

# VPS

## DESTIN – FORT WALTON BEACH AIRPORT / EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE

### AIRPORT ECONOMIC IMPACTS



**12,888**  
JOBS



**\$507M**  
PAYROLL



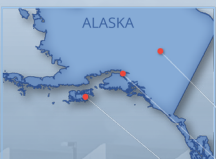
**\$880M**  
VALUE ADDED



**\$1.6B**  
ECONOMIC  
IMPACT  
(OUTPUT)

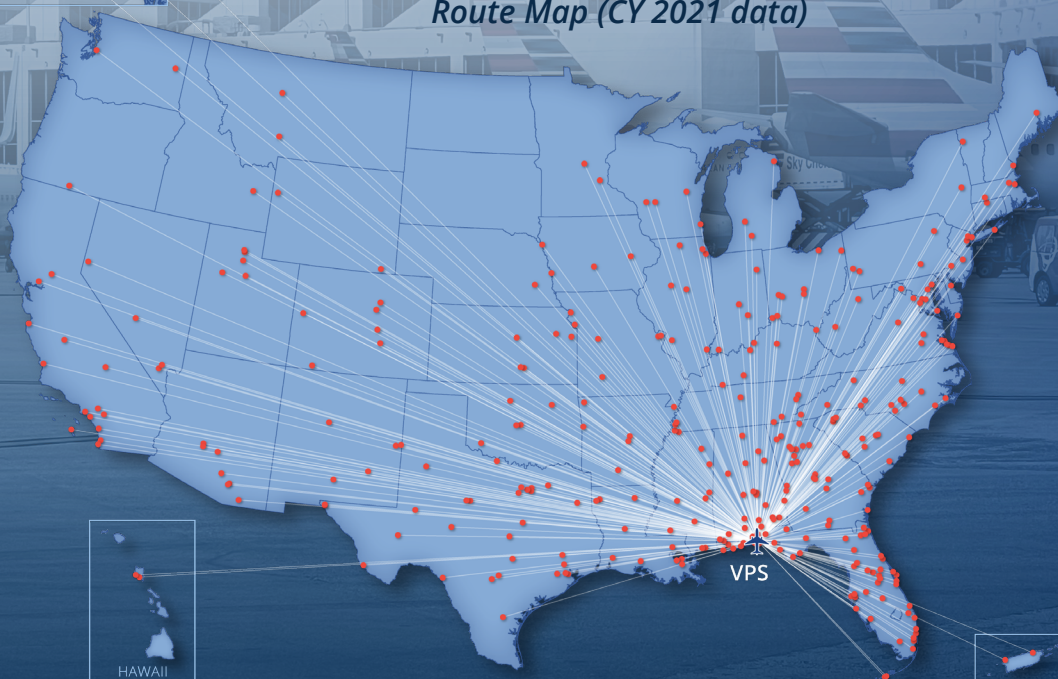
### About Destin – Fort Walton Beach Airport / Eglin Air Force Base

Destin – Fort Walton Beach Airport / Eglin Air Force Base (VPS) is a civilian/military joint-use airport in Okaloosa County along Florida's Gulf Coast, approximately seven miles north of downtown Fort Walton Beach. The airport has two runways, the longest of which measures 11,987 feet long by 300 feet wide (Runway 12/30). Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport is co-located with Eglin Air Force Base and considered a leading example of a joint-use airport. This designation means that VPS is owned by the U.S. Department of Defense, and military and civilian aircraft share use of the airfield. In addition to military operations, the airport provides commercial passenger service for leisure and business travelers. Since 2017, air service has increased 150 percent and four new airlines have been added to make VPS one of the fastest growing airports in the United States. Today, Allegiant Air, Delta Air Lines, American Airlines, and Southwest provide nonstop service to 13 Large Hub airports and 60 U.S. cities. These commercial activities contribute valuable tourism revenue to the region and state. The growth at VPS has been supported by numerous capital improvements recently completed and current underway including expansions of the aircraft apron, baggage claim, and parking lots as well as construction of a new concourse.



#### Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport / Eglin Air Force Base

Route Map (CY 2021 data)



### STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACTS<sup>1</sup>



**2,009,088**  
JOBS



**\$109B**  
PAYROLL



**\$170B**  
VALUE ADDED



**\$336B**  
ECONOMIC  
IMPACT  
(OUTPUT)

<sup>1</sup>Totals include new off-airport  
air cargo impacts developed  
for this update



## STUDY OVERVIEW

Florida's over 125 public-use airports are economic engines for the state, representing some of the largest aviation facilities in the world and providing critical transportation connections for their local communities. By supporting jobs both on- and off-airport property, Florida's airports support the infrastructure necessary for important activities such as manufacturing, logistics, tourism, and emergency response.

In 2021, Florida welcomed over 43 million out-of-state visitors through its commercial service airports and over 4.6 million visitors through its general aviation airports. Over 3,500 businesses operate at Florida's airports and their 161,000 direct employees create substantial economic impacts.

To help quantify and communicate these immense contributions, the FDOT Aviation Office initiated the development of the 2022 Florida Aviation Economic Impact Study. This study calculates each airport's annual monetary contribution to their local, regional, and statewide economies. This study determined that Florida's aviation system generated 2,009,088 jobs and contributed \$336 billion in 2021 to the state's economy, accounting for 13.5% of Florida's gross domestic product (GDP).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Totals include new off-airport air cargo impacts developed for this update



## What is Economic Impact?

The economic impacts of each airport and the state are defined by the total jobs, payroll, value added, and economic impact (output) generated by aviation in the state. These are defined as:



### **JOBS**

The sum of full-time and part-time employees, and account for the total number of people employed as a result of the airport or company within a defined geography or industry.



### **PAYROLL**

Total compensation for work, including gross wages, salaries, employer-provided benefits and taxes paid to governments on behalf of employees.



### **VALUE ADDED**

Consists of compensation of employees, taxes paid on production and imports, and gross operating surplus. Value added equals the difference between an industry's gross output and the cost of its intermediate inputs.



### **ECONOMIC IMPACT (OUTPUT)**

The value of sales or receipts and other operating income along with any inventory change (e.g., spoilage, breakage, or theft). It is the equivalent of value added plus the cost of all intermediate inputs (including energy, raw materials, semi-finished goods, and services) that are purchased from all sources/locations.



### **OFF-AIRPORT AIR CARGO**

Off-airport air cargo is a new component of this study which assesses the cargo activity that interacts with Florida's businesses and relies on Florida's airports. The off-airport air cargo component was developed to highlight Florida's diverse industries that depend on airports to support business activity.