

## Aviation, Aerospace and Defense Support Arizona

Arizona's 15 counties are home to 67 publicly owned, public-use airports that support the economic vitality and quality of life within the Grand Canyon State. These airports host commercial passenger service; world-class general aviation (GA) activities such as flight training, skydiving, and aerial tours; and air cargo while serving as regional job centers and economic engines in their communities. In addition to Arizona's airports, cutting-edge aerospace and defense companies and numerous United States (U.S.) military installations with a significant aviation-related component are in the state.

The 2021 Arizona Aviation Economic Impact Study (AEIS) commissioned by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Aeronautics Group examines the impacts of these three vital aspects of aviation and aerospace in Arizona.

Together airports, aerospace manufacturing, and U.S. military installations contribute over \$121.4 billion to our economy every year—providing a foundation for Arizona's culture of growth, innovation, and economic prosperity.

### STATEWIDE ECONOMIC IMPACT **\$121.4 Billion**



## What is Economic Impact?

The 2021 Arizona AEIS measured how economic activity at the state's commercial service and GA airports stimulated the Arizona economy in 2019. Impacts are generated by airport administration and business tenant employees working on airport property, capital improvement spending, and the thousands of out-of-state and international visitors who fly to Arizona and bring new money into our economy. In turn, airport administration and on-airport business tenants purchase goods from suppliers (indirect impacts) and airport workers spend the money they earn (induced impacts), generating successive waves of economic impacts in Arizona.

The economic impacts of aerospace manufacturing and 59 Arizona airports were modeled by IHS Markit using IMPLAN (2019). Eight airports requested that their independently conducted studies be incorporated into the 2021 Arizona AEIS study results (2019). The impacts of military operations were obtained from the *Economic Impacts of Arizona's Principal Military Operations* commissioned by the Military Affairs Commission and prepared by The Maguire Company (2017).

For more details about the 2021 Arizona AEIS, including the full Technical Report, visit [azdot.gov/planning/airport-development/links-and-resources-airport-development](https://azdot.gov/planning/airport-development/links-and-resources-airport-development)

# ADOT

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## ARIZONA AVIATION ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

### Pima County



Pima County encompasses more than 9,100 square miles in the Sonoran Desert of south-central Arizona. Two cities, three towns, seven unincorporated communities, and 52 U.S. Census-designated places reside within Pima County's boundaries.<sup>1</sup> The Tucson metropolitan area sits in the eastern portion of the county, making Pima County the second-most populous in the state. Pima County's economy is anchored by military installations and defense contractors. The largest single employer in the county is the U.S. Air Force, which operates Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson. Raytheon Technologies, the second-largest employer, manufactures key air defense systems for the U.S. military on the grounds of Tucson International Airport (TUS). Other prominent industries in the county include health care, state and county government and social services, and retail. The University of Arizona enrolls approximately 45,000 undergraduate and graduate students in 19 colleges and schools, including the University of Arizona College of Medicine and the James E. Rogers College of Law.<sup>2</sup>

With a diverse landscape that ranges from the high peaks of Mount Lemmon to the rugged Sonoran Desert, Pima County offers something for everyone. Sightseers can experience the region's culture and history at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, the Fox Tucson Theatre, and the Pima Air and Space Museum. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy hiking, biking, and camping in several different wilderness areas including Saguaro National Park, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, and Mount Lemmon. Pima County is also home to numerous world-class resorts, wellness spas, and conference centers.

[1] U.S. Census Bureau (2021).

[2] The University of Arizona (2021).

## STATEWIDE Economic Impacts of Arizona Airports



**Jobs**  
**386,058**



**Earnings**  
**\$20.4B**

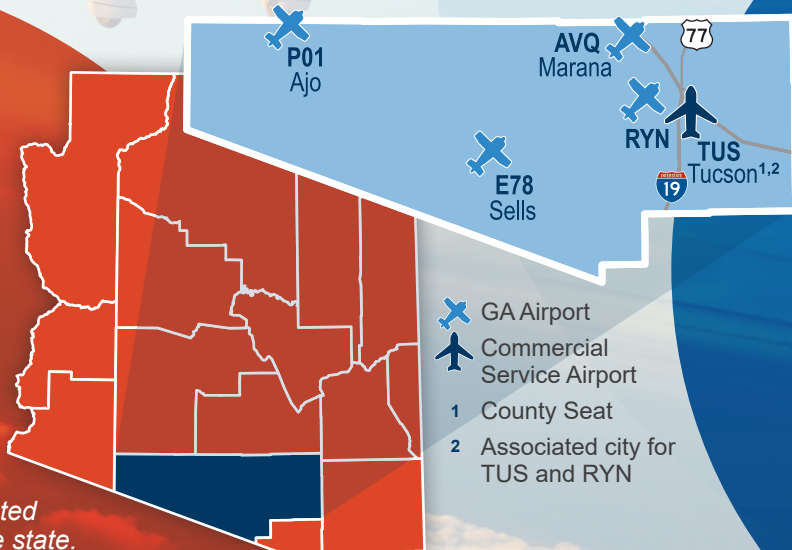


**Economic Activity**  
**\$59.4B**



**Tax Impacts**  
**\$3.5B**

Arizona's airports contributed  
**\$33.0B in value added to the state.**



## County Demographics



**Population**  
**1,047,300**



**Employment**  
**331,057**

Source: U.S. Census  
Bureau (2019)

**Congressional  
Districts**

**1, 2, 3**

**Legislative  
Districts**

**2, 3, 4, 9, 10,  
11, 14**

## Top Business Sectors



**Health Care &  
Social Assistance**



**Retail Trade**



**Accommodation  
& Food Services**

## Did You Know?

In addition to the 46,000 jobs supported by the five airports in Pima County, more than 20,000 people are employed in the aviation and aerospace industry by the U.S. Air Force and Raytheon Technologies.

## PIMA COUNTY Economic Impacts of Airports



**Jobs: 46,366**  
Number of full- and part-time persons employed



**Earnings: \$2.6B**  
Total compensation paid to workers including wages and benefits



**Economic Activity (Output): \$8.4B**  
Value of sales that occur in the Arizona economy that are ultimately attributable to airport activities



**Tax Impacts: \$571.8M**  
Airports' direct economic impacts result in local and state tax revenues.