

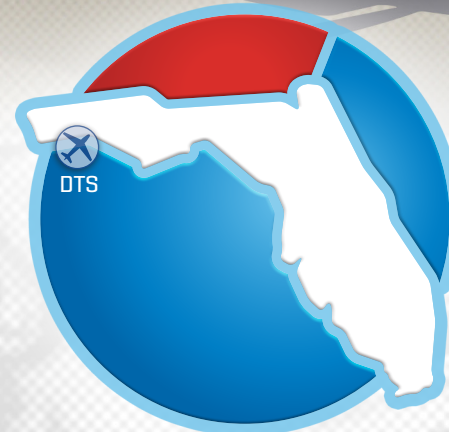
# THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF Destin-Ft. Walton Beach Airport (DTS)

## *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>  |

## Destin-Ft. Walton Beach Airport

Located in Okaloosa County, approximately one mile east of Destin, Destin - Fort Walton Beach Airport serves several types of general aviation activities. The airport has one 5,001-foot runway which can accommodate multi-engine general aviation aircraft. The airport's terminals are ideal for serving local users as well as those visiting the area.

Destin - Fort Walton Beach Airport has two fixed based operators, Destin Jet and Regal Air. Other tenants include Southern Airways Express, a public charter operator; and Vertol Systems Company, a helicopter flight training provider. The airport supports mainly tourist, recreational, public charter, flight training, and private business aviation activity. It is estimated that approximately 60 percent of the airport's annual operations can be attributed to business activity.

The annual economic impact of Destin - Ft. Walton Beach Airport is associated with direct impacts that come from its tenant located at the airport and construction projects that are undertaken by the airport or its tenant. Indirect impacts are associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area via general aviation aircraft.

