

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF Okeechobee County Airport (OBE)

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

Okeechobee County Airport

Located in Okeechobee County, approximately 45 miles west of Port Saint Lucie, Okeechobee County Airport serves many general aviation activities, including corporate and recreational activity. With its two intersecting runways, the longest of which is 5,000 feet, the airport can accommodate some general aviation and business jet aircraft. The airport's terminal is ideal for serving local users as well as those visiting the area.

Okeechobee County Airport's largest tenant is the Landing Strip Café, an airport concession. The airport's other tenants provide fixed base operator services, aircraft refinishing, and aircraft painting. The airport regularly supports corporate/business operations and recreational flying. Most of the activity on the airport is related to visiting aircraft. All of the airport's tenants and flight activities are critical to the airport's revenue streams and economic impact.

The annual economic impact of Okeechobee County 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.

