

# THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF Lakeland Linder Regional Airport (LAL)

## *Aviation's Benefit for Florida*

Florida's economic well-being is intrinsically entwined with its vibrant airport system and its robust aviation industry. The aviation system in Florida allows the state to capitalize on an increasingly global marketplace. Aviation in Florida both sustains and leads economic growth and development. Airports in Florida are important economic engines, and support vital health, welfare, emergency, and safety-related services.

Florida's system of commercial service and general aviation airports are important to businesses throughout the state. Air travel is essential to tourism, Florida's number one industry. Protecting and investing in airports throughout Florida will support the aviation industry and the economic benefits described in this report. With continued support, Florida's dynamic aviation system will continue to provide a significant economic return in the years to come.

Florida Department of Transportation  
Aviation and Spaceports Office  
[www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation)



# Florida's Statewide Benefits from Aviation

Florida realizes significant annual economic benefits from aviation. The Florida Department of Transportation completed a comprehensive economic impact analysis to measure these benefits. Benefits measured in the FDOT study considered direct and indirect economic impacts and induced impacts that result from the multiplier effect. A summary of Florida's annual economic benefits from aviation follows:

Impact Category	 Total Employment	 Total Payroll (BILLIONS)	 Total Output (BILLIONS)
<b>AIRPORTS</b>			
VISITORS ARRIVING BY AIR	170,107	\$8.1	\$36.3
CONSTRUCTION AT AIRPORTS	765,225	\$20.7	\$67.2
MILITARY AVIATION	17,388	\$0.6	\$2.2
AIR CARGO	137,482	\$6.4	\$12.8
AVIATION EDUCATION	129,587	\$5.0	\$10.3
AVIATION BUSINESSES	11,891	\$0.5	\$1.0
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION	76,217	\$2.8	\$13.6
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS</b>	4,534	\$0.4	\$0.6
	<b>1,312,431</b>	<b>\$44.5</b>	<b>\$144.0</b>

## Lakeland Linder Regional Airport

Located in Polk County, approximately 30 miles east of Tampa, Lakeland Linder Regional Airport serves a variety of aviation activities. With its two intersecting runways, the longest of which is 8,500 feet, the airport can accommodate everything from small general aviation aircraft to large narrow body commercial service aircraft. The airport's terminal is ideal for accommodating local and visiting traffic.

Lakeland Linder Regional sits on over 1,700 acres and owns over one million square feet of facilities available for lease. Major tenants include the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Draken International, the Lakeland Police Department's Aviation Unit, Polk State College, Tailwheels Etc. Flight School, Sun n' Fun Fly-In, Inc., and Gulf Coast Avionics. Due to the airport's location between Orlando and Tampa, it is a reliever facility for international airports. In addition to attracting a number of transient visitors, the airport regularly supports flight training, general aviation aircraft charters, corporate/business operations, law enforcement operations, environmental patrol flights, and sport/recreational aviation activity. The airport hosts the annual Sun 'n Fun fly-in, the second largest aviation event in the U.S., drawing thousands of aviation enthusiasts from around the world.

The annual economic impact of Lakeland Linder Regional Airport is associated with direct impacts that come from tenants/businesses located at the airport and on-airport construction projects. Indirect impacts are associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area via general aviation aircraft.

