

## AIRPORT ECONOMIC IMPACTS



**281**  
JOBS



**\$16.1M**  
PAYROLL



**\$24.6M**  
VALUE ADDED



**\$54.2M**  
ECONOMIC  
IMPACT  
(OUTPUT)

### About Sebastian Municipal Airport

Sebastian Municipal Airport (X26) is a general aviation (GA) airport located approximately 14 miles north of Vero Beach. The airport offers two paved runways, the longest of which measures 4,023 feet long by 45 feet wide (Runway 05/23). The airport most frequently accommodates skydiving and flight training. Skydive Sebastian conducts dozens of daily operations year-round. Wings Airline Academy, the based flight school, specializes in training international students, many of whom come from France and other European countries. Itinerant traffic from flight schools across the state is also common. The airport has seen many improvements over the past few years, including the construction of two large hangars and installation of dozens of shade hangars. Additional property has been cleared for further hangar development to support increasing activity levels. In addition to the aeronautical-related activities supported by X26, the airport boasts an 18-hole golf course, driving range, and pickleball facility. The amenities, services, and facilities offered at X26 attract pilots and passengers to the Sebastian area, further strengthening the relationship between the airport and surrounding community.

### Sebastian Municipal 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.