

## Washington's Airports Support Our State

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Aviation Division conducted an Aviation Economic Impact Study (AEIS) of Washington's 134 public-use airports to measure the annual economic impact that airports provide to local communities, geographic regions, and statewide. The study offers a detailed look into how airports contribute to our state and serves as a useful tool in communicating the economic value they bring to our world.

### Study Approach

Economic impact is quantified by first calculating the effects of on-airport activity and visitor spending, then analyzing how these effects continue to generate money as they flow through the economy. Economic impacts are calculated by individual airport, then modeled to quantify the total statewide impact of Washington's airport system. **Resulting economic impacts for each airport are expressed in terms of jobs, labor income, value added benefits, and business revenues.**



### AIRPORT PROFILE

Pearson Field (VUO) is a publicly-owned airport located two miles southeast of the central business district of Vancouver in Clark County, Washington. VUO supports 290 jobs and has a total economic impact/business revenues of \$39.9 million annually. The airport has a single 3,275-foot-long asphalt runway located on the north bank of the Columbia River. Beginning operations in 1911, Pearson Field is the oldest continuously operating airfield in the Pacific Northwest and one of the oldest airports in the U.S. The airport provides a variety of services including avionics repair, aircraft rental and sales, and flight instruction. Pearson Field serves as an access point for general aviation aircraft visiting the Portland/Vancouver area.

### AIRPORT CHARACTERISTICS

Location	Service Classification	Organization
Legislative District: 42	Federal: LOCAL	Ownership Type: PUBLIC
Associated City: VANCOUVER	State: REGIONAL	Owner/Sponsor: CITY OF VANCOUVER
County: CLARK		

### AVIATION ACTIVITIES

Key Activities			
<input type="checkbox"/> Air cargo	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial inspections	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerospace manufacturing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pilot training and certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial photography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial passenger service
<input type="checkbox"/> Skydiving/recreational flying	<input type="checkbox"/> Search and rescue	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical air transport	<input type="checkbox"/> Business and corporate travel
<input type="checkbox"/> Shipping of perishable goods	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness and disaster response	
<input type="checkbox"/> National security/military	<input type="checkbox"/> Firefighting		

Ground Transportation Options	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bus	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxi
<input type="checkbox"/> Courtesy car	<input type="checkbox"/> Rideshare
<input type="checkbox"/> Limousine service	<input type="checkbox"/> Rail
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Airport Activities (2018)	
Scheduled commercial service	
Operations	N/A
Enplanements	N/A
General aviation	
Operations	53,099
Percent GA transient	51%

**ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

Direct economic impacts comprise on-airport activities including employment and construction as well as money spent off-airport by out of state visitors who depart via scheduled commercial service or general aviation.

Direct impacts have additional effects as money generated at and by airports flows through the economy. These effects are caused when a portion of direct business revenues are used to purchase goods and services in Washington (i.e., supplier sales) and worker income is re-spent within the state.

Economic impacts are expressed in terms of the following metrics:

- **Jobs:** Number of employed people
- **Labor Income:** Salaries, wages, and other benefits to workers
- **Value Added:** Value contributed to a product or service provided by a firm or group of firms (in this case, airport businesses)
- **Business Revenues:** Represents an airport’s total economic impact

**Economic Impacts**

Impact Types	Jobs	Labor Income	Value Added	Business Revenues
On-Airport Activity	51	\$3,392,000	\$5,205,000	\$10,786,000
Visitor Spending	140	\$4,410,000	\$7,790,000	\$12,366,000
<b>Total Direct Effects</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>\$7,802,000</b>	<b>\$12,995,000</b>	<b>\$23,152,000</b>
Supplier Sales	44	\$2,845,000	\$4,841,000	\$7,993,000
Re-Spending of Worker Income	55	\$2,993,000	\$5,405,000	\$8,796,000
<b>Total Economic Impact</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>\$13,639,000</b>	<b>\$23,241,000</b>	<b>\$39,940,000</b>

Impacts derived based on: 2018 Airport Manager’s Survey, 2018 Airport Tenant’s Survey, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) 5010 Airport Master Record, FAA Terminal Area Forecast, Airline Data, Inc. Impacts modeled using IMPLAN by EBP. Analyses based on 2018 study year. **Notes:** Totals may not add due to rounding Metrics (jobs, labor income, value added, and business revenues) represent various components of an airport’s economic impact and are not additive.

**TAX IMPACTS**

Airports’ direct economic impacts result in local and state tax revenues. On-airport businesses pay business and operating (B&O) taxes. Visitor spending generates taxes and fees associated with sales; hotel stays; and use of transportation services including rental cars, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), and taxis.

**Estimated Taxes to Each Jurisdiction**

Impact Types	Local (County & Municipal)	State	Total
On-Airport Activity	\$85,510	\$577,420	\$662,930
Visitor Spending	\$203,130	\$1,077,500	\$1,280,630
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$288,640</b>	<b>\$1,654,920</b>	<b>\$1,943,560</b>

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Statewide Tax Collections**

The Washington State Department of Revenue reports that the state collected **\$3.18 billion** in aircraft fuel and aircraft excise taxes. Together with taxes generated by on and off-airport aviation-related activities, the state’s airport system, including SeaTac, generated over **\$913.3 million** in total statewide tax impacts (2018).

**STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

