipliers that are specific to South Carolina were used to complete the economic impact analysis.

Aiken Municipal Airport is a general aviation airport owned and operated by the City of Aiken. The airport, located in western South Carolina, is in close proximity to Interstate 20 and five miles north of Aiken’s central business district. Aiken Municipal Airport has two asphalt runways: Runway 6/24, measuring 5,500 feet long by 100 feet wide; and Runway 18/36, measuring 3,800 feet long by 75 feet wide.

The airport generates $1.9 million in direct output, of which $295,000 is paid to approximately 12 direct full-time jobs. Additionally, more than 12,300 general aviation visitors arrive at the airport each year, generating another $1.0 million in indirect aviation-related output. Including the multiplier effect, the airport tenants and visitors at Aiken Municipal Airport generate $5.0 million in total economic output, of which $1.9 million in payroll is paid to 66 full-time equivalent jobs.

Airport activities include flight training, aircraft maintenance, aircraft sales, recreational flying, and various aviation services that support the community. As one of the region’s major general aviation airports, Aiken Municipal Airport supports business activities throughout the Central Savannah River area making it an attractive home for several corporate flight departments.

South Carolina also realizes additional tax benefits from aviation. When taxes on fuel, personal property, and income are considered, airports, airfields, aviation related activities and those employed by aviation contribute at least $73.6 million to the state’s tax base. Fuel taxes and property taxes alone account for an estimated $16.9 million in annual tax receipts for the state and its counties. From a state perspective, it is projected that approximately 12 percent of the taxes being collected from aviation fuel and property taxes will be returned to the state’s aviation fund.

A first class airport system is essential to South Carolina. A strategic program to invest in, maintain, and grow commercial and general aviation airports is critical to South Carolina’s economic future.

For South Carolina, this annual benefit is estimated at $4.3 billion.

**South Carolina’s Total Annual Economic Benefits from Aviation**

- **Total Employment**: 65,533 Jobs
- **Total Payroll**: $1.9 billion
- **Total Economic Activity**: $4.3 billion

**Annual Economic Activity/Output**

Airports, the military airfields and related aviation activities all require the purchase of goods and services. Expenditures in this category are in addition to those identified in the earnings or payroll category. These impacts are expressed as total annual economic activity or output. For South Carolina, this annual benefit is estimated at $4.3 billion.
There is a strong relationship between South Carolina’s economy and aviation. The state’s system of airports is essential in the global market place. Airports in South Carolina have helped to both lead and sustain growth and economic diversification. Airports support the state’s economy and are also economic generators. Residents, businesses, and visitors rely on the airport system to support health, welfare, and safety needs. South Carolina’s military airfields are also important to our national security.

South Carolina is served by a diversified system of airports. The state’s 6 commercial service and 54 general aviation airports are essential underpinnings to South Carolina’s diversified business base, its growing population, and its burgeoning tourism industry. In addition, South Carolina is home to four busy military airfields. Commercial aviation includes all flight training, aircraft maintenance, aircraft sales, recreational flying, and various aviation services that support the community. As one of the region’s major general aviation airports, Aiken Municipal Airport supports businesses, tenants, and other activities that are located on commercial service or general aviation airports or at one of the four military airfields. In addition, spending by visitors who arrive in South Carolina using one of the commercial service or general aviation airports supports additional employment.

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Direct impacts are those associated with on-airport employers, business, and tenants. Direct impacts occur as a result of the provision of aviation services. Indirect impacts are those tied to spending by visitors who arrive in South Carolina through one of the public commercial or general aviation airports. As direct and indirect impacts are released into the local, regional and statewide economies, additional multiplier impacts are created. The economic impacts created by the multiplier effect re-circulate until the benefits ultimately leak outside South Carolina. Multipliers that are specific to South Carolina were created. The economic impacts created by the multiplier effect directly and indirectly are released into the local, regional and state economy.

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Airport activities include flight training, aircraft maintenance, aircraft sales, recreational flying, and various aviation services that support the community. As one of the region’s major general aviation airports, Aiken Municipal Airport supports businesses and activities throughout the Central Savannah River area making it an attractive home for several corporate flight departments.