

Economic Impact Summary of Vandalia Municipal Airport (KVLA)

Provided by: South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission

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The Economic Impact Study of Aeronautics:

Preface:

The intention of the Economic Impact Summary of South-Central Illinois Airports is to provide accurate and measurable data regarding the regional-level economic impact of airports. The South Central Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission, in its capacity as an Economic Development District (EDD) funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), building upon its unique regional perspective, saw the opportunity to integrate the use of regional, district, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and EDA planning resources in a way that would maximize their benefit for member local governments, development groups, and area businesses. The data and findings within the SCIRPDC aeronautics reports do not include impacts on airports from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission has utilized the expertise and collective research efforts of IDOT'S Aeronautics Division who partnered with Kimley-Horn to produce this informational document. The study focuses upon the level of economic impact that is derived from the region's five publicly-owned general aviation airports, the aviation and related services that they provide to their host community, county, and the region as a whole.

Specifically, this study examines the full range of economic benefits derived from the following five publicly-owned general aviation airports within the five-county South Central Region study area:

Name of the Airport -- LOC ID -- Town or City Location -- County Location

Flora Municipal Airport -- (KFOA) -- Flora, Illinois -- Clay County
 Effingham Co. Memorial Airport -- (1H2) -- Effingham, Illinois -- Effingham County
 Vandalia Municipal Airport -- (KVLA) -- Vandalia, Illinois -- Fayette County
 Centralia Municipal Airport -- (KENL) -- Centralia, Illinois -- Marion County
 Salem-Leckrone Airport -- (KSLO) -- Salem, Illinois -- Marion County

The Study Process:

The economic benefits associated with aviation facilities and their operations within Illinois have been quantified using a standard econometric modeling process that has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The "Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study" of the airports in Illinois quantifies the economic benefits from such facilities and aviation services in terms of jobs, payroll, and economic output. This methodology has been used to successfully quantify the economic contribution of airports and airport systems throughout Illinois.

The data for this report came from online sources as well as information from the manager of the airport, Chad Feldpouch. The statistics came from a number of sources, AirNav and Illinois Aviation and IDOT, just to name a few. This study wasn't funded. Its sole purpose is to provide important information to the community and whomever may need it.

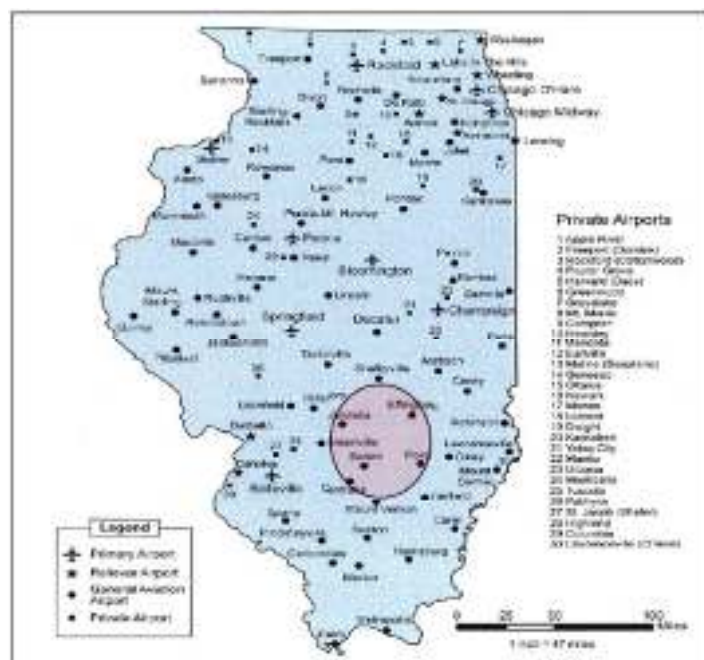
The induced impacts of these airport activities were calculated using multipliers that are specific to Illinois. For example, when an airport employee purchases local goods and services at local retail establishments, that spending circulates through the local economy by supporting the jobs and payroll of other businesses and thereby generates additional economic activity within the community, county, and region. The total economic impact is the sum of all on-airport, visitor, and multiplier impacts.

This report is a summary of information found regarding the Vandalia Municipal Airport. A basic profile for each of the district's five publicly-owned general aviation airports was prepared, e.g., Salem, Vandalia, Centralia, Flora, Effingham. The primary objective of the Economic Impact Study is to gather general information about the local airports for the use of the general public, for whoever may need the information.

Location of Airports Surveyed:

The Illinois aviation system is one of the largest and most diverse airport systems in the United States. IDOT officials note that by measuring the individual and collective economic activity stemming from these 85 airports and 248 heliports (as of 1/8/2020), including the state's commercial service facilities, the state feels that it should be possible to demonstrate to the general public, local and state government officials and other stakeholders how we economically benefit from the presence of each airport.

The map below depicts the general location of each of the state's airports by category. The five publicly-owned airports that provide the focus of this report are highlighted.



Vandalia Municipal Airport

FAA LOC ID: VLA

City of Vandalia (Fayette County), Illinois

General Airport Information:

Ownership: Vandalia Park District

Activation Date: July 1944

General Location: The airport complex is located three miles northwest of the center of the City of Vandalia, Illinois 62471. North of Interstate 70 and west of Illinois Route 185.

Phone: (618)283-4973

Latitude/Longitude: (estimated) 38-59-29.2770N 089-09-58.2820W

Acres: 246

Surface: Asphalt

Elevation: 537.2 ft above sea level

On Site Facilities: Passenger terminal and hanger renovated in 2012. No control tower. Lighted wind indicator. Has segmented circle. White-green beacon (lighted land airport), operates sunset to sunrise.

Runways: Two runways: 18/36 and 9/27. Runway 18/36 (3751 x 100 ft.) offers nonprecision markings, in good condition. Runway end identifier lights. As well as a touch down point, no lights. Obstructions: 18 ft. road, which is 575 ft from the runway, and 284 ft left of the centerline (20:1 slope to clear). Runway 9/27 (3001 x 75 ft.) offers basic markings, in fair condition. Runway end identifier lights. As well as a touch down point, no lights. No obstructions known.



Source: <http://www.googleearth.com> (January 6,2022).

Communications: Airport Frequency: CTAF/UNICOM 122.8. Sectional Chart: St. Louis, Missouri. AARTCC: Kansas City Center.

Instrument Approach: Runway 18: RNAV

Procedures: Runway 36: RNAV

Airport Access: The publicly-owned airport is open for use by the general public.

Operations: Vandalia Park District, 618-267-8035

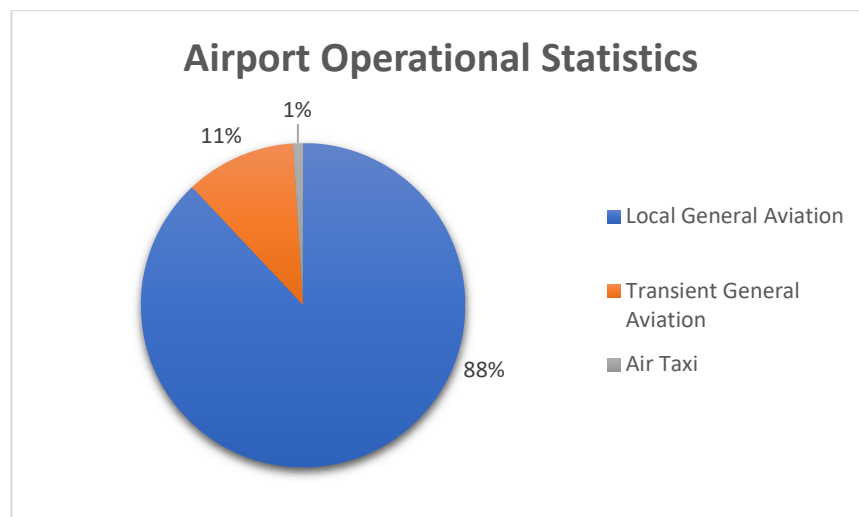
Passenger Terminal: Passenger reception/waiting area, rest rooms, snacks and beverages, nice pilot lounge with four big recliners, a conference room that can fit 20-30 people, courtesy car transportation, fully stocked mini fridge, etc. Completely renovated back in 2012.

Airport Services: Fuel: 100LL or Jet A (Self Serve). Parking: Hangers and Tiedowns. Airframe Service: Major. Powerplant Service: Major.

Planned TIP Improvements: The Annual & Multi-year Airport Improvement Program has allowed state funding to be put towards reconstructing Aircraft T-hangar access pavements. This is also known as the Rebuild Illinois Airport Capital Improvement Program. The total estimated cost is \$675,000. The state is funding \$607,500. The local funding is \$67,500.

Operational Statistics:

Aircrafts Based at Airport in 2021				
Single-Engine	Multi-Engine	Helicopters	Ultra Lights	Total
12	1	0	0	13



Heliports: In addition to the Vandalia Municipal Airport, the City of Vandalia also contains one heliport, the Fayette County Hospital Heliport ID (IL26); which is privately owned and operated.

Nearby Amenities: Within a ten to fifteen minute drive of Vandalia Municipal Airport, are numerous retail stores, an estimated thirty-two eating establishments and four overnight lodging facilities which can be reached by using the airport's courtesy car for use by the airport employees, transient pilots and crews and airport passengers, etc. The presence of such amenities influences the airport operation's indirect economic impact for the community and county via the occasional purchase of goods and services.

Economic Impact of the Airport & Services:

The economic benefits associated with the Vandalia Municipal Airport and its year-round operations in Vandalia, Illinois have been quantified using a standard econometric modeling process approved by the FAA. The Commission's summary of Vandalia Municipal Airport quantifies the overall economic contribution of the airport by focusing upon the level of direct, indirect, and induced economic impact that is derived from the general aviation airport and the aviation-related services that it provides to their host City, County, and the District as a whole.

The remaining headings of the Economic Impact Summary of Vandalia Municipal Airport will discuss the documented local economic benefits derived from the specific airport facilities and aviation services in terms of jobs, payroll, and economic output. The methodology has been used to successfully quantify the overall or economic contribution of airports and airport systems throughout the State of Illinois and the US. The data utilized for this regional economic impact analysis study came from the research and surveying efforts of the IDOT Aeronautics Division who partnered with Kimley-Horn, as well as the staff of the Commission relative to each of the five airports surveyed within the five-county South-Central Illinois Region.

Direct Economic Impacts of the Vandalia Municipal Airport:

Direct Impacts account for the initial point where the money from the aviation-related activity first starts circulating in the economy. These impacts include the results from airport activity and visitor spending. On-airport activity includes the benefits associated with businesses and government organizations located at the airport, which are directly related to the provision of aviation services. On-airport impact includes the employment, payroll, and spending of businesses such as fixed-based operations, flight schools, aircraft repair facilities, and airport management and operations staff. Capital expenditure of the businesses and government organizations is also included indirect impacts. Visitors contribute to direct impacts through their off-airport spending which may include visiting local stores, restaurants, and hotels near the airport.

On airport impacts of Vandalia Municipal Airport include airport management and administration, airport tenants, business tenants, also includes on-airport construction.

General Aviation Visitor impacts are produced by non-local passengers arriving via private or business aircraft. General aviation visitors make up the portion of each of the airport's general aviation operations that leave the airport's local airspace, termed itinerant operations. Some itinerant operations at an airport are conducted by a resident of the airport's market area who fly their planes to a distant location and subsequently return to their home airport. The remaining itinerant operations are attributed to visitors. Itinerant operations performed by visitors are called true transient operations. Impacts for this group were estimated using survey data from pilots and passengers visiting airports across Illinois.

Construction Impacts are calculated when the airport undertakes capital improvement projects (CIP), such as a runway rehabilitation or terminal improvements. Additionally, these projects employ people in jobs such as construction, architecture, engineering, and consulting.

Multiplier Impacts of Vandalia Municipal Airport:

Multiplier Impacts result from the recirculation and respending of direct impacts within the economy. This respending of money can occur when businesses spend their revenue on business expenses, whereas induced impacts occur when employees spend their earnings on goods and services, those expenditures circulate through the economy, resulting in increased spending, payroll, and employment throughout Illinois. As this money is spent over and over again, some of it leaks beyond the boundaries of Illinois. And thus no longer benefits Fayette County's citizens. The economic model uses parameters specific to Illinois to estimate the leakage effects associated with these multiplier impacts.

Output Impacts of Vandalia Municipal Airport:

Output Impacts are the result of money spent, invested, and generated by businesses and visitors. For example, on airport output is defined as annual gross sales for airport businesses and activities. The exceptions are organizations such as corporate flight departments and government agencies that do not generate revenue. Airlines are also exceptions since it is difficult to attribute revenues to specific airports. Output for these types of organizations is defined as the sum of payroll and operating expenses. Output for CIP is simply the expenditure related to those projects. Outputs related to commercial and general aviation visitors are defined as spending by those people during their visits to a location that is not already captured by on-airport output, typically off-airport establishments.

Total Economic Impacts of the Vandalia Municipal Airport:

The Total Economic Impact is a combination of all direct economic impacts and the multiplier effect impacts on the local community and county derived from the existence of the Vandalia Municipal Airport facilities, staff, and the aviation services they provide that generate an average of 25 aircraft movements per day and in the process bring pilots, crew members and guests to the Vandalia, Illinois area.

Concluding Observations:

- At the airport, there are five park district employees maintaining the airport and its facilities.
- The Vandalia Municipal Airports main activity is business related. The airport is utilized by the surrounding agriculture, oil, and steel companies.
- Farms in the areas surrounding the airport also benefit from the airport. Planes fly out of this airport for crop dusting of the fields.
- The airport is used by Petco Petroleum Corp to fly in corporate employees.
- The hospital utilizes the airport for medical transport.
- Banks in the surrounding areas use the airport for many reasons. Whether it's to cater an event or meeting on airport grounds, or to fly in guest speakers for a conference speech.
- Flight students utilize the airport to get their training hours in. The school is separate from the airport.
- It is an important resource for the community when it comes to providing a service for local businesses.
- The airport has some of the cheapest fuel in the state. They are their own fuel provider, and therefore, can provide a competitive price. This is a big reason for travelers in the area: low fuel prices.
- No obstructions on the runways.

Qualitative Benefits of Vandalia-Municipal Airport:

- It is a hub for business activity and a good resource for the community. Several manufacturing companies in the area that utilize the airport.
- The airport acts as a gateway for outdoor tourism in the area, Vandalia is home to over 60 acres of parks.
- The airport supports recreational flying and corporate flights, as well as aerial inspection and aircraft flight testing.
- The local hospital utilizes the airport to fly technicians in and out to work on equipment.
- The local banks also utilize the airport to hold meetings in their conference room. They will sometimes get caterers to come and cater the event. At times, guest speakers will fly in and speak at the airport for the bank.
- The oil industry is a patron of the airport as well, all of the activity from the oil industry is local to the region.
- Petco Petroleum Corp has a private plane and they utilize the airport as well.
- Agricultural at the airport is a big source of activity during spraying season. It is a big industry in the area. They use the airport for aerial agricultural application.
- The airport sees a lot of transient flights. The airport is riddled with travelers.
- Generates a lot of jobs and a financial asset to the community. Many companies in the area utilize the airport for corporate and business needs. Whether it's to ship goods in or out. Or to ship people in or out.
- Flight students utilize the airport as the runways are without obstructions.

- Vandalia's airport has some of the cheapest fuel in the state, an incredible resource and asset for the airport.
- Law enforcement operations, if necessary, are ran through the airport as needed.
- A lot of people utilize the courtesy car to eat in the area or get to their hotels. The airport recieves a lot of travelers.
- In 2012, the terminal and hangar were completely renovated.

Vandalia Municipal Airport Summary:

On-Airport Activity- \$5,000,000

Visitor Spending- \$51,000

Employment- 18 Jobs

Labor Income- \$1,200,000

Value Added- \$1,800,000

Vandalia Municipal Airport Total Economic Impact- \$5,000,000

Vandalia Is More Than Just a Local Airport:



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Thank you as well to the Manager of Vandalia Municipal Airport, Chad Feldpouch, for answering questions relating to the airport, helping provide a clear image of the airport and its role in the community.



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This PY-2022 Economic Impact Summary of Airports was prepared by South Central Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission. This Economic Impact Summary was individually prepared for regional airports located in Centralia, Flora, Effingham, Salem, and Vandalia, Illinois. The commission would like to extend special thanks to the airport managers and fixed based operators for making this Economic Impact Summary possible.

