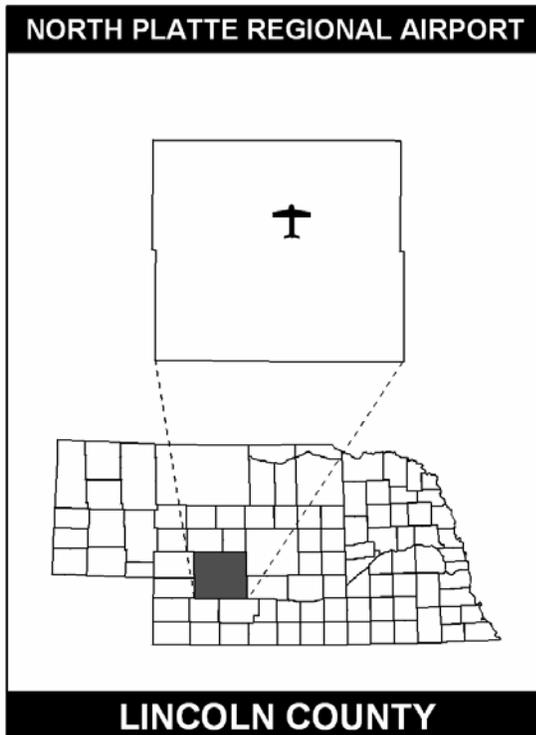


Airport Location

North Platte Regional Airport/Lee Bird Field is located three miles east of North Platte, Nebraska, in Lincoln County. North Platte has a population of 23,708. The 1,544-acre airport opened in 1920. The primary runway, Runway 12/30, is a concrete surface measuring 8,000 feet by 150 feet wide. Major employers in the community include Union Pacific Railroad, Great Plains Regional Medical Center, North Platte Public Schools, Wal-Mart, City of North Platte, Cabela's, Nebraska Public Power District, Mid-Plains Community College, and Masonite International. Local attractions include Fort Cody Trading Post, Lake Maloney State Recreation Area, Sutherland State Recreation Area, Lincoln County Historical Museum and Village, and the Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park.

The airport, with 61 based aircraft, experiences approximately 32,814 aircraft operations annually.



Economic Impact

Economic impacts at an airport are measured through employment, payroll, and output

(spending). On-airport business and government activities (direct impacts) account for a significant portion of an airport's first round economic benefits. Additional first round benefits are also linked to visitors who arrive via the State's system of airports (indirect impacts). Spending by these visitors supports additional employment and associated annual payroll. These first round impacts create additional spin-off benefits that ripple through the economy. The secondary or induced benefits were measured with Nebraska-specific IMPLAN multipliers. When combined, first round and secondary benefits equal the total economic impact associated with each airport.

First Round Impact

In 2002, there were 10 aviation-related tenants on the airport who supported 80 employees. These tenants' first round or direct employment, payroll, and output impacts were derived from survey data. Direct output from all on-airport aviation-related tenants is estimated at \$8.28 million annually. The estimated direct annual payroll of these tenants is \$3.05 million. Visitors using commercial airlines also create economic impacts. Survey data indicated that approximately 2,830 visitors arrived via North Platte Regional Airport/Lee Bird Field Airport in 2002. Commercial airline visitor-related output (spending) supported an additional 38 full-time jobs for employees earning \$634,600 annually. Output from commercial airline visitors is estimated at \$1.2 million. Operational data indicated that approximately 9,800 general aviation visitors used the airport in 2002. This visitor-related output (spending) supported an additional 20 full-time jobs with a total annual payroll of \$335,700. Output from general aviation visitors is estimated at \$529,300.

Secondary Impact

The first round impacts associated with on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors also create secondary impacts throughout the State. Secondary impacts are induced impacts calculated using the Nebraska specific IMPLAN multipliers. The accompanying table presents the 2002 first round, secondary, and total impacts for output, payroll, and employment as they relate to on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors.

Total Impact

For 2002, the total output (including first round and secondary impacts) stemming from all on-airport tenants and all commercial airline and general aviation visitors to North Platte Regional Airport/Lee Bird Field was approximately \$14.45 million. Total full-time employment related to airport tenants and all visitors is estimated at approximately 199 persons. A total annual payroll of approximately \$5.83 million is associated with these jobs.

Other Benefits

In addition to the economic benefits described above, North Platte Regional Airport offers many services to the community. The airport welcomes many recreational aircraft in addition to airline and corporate aircraft such as those belonging to Snell Services, Pathology Services, and Weathercraft of North Platte. An aerial application service uses the airport seasonally.

There are a number of air cargo and freight services that operate at North Platte Regional, including UPS, FedEx, Airborne, and the US Postal Service. The airport accommodates medical evacuation flights and has a helipad available as a secondary site for Great Plains Medical Center’s helipad. Doctors use the airport approximately 165 times per year to conduct clinics in rural parts of the State. The airport is also the location for the National Weather Service’s regional office.

The airport currently leases some of its acreage for crops, primarily hay. The airport also has plans for the Platte Valley Airpark, a 350-acre industrial park on airport property. Management at North Platte Regional maintains a working relationship with local government and business organizations, and accommodates many organizations in its on-site conference facility. This facility is open to the public and provides meeting or press conference space for local officials and business leaders.

The airport participates in several charity and community events, including allowing the local Civil Air Patrol chapter free rent on the field, and

accommodating annual school trips. The airport has also hosted air shows in the past.

Summary

On an annual basis, North Platte Regional Airport currently provides the following total benefits:

North Platte Regional/Lee Bird			
EMPLOYMENT			
	First Round	Secondary	Total
On-Airport Activity	80	40	120
GA Visitors	20	6	26
CA Visitors	<u>38</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>53</u>
Total	138	61	199
PAYROLL			
	First Round	Secondary	Total
On-Airport Activity	\$3,049,700	\$1,214,800	\$4,264,500
GA Visitors	\$335,700	\$191,900	\$527,600
CA Visitors	<u>\$634,600</u>	<u>\$404,900</u>	<u>\$1,039,500</u>
Total	\$4,020,000	\$1,811,600	\$5,831,600
OUTPUT			
	First Round	Secondary	Total
On-Airport Activity	\$8,284,600	\$3,365,200	\$11,649,800
GA Visitors	\$529,300	\$321,400	\$850,700
CA Visitors	<u>\$1,212,800</u>	<u>\$733,300</u>	<u>\$1,946,100</u>
Total	\$10,026,700	\$4,419,900	\$14,446,600

Source: Wilbur Smith Associates & IMPLAN multipliers

In a year’s time, capital improvement-related construction spending at airports in Nebraska typically produces the following impacts:

Construction Impacts - Per \$100,000 in CIP Spending			
	First-Round Impact	Secondary Impact	Total Impact
Employment	1.8	2.3	4.1
Payroll	\$55,264	\$41,206	\$96,470
Output	\$100,000	\$70,250	\$170,250

Source: Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc. & IMPLAN multipliers