North Carolina: The State of Aviation
January 2019

North Carolina’s 72 publicly owned airports contribute more than $52 billion to the state’s economy and support 307,000 jobs, according to a January 2019 report from the N.C. Department of Transportation Division of Aviation.

North Carolina: The State of Aviation highlights the economic impacts of the state’s public airports and the aviation and aerospace assets that rely on them.

The report contains data compiled and analyzed for NCDOT by N.C. State University’s Institute for Transportation Research and Education using 2017 data from airports and the latest data on the state’s aviation assets available from public and private sources.

Economic Impacts

- $52 billion economic output
- 307,000 jobs
- $12.6 billion in personal income
- $2.2 billion state and local tax revenues

Airport Infrastructure

- 72 publicly owned airports
  - 10 commercial service
  - 62 general aviation
- 94% of state residents live within 30 minutes of an airport

Airport Activity

- 62 million annual passenger boardings
- 850,000 annual tons of cargo valued at $23 billion
- 4 million annual airport operations (take-offs and landings)

Support Industries

- 13 airport-based rental car companies
- 3,300 aircraft based at N.C.’s public airports
- 59 retail shops
- 74 restaurants, cafes and bars

Aviation Sectors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>COMPANIES</th>
<th>JOBS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Manufacturing</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>9,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aerospace Maintenance</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>4,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Aviation (Bases)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial Airlines</td>
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<td>14,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Cargo</td>
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<td>2,500</td>
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Aerospace Manufacturing

- 180 companies, 9,500 jobs
- 2nd fastest-growing aerospace manufacturing sector in the country
- 33.4% employment growth 2012-2017

Aerospace Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul

- 5th in the nation in MRO employment
- 148 companies, 4,400 jobs
- 46% job growth 2012-2017
- 180 companies, 9,500 jobs

Aviation Higher Education

- 28 post-secondary programs
- 366 students annually in four-year programs
- 1,134 students annually in community college programs
- 20,500 annual post-secondary STEM graduates

Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- 26,400 registered recreational drone operators
- 5,500 permitted commercial and government drone operators