



Aviation Aids In Economic Impact Study

INDOT's Aviation team is flying high with significant findings of the recently published [2012 Indiana Airports Economic Impact Study](#). A collaborative effort spearheaded by the [Aviation Association of Indiana](#) (AAI) and [Conexus Indiana](#), the study was made possible with assistance from [INDOT Aviation](#). The study revealed positive news, including how various airports benefit communities and play a key role in Indiana's economic growth.

The analysis, conducted during 2011-12, surveyed operators at the 69 public-use Indiana State Aviation System Plan airports that receive federal and state funding assistance. The survey collected information on the users and direct employees of each airport and was categorized by jobs (full- and part-time), payroll (wages and benefits) and economic output (measuring the total value of goods, services and capital expenditures).

The economic impact is considerable. The findings reveal that, collectively, Indiana airports provide:

- 69,149 jobs
- \$4.1 billion in annual payroll
- \$14.1 billion in total economic output

Those numbers are conservative, since not every survey was returned.

INDOT Aviation Manager Kevin Rector did some homework that greatly aided the survey.

"I researched software programs that specialize in modeling economic impacts and then made a recommendation to AAI," said Rector. "My team also was instrumental in formulating the survey questions, distributing the survey to airports, and collecting survey data to ensure that we had as many surveys returned as possible."

AAI Executive Director Bart Giesler wants to ensure that Indiana takes advantage of federal dollars available to the state's airports.

"In a new budget year, we want to make sure the legislature understands the importance of airports," said Giesler. "If airports cannot meet the match requirement of 7.50 percent, which is up from 3.75 percent last year, we lose those federal dollars, and I do not want to see that happen. The funding often helps with capital projects such as runway extensions, runway repairs or resurfacing, and items related to the runways such as taxiways, aprons and lighting — sometimes even land acquisition. All of these enhancements significantly aid in improved safety, as well."