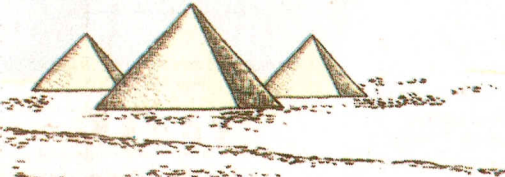


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Airport provides \$19 million to economy

*Economic impact study released by IDOT,
Division of Aeronautics*

BY RICK HAYES
SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — An economic impact study conducted by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division states the total economic output of Mt. Vernon Airport is at \$18.9 million, resulting in about 150 jobs.

The study is the culmination of numerous passenger and airport surveys conducted to determine the individual and statewide value of the Illinois aviation system. The

study was completed by CDM Smith.

More than 337,000 jobs can be tied to the airports in Illinois. Total payroll related to these jobs is \$12.8 billion across the state, the survey revealed.

"The numbers are a reflection of the attributes of the airport — outstanding infrastructure mixed with experienced and diverse tenancy," Airport Manager Chris Collins stated in a news release.

"We have always believed that the airport was a strong economic

engine for the area. The IDOT Economic Impact Study validates this sentiment," stated Airport Authority Chairman Greg Martin.

On-airport jobs are listed at 45 with a \$7.1 million direct economic output. The output of on-airport businesses is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures.

Airport officials insist these numbers are actually higher as the study only lists aeronautical related businesses. According to Collins, when airport based businesses such as ARDL [Applied Research Development Laboratory], and ProjectResourcesIT, an industrial technology consulting

company, are added, the on airport job total is 83 and the economic output is nearly \$11 million.

According to the study, the total number of jobs created by the airport is 149, resulting in an annual payroll of \$4.9 million and a total output of \$18.9 million when all impacts and multipliers are applied.

In addition to the two businesses previously mentioned, jobs are created on site through SRT Aviation, Southern Illinois Light Sport Aircraft Training Academy, Eric Evans Aviation, Hertz, Wilkey's Cafe, Kash Helicopter Services, and FAA Designated Examiner/aviation consultant Leland Widick.

IMPACT STUDY RESULTS

- ◆ On-Airport provides 45 jobs with \$7.1 million output
- ◆ Total impact is 149 jobs with \$18.9 million output

Events held at the airport include the Plane and Pilot Midwest LSA Expo, the KR National Convention, the Ercoupe National Fly-In, the annual EAA Fly-In and Veterans Reunion, the Continental

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Tire of the Americas employee picnic, the annual Salute to Freedom, the River City Boat Races, and U.S. military exercises.

National Railway Equipment Co. has a major presence daily at the airport. Other major users of the airport include White Oak Mining, Petco Petroleum, Continental Oil and Gas, Continental Resources, Sasco Chemical, U.S. military, and air cargo for Continental Tire of the Americas, Intier Automotive, and North American Lighting.

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