Basic Information
Fairfield County Airport is a general aviation airport located three miles northwest of Lancaster, Ohio. Major facilities at the airport include a 5,004-foot primary runway (Runway 10/28) and a full parallel taxiway. Operations at the airport are supported by a GPS approach with vertical guidance and ASOS weather reporting. Other services include avgas, jet fuel, and maintenance. Fairfield County Airport is included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems.

Qualitative Benefits
Fairfield County Airport is home to several on-airport businesses offering such services as FBO services, aircraft maintenance, flight training, and recreational skydiving. These businesses include Sundowner Aviation, Due North Aviation, Fairfield Aviation, and Skydive Columbus, among others. The most frequent general aviation operations at Fairfield County include corporate flights, powerline and pipeline operations, and recreational flying.

The airport also maintains programs to enhance community outreach, including events such as Young Eagle flights, open houses featuring historic aircraft, and a balloon festival.

Methodology

Impact Measures
Jobs measures the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs related to airport activity including visitor-supported and on-airport construction jobs. A part-time employee counts as half of a full-time employee.

Payroll measures the total annual salary, wages, and benefits paid to all workers whose livelihoods are directly attributable to airport activity.

Output measures the value of goods and services related to airports in Ohio. The output of on-airport businesses is typically assumed to be annual gross sales.
The Ohio Airport System
The Ohio system of 104 airports not only provides the state with a safe and efficient mode of transportation, it is also an important stimulus for economic growth and development. By providing aviation-related services, the system supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and produces billions of dollars in economic activity. The state’s largest employers, and many smaller businesses, rely on aviation to rapidly transport personnel, equipment, and supplies.

Study Process
To better understand the relationship between Ohio’s system of airports and the statewide economy, the Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) Office of Aviation conducted an economic impact study of aviation using an FAA-approved methodology that has been applied to state airport systems throughout the United States. Funding for this study was provided by the FAA and the ODOT Office of Aviation.

Each Ohio system airport’s total economic impact was quantified in terms of jobs, payroll, and output. Through a comprehensive survey process, the direct economic impacts related to on-airport business tenants and visitor expenditures were determined for each system airport. The multiplier effect of these impacts was then calculated to ascertain the total airport-related impacts.

Statewide Benefits from Aviation
More than 120,000 jobs can be tied to the airports of Ohio. These employees receive $4.2 billion in payroll and benefits and generate $13.3 billion in economic activity. In addition to economic impacts, the system of airports provides numerous benefits that enhance the quality of life, health, safety, and welfare of Ohioans.

The state’s network of seven commercial service airports provides access to regional, national, and international markets. Nearly 10 million enplaned passengers used the Ohio system of commercial service airports in 2012 to reach these destinations. In total, Ohio commercial service airports support nearly 106,000 jobs with annual earnings of approximately $3.5 billion and $11.5 billion in annual economic activity.