

WACO REGIONAL (ACT)

ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

2029

1,266
TOTAL JOBS

$76.3M
TOTAL PAYROLL

$188.7M
TOTAL OUTPUT

OVERVIEW

WACO REGIONAL AIRPORT is one of 25 Texas airports with scheduled commercial airline service. Two runways serve the airport, the longer measuring 7,107 feet. Landings are supported by precision instrument approach procedures. American Airlines provides scheduled commercial service. Air Impressions, RAM Aircraft, and Texas Aero serve general aviation aircraft, and rental car operators include Avis and Enterprise. The Baylor University Flight Center is also based at the airport. Terminal concessionaires include Aerodrome Café and a gift/news shop. Customs and Border Patrol clearance is available on-site. Together, these businesses and other activities support the airport-related jobs and economic impacts identified in this analysis.

ESTIMATING ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The economic impact analysis estimates that the airport supports 1,266 total jobs. It helps to understand where these jobs come from. On-airport direct jobs are located at the airport (for example airport management, aviation-related business tenants, and investment for capital projects). Off-airport jobs are supported by the expenditures of visitors who arrive in Texas via the airport. The total jobs identified for each airport include direct jobs located at the airport, additional off-airport direct jobs supported by visitor expenditures, and additional multiplier jobs. Additional multiplier jobs are created when direct airport-support impacts enter the economy. The graphic shows how direct jobs and multiplier jobs combine to generate the airport's total annual employment estimate. The same approach is used to estimate total annual payroll and output.

EMPLOYMENT ECONOMIC IMPACT ESTIMATES

DIRECT ON-AIRPORT JOBS



MANAGEMENT
11



TENANTS
317



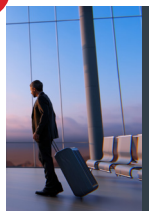
CAPITAL INVESTMENT
20

+

DIRECT OFF-AIRPORT JOBS



GENERAL AVIATION VISITOR SPENDING
58



COMMERCIAL AIRLINE VISITOR SPENDING
318

+

MULTIPLIER JOBS

ADDITIONAL JOBS
542



=

TOTAL JOBS

1,266



TEXAS AVIATION IMPACT 2026

The Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) and the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Aviation Division partnered to undertake an analysis and research project to identify annual economic impacts for airports in the Texas Airport System.

288 AIRPORTS | **263** GENERAL AVIATION | **25** COMMERCIAL SERVICE

The study's analysis produced estimates of economic impact for 277 of the Texas airports, while annual impacts for 11 other airports were obtained from other sources/reports.

TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS FOR ALL TEXAS AIRPORTS

This study measures economic impacts for Texas airports in three ways: employment, annual payroll, and annual output (total economic activity). Texas's strong business climate and tourism industry help drive airport-related activity for both commercial service and general aviation airports. The statewide totals reported here include direct impacts (identified through surveys, site visits, and research) and multiplier impacts (indirect and induced impacts estimated using an input/output econometric model). For this analysis, annual output represents the estimated total value of economic activity associated with Texas airports.

$240B OUTPUT

1.2M JOBS

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS IN TEXAS

Commercial service airports are airports with at least one scheduled airline. Texas has **25 COMMERCIAL SERVICE AIRPORTS** in its state airport system. According to a 2026 CNBC study, evaluating 135 factors, Texas ranks in the top 5 nationally among all states as the best location for doing business. The state's extensive and first-class commercial airport system is important to that ranking. These airports vary widely in size. Some are served by more than a dozen airlines, while others have only one carrier. In 2025, the 25 commercial airports served more than **200 MILLION PASSENGERS** (arrivals and departures). These travelers include both Texas residents and visitors. Visitors who fly into Texas on scheduled airline flights are an important part of the economic impact measured in this study. Based on the analysis in this report and supporting research, the 25 commercial service airports in Texas are estimated to generate a total annual economic impact of **$223 BILLION**.

CATEGORIES OF ECONOMIC IMPACT

AIRPORT MANAGEMENT
Day-to-day operation of the airport.

BUSINESS TENANTS
Aviation-related businesses operating on the airport who provide services to aircraft and/or airport customers.

ANNUAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT
5-year average of federal, state, local, airport, and private investment for capital improvement projects.

VISITOR SPENDING
Annual expenditures from visitors to Texas who arrive on a scheduled commercial airline flight or on a general aviation plane.



Texas A&M Transportation Institute

Texas Department of Transportation