THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF

Lowcountry

Regional Airport

DIRECT IMPACTS AVIATIO BENEFITS
ENT ECONOMIC ACTIVITY/OUT
QUALITATIVE BENEFITS PAYROLL/EARNINGS
K BENEFITS INDIRECT IMPACTS
JOBS/EMPLOYME
/OUTPUT VISITOR SPENDING

Aviation Benefits Everyone

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 bourgeoning 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.

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 used to complete the economic impact analysis.

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 tax base of the state. 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.

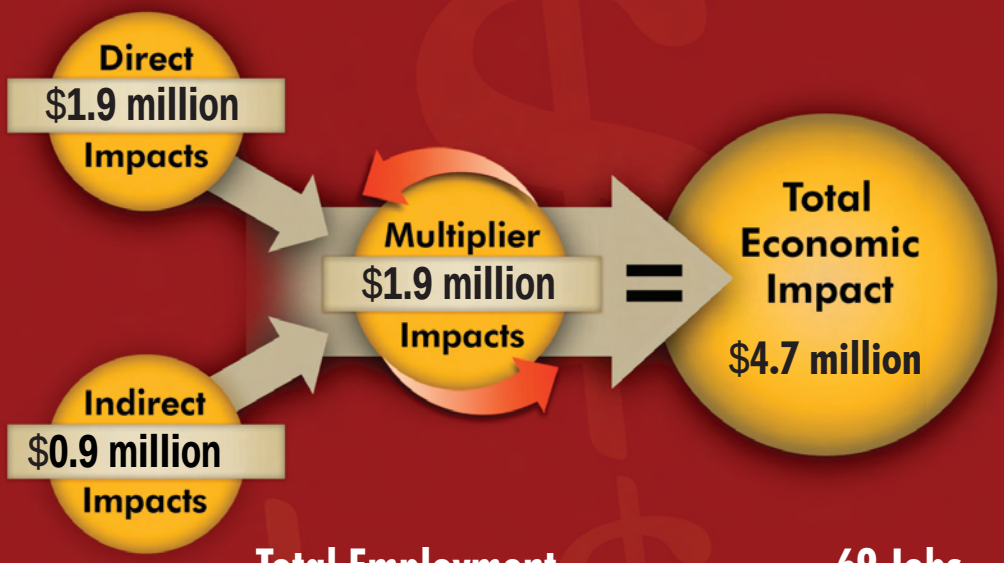
A first class airport system is essential to South Carolina. A strategic program to invest in, maintain, and grow commercial and general aviation airports is critical to South Carolina's economic future.

LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL AIRPORT

Lowcountry Regional Airport was developed in the 1940's to support and train the Army Air Forces Fourth Service Command, and was used by the Tuskegee Airmen. Today, the airport is a general aviation airport co-owned and operated by Colleton County and the City of Walterboro. The airport, located in the Lowcountry, is 5 miles from Interstate 95 and in close proximity to US17. Lowcountry Regional has three asphalt runways: Runway 5/23, measuring 6,000 feet long by 100 feet wide; Runway 17/35, measuring 5705 feet long by 100 feet wide; and Runway 9/27, measuring 5,500 feet long by 100 feet wide.

The airport generates $1.9 million in direct output, of which $157,500 is paid to approximately 7 direct full-time jobs. Additionally, 8,950 general aviation visitors arrive at the airport each year, generating another $0.9 million in indirect aviation-related output. Including the multiplier effect, the airport tenants and visitors at Lowcountry Regional Airport generate $4.7 million in total economic output, of which $2.0 million in payroll is paid to 69 full-time equivalent jobs.

Regular airport activities include flight training, recreational flying, agricultural spraying, forest firefighting, sky diving, chartered aircraft, aircraft maintenance, and various services that support the health, welfare, and safety of the community.



Total Employment	69 Jobs
Total Payroll	$2.0 million
Total Economic Activity	$4.7 million

IMPACT MEASURES

Economic impacts are expressed in terms of jobs/employment, payroll/earnings, and 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.

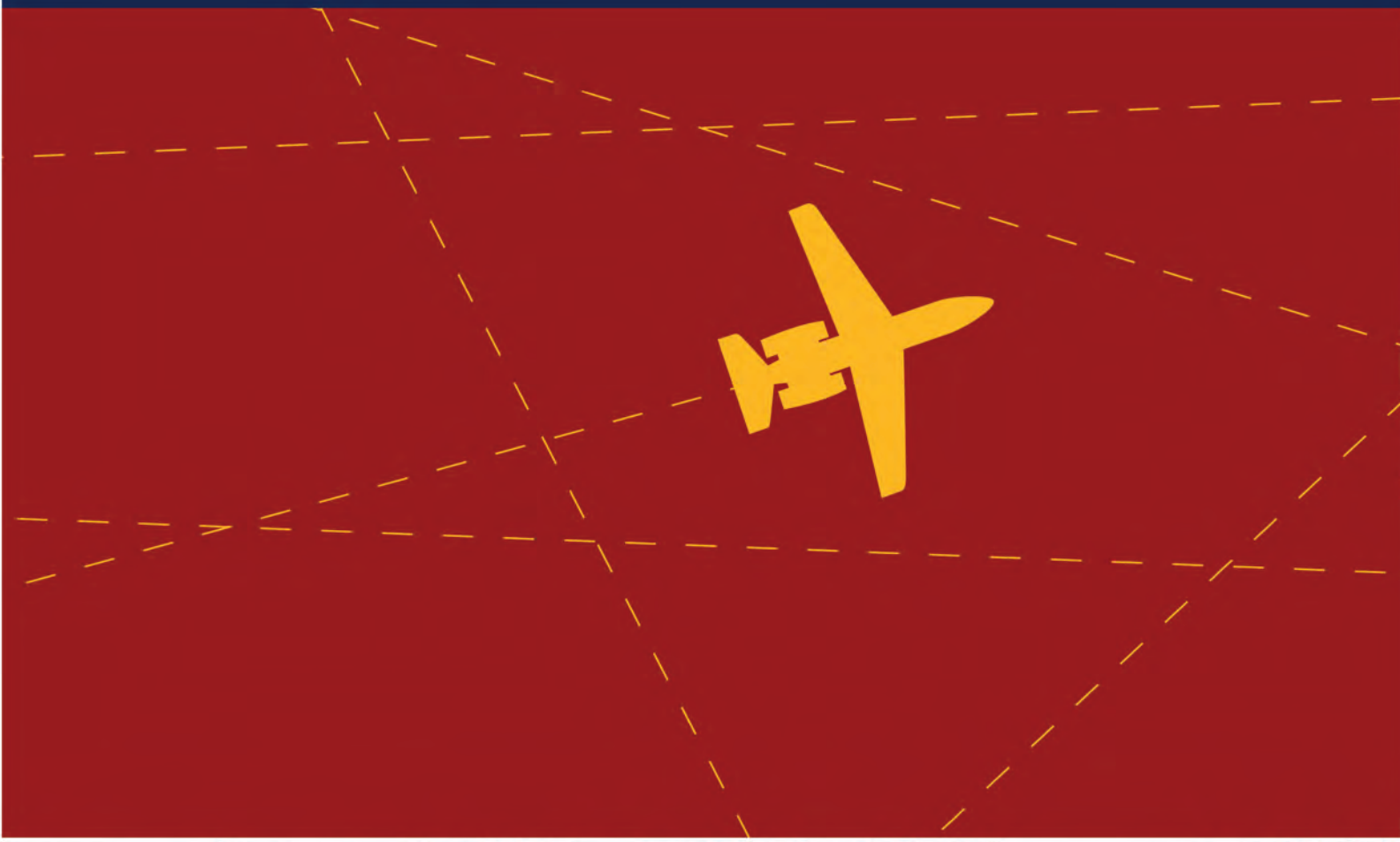
South Carolina Department of Commerce
Division of Aeronautics

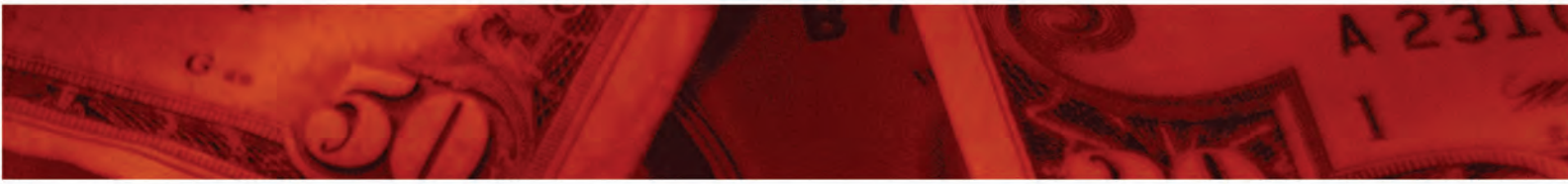
2553 Airport Blvd
West Columbia, South Carolina 29170

PO Box 280068
Columbia, South Carolina 29228-0068

(803) 896-6260 or (800) 922-0574
www.scaeronautics.com

South Carolina
Department of Commerce





Prepared by:

Wilbur Smith Associates
ENGINEERS
PLANNERS
ECONOMISTS

www.wilbursmith.com

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