

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF Leesburg International Airport (LEE)

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



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)
AIRPORTS			
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
TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS	4,534	\$0.4	\$0.6
	1,312,431	\$44.5	\$144.0

Leesburg International Airport

Located approximately three miles northeast of Leesburg in central Florida, Leesburg International Airport serves a variety of general aviation activities. With its two intersecting runways, the longest of which is 6,300 feet, the airport can accommodate aviation business jet aircraft. The airport is conveniently located near major highways including Florida's Turnpike and U.S. Highways 27 and 441. The airport's terminal is ideal for serving local users as well as those visiting the area.

Leesburg International's major tenants include Brainerd Helicopters, a helicopter charter company; Skybolt, a manufacturer of aerospace fasteners; Wipaire, an aircraft maintenance and modification business; Flying Colors of Leesburg, an aircraft maintenance business; Sunair Aviation, the airport's fixed base operator; and The Villages retirement community's corporate flight department. The airport regularly supports flight training, corporate/business operations, general aviation aircraft charters, recreational/sport flying, Angel Flight operations, law enforcement activity, and real estate tours. Local businesses such as The Villages, Pringle Development, Mission Inn, Orlando Financial Group, and Phillips Auto Sales are among the frequent users of the airport. All of the airport's tenants and flight activities are important to the airport's revenue streams and economic impact. Leesburg International Airport is a Port of Entry to the U.S., due to its U.S. Customs and Border Protection office, allowing international flights to be cleared in Leesburg and the establishment of a Foreign-Trade Zone.

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

