

Executive Summary

District 4 | 2023



District Overview

Aviation Facilities in FDOT District 4 Contribute Over \$60 Billion to Florida's Economy

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) manages the state's transportation system through a decentralized model in accordance with state legislative mandates. There are seven districts that each provide individual levels of planning, production, operations, and administrative support to the state's diverse transportation system and users.

FDOT District 4 includes five counties across Florida's southeast coast, spanning about 5,000 square miles. Home to over 3.6 million residents, District 4 cities include Vero Beach, West Palm Beach, Boca Raton, and Fort Lauderdale. The northern shores of District 4 are known as Florida's Treasure Coast. Named for the 11 Spanish ships that wrecked offshore carrying treasures and riches, it's said lucky beachgoers can still find washed up pieces of treasure to this day. Treasure Coast visitors can enjoy beautiful sunrises, miles of beach for relaxing and watersports, and a wide expanse of Florida nature to be explored and enjoyed. The southern shores of District 4 make up part of Florida's Gold Coast. This area is known for its lively beaches and sprawling urban lifestyle, including active nightlife, cruise ship ports, and first-class restaurants, golf courses, and resorts.

Residents and visitors can access District 4 through any of the 17 public-use airports including two commercial service airports. Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport (FLL) and Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) welcome tens of millions of passengers each year, with over a dozen other general aviation (GA) airports accommodating charter and private flights. To provide an updated snapshot of the economic contribution of Florida's airport system, the FDOT Aviation Office (FDOT AO) commissioned the 2022 FDOT Aviation Economic Impact Study (2022 AEIS). The 2022 AEIS measured that the aviation activity in FDOT District 4 contributed **\$60.5 billion in total economic impacts (output) to the state's economy**. These impacts supported **336 thousand jobs**, **\$18.9 billion in payroll**, and **\$32.0 billion in value added**.

Visitor Spending and Off-Airport Air Cargo Contributes Over \$47 Billion to Florida's Economy

ON-AIRPORT



VISITOR SPENDING



OFF-AIRPORT AIR CARGO



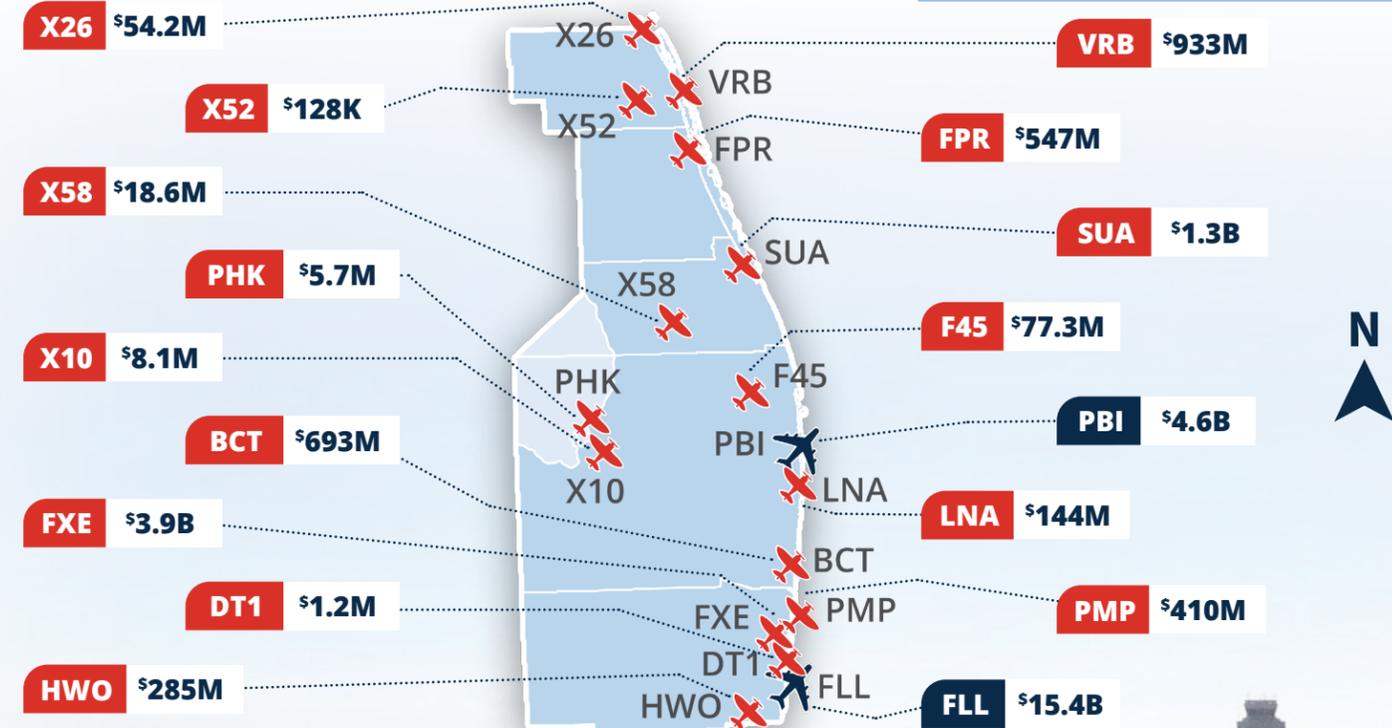
TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT (OUTPUT)



Note: District 4 does not have any military aviation facilities that were included in this study. Off-Airport Air Cargo and Visitor Spending impacts, District 4's largest impact categories, will be discussed further on pages 4 and 5. Visitor Spending photo source: Palm Beach County Department of Airports.

Economic Impact (Output) of Individual Airports

- ✈ General Aviation Airports
- ✈ Commercial Service Airports



General Aviation is Thriving In District 4

District 4 supports some of the most diverse and unique GA activities in Florida. As the busiest GA airport in Florida in terms of operations, North Perry Airport (HWO) primarily supports flight training, but is also host to the largest aerial media operation in the southeast United States (U.S.) and a large banner towing company that operates in 49 states. Situated only 30 miles north of HWO, Boca Raton Airport (BCT) is a hub for corporate/business activity. Major corporations headquartered in Boca Raton such as ADT and The ODP Corporation (which manages Office Depot and OfficeMax) frequently transport company personnel using BCT. The airport also supports the operations of 62 on-airport businesses that provide employment to over 600 people. One of south Florida's rural communities is supported by the unique Palm Beach County Glades Airport (PHK), located along the southeast shore of Lake Okeechobee. The airport is also popular with college football recruiters, with many recruiters from the Southeastern Conference traveling through PHK to visit the nearby Pahokee Middle-Senior High School, a regionally acclaimed football program.

Off-Airport Air Cargo Impacts

District 4 Supports \$32 Billion in Off-Airport Air Cargo Impacts



Off-airport industries in Florida rely on cargo transported through the 17 public-use airports in District 4. This includes raw materials used for manufacturing or transporting finished products from producers to consumers. The 2022 AEIS completed a targeted evaluation that measures the economic impact of air cargo flow through Florida's airports and interacts with off-airport industries. Air cargo that doesn't interact with Florida's economy was

excluded from the evaluation. Across the state, airports deliver critical support to industries by enabling businesses to transport commodities and finished goods both from suppliers and to customers. Air cargo services provided by Florida's airports connect both long-distance domestic and international markets to companies in the state – positioning Florida as a global business leader. These services enable Florida-based companies to expand customer markets and acquire commodities used for production or to create opportunities for sales around the world. Expanding customer markets through outgoing air cargo generates increased business sales, which in turn brings dollars from other states or nations into Florida.

The 2022 AEIS measured that off-airport air cargo activity in FDOT District 4 contributed **\$32.0 billion in economic impact (output) to the state's economy**. These impacts supported **143,678 jobs, \$9.8 billion in payroll, and \$16.4 billion in value added**.

Value of Top Commodities Imported to and Exported from District 4



Air Cargo Activity in Palm Beach County

Approximately \$3.7 billion in air cargo value is transported through Palm Beach County, which accounts for 39 percent of all off-airport air cargo value recorded in District 4. Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) contributes significantly to this activity, with based tenants FedEx and UPS using the airport as a distribution point and providing employment to a combined 250 people. Air cargo activity is anticipated to grow with the recently developed Airport Logistics Park, a Class A industrial building providing up to 566,736 sq. ft. of space near the airport.



Source: Airport Logistics Park

Visitor Spending

Leisure Hub at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL)

Visitor spending impacts are comprised of impacts attributable to spending from out-of-state visitors arriving in Florida via GA or commercial service. Out-of-state visitors rely on airports for quick access to all regions in Florida and provide an influx of new dollars into the state's economy. Spending on goods and services such as lodging, food, and entertainment generate revenue for Florida's businesses, which in turn supports jobs for residents.

Visitor spending impacts are exemplified by Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL). Located only minutes from world-renowned beaches and downtown Fort Lauderdale, FLL is one of the busiest gateways in the U.S. for leisure travelers. In 2021, FLL was the 15th busiest airport in the U.S., recording over 13.5 million enplanements! As of February 2022, over 20 airlines fly through FLL, including new leisure carriers Avelo Airlines and Norse Atlantic Airways, a Norwegian low-cost carrier providing long-haul international service to Europe. FLL is also frequently used for domestic and international VIP travel, including members of the U.S. Congress and the British Royal Family.

The 2022 AEIS measured that visitor spending activities in FDOT District 4 contributed **\$15.0 billion in economic impact (output) to the state's economy**. These impacts supported **123,088 jobs, \$4.9 billion in payroll, and \$8.5 billion in value added**.



North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport (F45) Supports Nearby Golf Tournaments

Visitors enjoy the convenience of North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport (F45) when attending prestigious golf events in Palm Beach Gardens, such as the PGA National Resort and The Country Club at Mirasol. F45 is a designated GA reliever airport for PBI and is an ideal gateway for golf players and enthusiasts, as it can accommodate piston and jet traffic with little to no congestion from larger commercial service traffic. According to FAA-filed flight plans recorded in 2021, F45 accommodated visitors from 36 states and 350 unique airports in the U.S.! Visitors enjoy a modern terminal, fuel services provided by an on-site fixed base operator, and numerous aircraft parking and storage options.

Investments Maintain and Expand District 4's Treasured Airports

The FDOT's Work Program identifies funding for capital improvement projects on a rolling five-year basis. The 2022 AEIS identified FDOT Work Program obligated funds for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2018 through 2021. Investment is primarily driven by public funds from the FDOT to preserve existing infrastructure, modernize airport facilities, and increase airport capacity across the District. FDOT has recently made tremendous investments in District 4, which continuously supports a large amount of aviation traffic. Between 2018-2021, the FDOT Work Program identified \$369 million for capital improvements across the District. When compared to investment, **for every dollar spent on airport projects in District 4, there is an estimated \$656 in total output supporting Florida's economy!**

Treasure Coast International Airport (FPR)

FDOT District 4 is home to several existing commercial service airports, but may soon add another. Treasure Coast International Airport (FPR), a publicly owned GA airport located in St. Lucie County, is pursuing a Part 139 certification to unlock commercial air service activity. With help from over \$6.6 million of public investment obligated for FPR between 2018 and 2021 (according to the FDOT's Work Program), the airport has been able to complete several necessary improvements. New

airfield signage, repainting airfield pavement markings, and a new security access control system are just some airport improvements completed to move closer to the certification. Of the \$6.6 million identified in the FDOT's Work Program, \$3.2 million was listed for airport expansion projects. These improvements contribute to the airport generating **\$547 million in economic impact (output) to Florida's economy!**



Source: FPR, Treasure Coast International Airport

FDOT Work Program Investment Drives Economic Activity

FDOT WORK PROGRAM SUPPORTS AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS.

FPR receives \$3.2 million for airport expansion work.
FXE receives \$8.7 million for taxiway improvements.



Airport improvements increase aviation activity, which results in greater on-airport employment and visitor spending.



AIRPORT ECONOMIC IMPACT INCREASES!

FPR economic impact (output) increases by \$37 million.
FXE economic impact (output) increases by \$1.8 billion.

Source: FPR, Treasure Coast International Airport

Source: FPR, Treasure Coast International Airport

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE)

As a non-primary commercial service airport situated only six miles north of downtown Fort Lauderdale, Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE) is a premier leisure gateway and hub for business activity. The airport has a 6,002-foot runway able to accommodate most business jet traffic and four fixed-base operators (FBOs) servicing the area's most high-profile visitors with modern conveniences. Welcoming visitors from over 50 countries and 1,100 unique airports, FXE supports employment for over 6,900 people and generates \$3.9 billion in economic impact (output). FXE's services and facilities have been supported by over \$12.5 million in public funding, as identified in FDOT's Work Program between 2018 and 2021. This includes a \$8.7 million into taxiway improvements. The constant attention to capital improvements has led to millions of dollars of public and private investment into real estate growth in and around the airport.



Source: Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport

In 2018, the airport completed significant development on several airport parcels including replacement of existing buildings with modern facilities valued at \$25 million. The improvements consisted of eight (8) corporate-sized hangars providing 217,560 sq. ft. of space, attached offices, workshops, and a terminal lobby.

In 2020, one of the FBOs FXE Jet Center constructed a 20,000 sq. ft. hanger with 10,000 sq. ft. of additional ramp space.





AEIS 2022

Florida Aviation Economic Impact Study . . .



Source: Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport