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 created. The economic impacts created by the multiplier effect are expressed in terms of jobs/employment, payroll/earnings benefits. It is estimated that on an annual basis, public commercial and general aviation airports and the four military airfields are responsible for $1.9 billion in payroll/earnings benefits. These impacts are expressed as total annual economic activity or output.

Payroll/Earnings
Aviation in South Carolina supports an estimated 65,533 jobs. Of these jobs have annual salaries that contribute to the payroll/earnings benefits. It is estimated that on an annual basis, public commercial and general aviation airports and the four military airfields are responsible for $1.9 billion in payroll/earnings benefits.

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 to 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 scheduled airline flights, charter flights, and flights flown by four busy military airfields. Charter flights, and flights flown by four busy military airfields. Commercial aviation includes all scheduled airline flights, charter flights, and flights flown by four busy military airfields. All other flights by civilian aircraft are classified as general aviation. Operations by military aircraft constitute the remainder of the state’s annual aviation activity.

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.

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. All other flights by civilian aircraft are classified as general aviation. Operations by military aircraft constitute the remainder of the state’s annual aviation activity.

Dillon County Airport is a general aviation airport owned and operated by Dillon County. The airport, located in the Upstate, is conveniently located off of Interstate 95. Dillon County Airport has one asphalt runway, Runway 7/25, measuring 3,000 feet long by 60 feet wide.

The airport generates $59,500 in direct output, of which $20,100 is paid to approximately 1 direct full-time job. Additionally, 1,900 general aviation visitors arrive at the airport each year, generating another $19,000 in indirect aviation-related output. Including the multiplier effect, the airport tenants and visitors at Dillon County Airport generate $136,300 in total economic output, of which $46,700 in payroll is paid to 1 full-time equivalent job.

Regular airport activities include recreational flying, agricultural spraying, and various services related to the health, welfare, and safety of the community. Additionally, the airport is frequently a stop for small VFR aircraft transitioning from north to south along the eastern seaboard.

For South Carolina, this annual benefit is estimated at $4.3 billion. A strong relationship between South Carolina’s economy and aviation supports an estimated 65,533 jobs. All of these jobs have annual salaries that contribute to the payroll/earnings benefits. It is estimated that on an annual basis, public commercial service and general aviation airports and the four military airfields are responsible for $1.9 billion in payroll/earnings benefits.

Airports, the military airfields and related aviation activities all require the purchase of goods and services. These impacts are expressed as total annual economic activity or output. For South Carolina, this annual benefit is estimated at $4.3 billion.