

NCDOT News Release

Date: January 11, 2021

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Report: Airports Contribute \$61 Billion, 373,000 Jobs to N.C. Economy

RALEIGH – North Carolina’s publicly owned airports contribute \$61 billion to the state’s economy and support 373,000 jobs, according to a report released by the N.C. Department of Transportation’s Division of Aviation.

Airports and aviation-related jobs also provide \$15 billion in personal income and contribute \$2.5 billion in state and local tax revenues every year, based on 2019 data.

According to the report: **ROCKY MOUNT – WILSON REGIONAL AIRPORT** contributed 450 jobs, \$26,400,000 Personal Income, \$2,861,000 State and Local Taxes and \$70,500,000 of Economic Output.

The report, *North Carolina: The State of Aviation*, highlights the pre-pandemic economic impacts of the state’s public airports and the related aviation and aerospace assets that support North Carolina’s aviation economy. NCDOT creates the report every two years to help guide future investment in aviation infrastructure and provide a tool for recruiting aviation and aerospace industry companies and investment.

“Despite the challenges of 2020, our network of 72 publicly owned airports, and the aviation and aerospace assets that rely on them, still help move our economy forward by creating jobs, supporting business growth and connecting people and companies to markets around the globe,” said Bobby Walston, director of NCDOT’s Division of Aviation.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought significant impacts to the airports. Commercial airline travel declined, for example, while private air charters and air freight operations reached record highs. While this report does not include the impacts of the pandemic, the 2019 impact data demonstrates aviation’s economic contribution to the state and local communities and provides a benchmark for tracking recovery.

North Carolina’s public airport system boasts 10 commercial service and 62 general aviation airports that connect local businesses and communities to global markets, house and refuel private aircraft, support military and agricultural aviation and statewide emergency response, and provide aviation services such as aerial photography and pilot training. The commercial service airports also offer regularly scheduled passenger service.

All airports generate significant economic return for their communities and the state. For instance, North Carolina’s public airports lease space to more than 3,300 private aircraft that generate more than \$176,738,000 million in tax revenues for their communities each year. The owner of a \$1.5 million aircraft based at a North Carolina airport pays local property taxes equivalent to those paid by owners of 10 homes valued at \$150,000 each.

ROCKY MOUNT – WILSON REGIONAL AIRPORT completed more than \$20M in Construction improvements in 2020 that have contributed to increased private, corporate and on demand charter and freight operations as well as doubling it's based aircraft count in the last three years.

The report contains data compiled and analyzed for NCDOT by North Carolina State University's Institute for Transportation Research and Education. Impacts are calculated based on factors such as jobs supported by the airports and the businesses that rely on them, business and leisure travelers, and airport capital projects and operations.

View the full report, including the breakdown of each individual airport's contributions, at www.ncdot.gov/aviation.

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