



McMinn County Airport

Aviation Moves Tennessee

Tennessee's aviation system is made up of 78 public-use airports, which serve aviation needs from commercial passenger jet operations to single-engine recreational flights. To understand how Tennessee's airports support the state's economy, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Aeronautics Division undertook the Aviation Economic Impact Study. This study determined that Tennessee's aviation system generated 220,936 jobs and contributed \$40 billion in 2019 to the state's economy, accounting for 11% of Tennessee's 2019 gross domestic product (GDP).

About McMinn County Airport

Located near the Smoky Mountains, McMinn County Airport (MMI) is in southeast Tennessee near the city of Athens. The airport's 6,450-foot runway allows it to attract a wide variety of general aviation traffic. Multiple local businesses, including Mayfield Dairy and Denso Manufacturing, contribute to the business activity at the airport. This activity is primarily supported by the airport's sole fixed-based operator, Athens Air, which provides a wide range of business-related services including self-service fuel available after hours, rental and crew cars, and forklifts available 24/7 for onloading and offloading freight.

McMinn County Airport also supports recreational visitors that seek out activities like hunting, fishing, and sightseeing in the nearby Smoky Mountains. Additionally, the airport offers many family-friendly activities, including flying lessons and the onsite Swift Museum, which displays a diverse collection of Swift aircraft.

In order to understand the geographic reach of McMinn County Airport, the map below shows a selection of flights that operated both into and out of the airport.

Airport Economic Impacts



BUSINESS REVENUE million



ON-AIRPORT **IMPACTS**

\$2.4 million



VISITOR **SPENDING IMPACTS**

\$802 thousand



IOBS 25

employed



PAYROLL \$1.2

ADDED \$1.7



Region 2 is located in east central Tennessee

and covers some of the most rapidly-growing

urban areas in Tennessee. Cleveland,

supported by Tennessee's newest airport,

Cleveland Regional Jetport (RZR), is one of

Region (2) **Profile**

TDOT REGION 2 Tennessee's major manufacturing hubs. **Thirteen**

ON-AIRPORT

\$703 **MILLION**

VISITOR **SPENDING** MILLION

FREIGHT/ **CARGO**

S2.6 BILLION

Fortune-500 manufacturing companies have a presence in Cleveland, driving economic activity for the region. To the west, Tullahoma, supported by Tullahoma Regional Airport (THA), is quickly becoming a tourism hotspot. Tullahoma Regional Airport (THA) is the closest airport to the annual Bonnaroo festival, and the airport's jet traffic increases by 80% during this event as tens of thousands of visitors attend the event. Growth in the Region is supported by its 18 general aviation airports and its single commercial service airport, Lovell Field (CHA), in Chattanooga. Lovell Field (CHA) saw a 10 percent increase in enplanements between 2018 and 2019. In addition to welcoming over 345,000 visitors in 2019, Region 2's airports generated 18,087 jobs and contributed **\$4 billion** in 2019 to the state's economy.

TOTAL ECONOMIC \$40 BILLION

AVIATION CONTRIBUTES

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

What is Economic Impact?

The economic impacts of each airport, TDOT Region, and the state are defined by the total jobs, payroll, value added, and business revenue generated by aviation in the state.

IOBS

220,936 employed

Number of employed people, including full-time and part-time

PAYROLL

(6) \$13 billion

Total employment compensation, including wages and other benefits (e.g., healthcare insurance payments, retirement contributions, etc.); also known as "labor income"

VALUE ADDED \$21 billion

The economic productivity of each aviation-related business establishment, calculated as business revenue earned minus the cost of purchasing goods and services from other businesses; also reflects a company's or industry's contribution to Tennessee's GDP

BUSINESS REVENUE (\$) \$40 billion

The incorporation of expenditures needed to administer airports, sales of goods and services by airport tenants, budget expenditures to public sector agencies located on airports, the cost of capital expenditures, and visitor spending in Tennessee's hospitality-related sectors; the term "economic impact" is also used to describe business revenues

Statewide Aviation Benefits

The statewide economic impact of Tennessee's airports consists of three major categories: On-Airport Activity, Visitor Spending, and Freight/Cargo. Together, they account for \$40 billion in economic impact for Tennessee.

→ On-Airport Activity TOTAL OUTPUT \$12 billion

Impacts related to the activity of airport administration, business tenants, and capital improvements on airports

→ Visitor Spending TOTAL OUTPUT \$9 billion

Impacts related to out-of-state visitor spending at both commercial service and general aviation airports

+ Freight/Cargo TOTAL OUTPUT \$19 billion

Impacts related to air cargo operations



Kimley » Horn

For more information on the Tennessee Aviation Economic Impact Study, visit our webpage at