Methodology

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 important to South Carolina’s economic future.

South Carolina is a diversified state. The state’s commercial and 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 flights by civilian aircraft, scheduled airline flights, charter flights, and flights flown by four busy military airfields. In addition, South Carolina’s military airfields are important to national security.

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 six commercial service and 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 air cargo companies. 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.

Aviation in South Carolina 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. These impacts are expressed as total annual economic activity or output.

Jobs/Employment

Thousands of jobs in South Carolina are created by 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.

Payroll/Earnings

Aviation in South Carolina 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.

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.
South Carolina is served by a diversified system of airports. The state’s 6 commercial service and 54 general aviation airports is critical 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 air carriers serving the state’s seven public airports. In addition, South Carolina’s military airfields are also important to our national security. In addition, South Carolina’s military airfields are also important to national security.

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

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 aviation fund. Fuel taxes and property taxes alone account for an estimated $18.9 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.

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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 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.

Impacts are expressed in terms of jobs, payroll and earnings, and total annual economic activity or output.

**Jobs/Employment**

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**Annual Economic Activity/Output**

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THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
Lexington
County Airport at Pelion