

# SOUTHWEST FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

## AIRPORT ECONOMIC IMPACTS



**60,485**  
JOBS



**\$2.7B**  
PAYROLL



**\$4.5B**  
VALUE ADDED



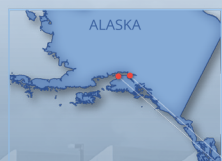
**\$8.3B**  
ECONOMIC  
IMPACT  
(OUTPUT)

## About Southwest Florida International Airport

Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) is a commercial service airport located approximately 10 miles southeast of downtown Fort Myers, halfway between Miami and Tampa. The airport offers one paved runway (Runway 06/24) that is 12,000-feet long by 150-feet wide. Scheduled commercial passenger service is provided by 14 airlines to 61 nonstop destinations in the United States and Canada, as well as Frankfurt, Germany. With convenient access to Interstate 75 and U.S. Route 41, RSW connects travelers with the many amenities and events that make Southwest Florida one of the top travel destinations in the United States. World-renowned beaches, golf courses, resorts, Major League Baseball Spring Training and Grapefruit League games and many other attractions are all within easy reach. In addition to scheduled commercial service, RSW supports some general aviation activities including corporate and business aviation. The airport also has air cargo/freight flights operated by FedEx and UPS. In recent years, RSW has undertaken several major improvement projects, including the construction of a new Airport Traffic Control Tower and Terminal Radar Approach Control Center completed in 2021. In October 2021, RSW broke ground on a Terminal Expansion Project to consolidate the security checkpoints, add concessions and enhance the level of service offered to passengers. In addition to being a major driver of economic activity in the region and state, the airport is very active with the local United Way and American Heart Association.

### Southwest Florida International 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



Credit: RSW, Southwest Florida International Airport



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## 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.