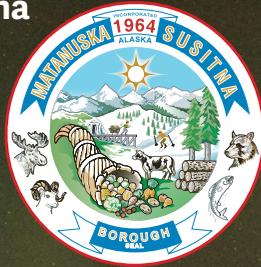


Economic Contributions of Matanuska-Susitna Airports

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) is home to over 220 aviation facilities and more than 1,200 aircraft. While general aviation predominates at most of the Borough's facilities, commercial and government operations at a handful of public-use airports generate hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity.



When combined, MSB leaseholders and airport operations at six key airports generated approximately 375 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, \$21 million in wages and benefits, and total non-wage and benefit expenditures of \$17.5 million in 2014. Notably, the vast majority of total jobs, wages and benefits created by on-airport operations remain within the Borough.

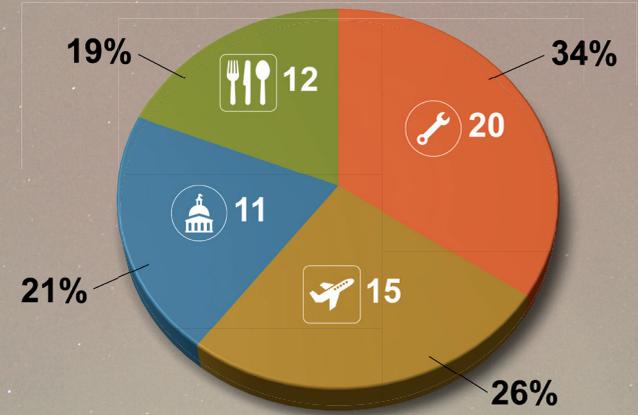


Leases at MSB Airports

Of the hundreds of airports in the MSB, six—Big Lake, Palmer, Skwentna, Talkeetna, Wasilla, and Willow—are home to the vast majority of commercial and government airport leases in the Borough. The map below shows the locations of the six airports and the number of leases at each by lease type in 2015—in total, 58 commercial and government leaseholders.

Aircraft Services (e.g. fueling, maintenance) represents the largest leaseholder group (20 total leases), followed by Commercial Air Carriers, including multiple flightseeing and flight instruction companies (15), Passenger Concession/Other (12), and Government (11).

Total Number and Percentage of Leases at Profiled Airports by Type



Total No. of Leaseholders by Airport:

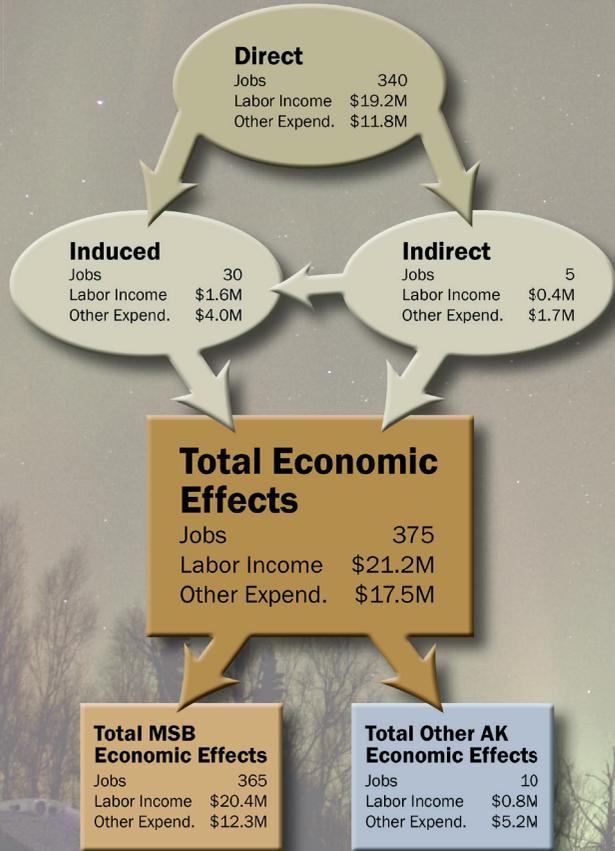
- Willow (15)
- Palmer (14)
- Talkeetna (14)
- Big Lake (7)
- Wasilla (6)
- Skwentna (2)

Leaseholder Types

- Aircraft Services
- Government
- Commercial Air Carriers
- Passenger Concession/Other

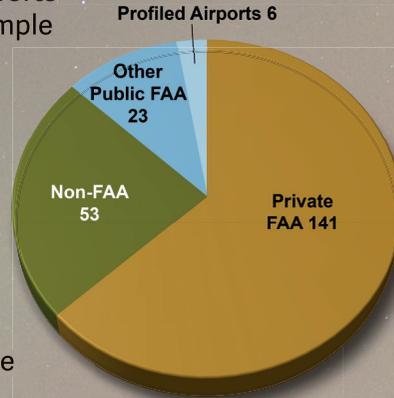
Economic Impacts

On-site economic activity at MSB airports has far-reaching impacts. In 2015, direct spending by on-site commercial and government leaseholders and their employees, as well as the money spent on ongoing maintenance and operations at the airports, created additional employment and income throughout the local and state economies.



The Big Picture

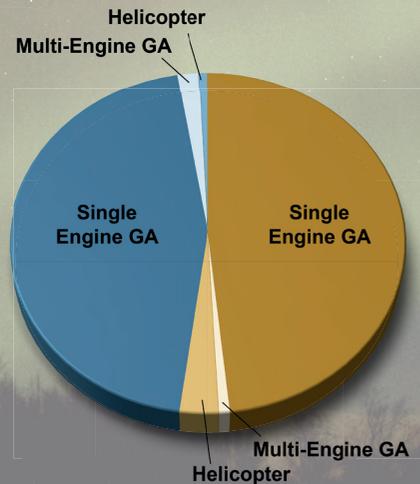
The six profiled airports are only a small sample of all the Borough's aviation facilities. The MSB is also home to another 23 public-use and 141 private-use FAA-registered aviation facilities, as well as 53 unregistered private airports.



More MSB Aviation Facility Facts

Airports comprise 84 percent (119 of 141) of FAA-registered private facilities, while seaplane bases constitute 81 percent (17 of 21) of non-profiled public facilities.

Underscoring the importance of private facilities to general aviation activity in the Borough, more single engine general aviation (GA) aircraft (515) are based at private facilities than public-use facilities (482). Moreover, four times as many helicopters are based at private facilities (32) as public facilities.



Total Aircraft at Public-Use Facilities: 539	Total Aircraft at Private Facilities: 697
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Trends and Takeaways

In a series of interviews, MSB airport managers shared their thoughts on the critical role played by MSB public-use airports:

- Critical Services** The larger public-use airports provide fueling and maintenance services that are unavailable at most of the MSB's other aviation facilities, and are critical to their continued operation.
- Growth in Demand** Demand for aviation opportunities and associated support services generally is increasing in the Borough and appears correlated with continued population growth. This growth is most pronounced at Talkeetna, Willow, Big Lake, Palmer, and Wasilla.
- The Local Advantage** The majority of aircraft owners who keep planes at profiled MSB airports utilize fuel and aircraft maintenance services within the Borough, where they may be obtained less expensively than in Anchorage.
- A Vital Hub for Rural Alaska** Many pilots who reside and keep their planes in rural locations outside the MSB rely on airports within the Borough for fuel and maintenance services.