

### AIRPORT ECONOMIC IMPACTS



**894**  
JOBS



**\$43.1M**  
PAYROLL



**\$73.3M**  
VALUE ADDED



**\$153M**  
ECONOMIC  
IMPACT  
(OUTPUT)

### About Okeechobee County Airport

Okeechobee County Airport (OBE) is a general aviation (GA) airport located directly northwest of the city of Okeechobee. The airport provides two intersecting paved runways, the longest of which (Runway 05/23) is 5,000 feet long by 100 feet wide. The airport serves as a hub for recreational GA flying, as well as business/corporate flights and charter air service. Business and corporate travelers utilize OBE to quickly access Okeechobee and the surrounding south-central Florida region. The airport boasts multiple aviation-related tenants, and an adjacent industrial park supports local jobs and bolsters the airport's economic impact. Flying clubs from around Florida fly into OBE to utilize airport fueling facilities and visit the on-site restaurant, which has become a favorite for locals and visitors alike. The airport has undertaken multiple capital improvements over the past few years. In early 2022, OBE installed an Automated Weather Observation Station (AWOS) and completed a major runway rehabilitation project. These improvements, along with the airport's numerous amenities, continue to draw visitors from around Florida and the United States.

### Okeechobee County Airport

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.