

Airports and economic development

The regional general aviation airport is fast becoming the principal access route from a community to the nation and world.

As an important part of our statewide transportation network, regional airports such as Tri-County Regional Airport play a critical role in fostering business growth and economic development.



Tri-County Regional Airport

Convenient access to air transportation allows businesses to quickly move goods and key personnel from one site to another, saving valuable time and increasing productivity.

The regional airport also provides facilities for emergency medical flights, law enforcement, agricultural spraying, pilot training and many other important community services.

Communities that are readily accessible by air transportation are at a competitive advantage and may realize economic and quality of life benefits that can affect every citizen.

Airport location

Tri-County Regional Airport is located in Spring Green and conveniently located near US-14, and is only 46 miles from Madison.



Map of Tri-County Regional Airport

Regional profile

Iowa, Richland, and Sauk Counties have a population of 62,207 and an industry employment of 35,984. The area's prominent industry sectors are Leisure & Hospitality; Trade, Transportation, Utilities; and Manufacturing.

Regional profile

(Iowa, Richland, Sauk Counties)

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Population | 62,207 |
| Employment | 35,984 |
| Per capita income | \$40,745 |

Industry Employment

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Natural Resources | 640 |
| Construction | 1,443 |
| Manufacturing | 5,743 |
| Trade, Transportation, Utilities | 7,290 |
| Information | 144 |
| Financial Activities | 1,207 |
| Professional & Business Services | 2,064 |
| Education & Health | 5,634 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 8,051 |
| Other services | 655 |
| Public Administration | 3,111 |

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development; Sauk County Workforce Profile 2015

Tri-County Regional Airport is owned by Iowa, Richland and Sauk Counties. The airport is open to the public and classified as a Medium general aviation airport in the *Wisconsin State Airport System Plan: 2030* and as a Local general aviation airport in the *National Plan of Integrated Airport System (NPIAS)*. Medium classified airports support most single and multi-engine aircraft, including those aircraft commonly used by businesses. These airports support regional and in-state air transportation needs.

In 2016, the airport estimated 10,000 aircraft operations (take-offs and landings) and served 36 single-engine, one multi-engine, and one jet based aircraft. The airport has one Fixed Base Operator (FBO), Johnson Brothers Flying Service. The airport's primary runway (09/27) is

5,000 feet long and 75 feet wide with Medium Intensity Runway Lights and Runway End Identifier Lights. The cross-wind runway (18/36) is 1,850 feet long and 60 feet wide.

The terminal building has a pilot lounge, a public phone and restroom.

The economic impact of Tri-County Regional Airport

Economic impacts measure the importance of an airport as a business in terms of the employment that it supports, as well as the goods and services that it consumes.

The economic impact of an airport is the *economic output (sales)*, *employment* and *personal income* that can be attributed directly and indirectly to the airport.

Visitor spending, or the direct impact of airport users, is the amount of money flowing into the local economy from air passengers who reside outside the county. These visitors spend money on lodging, meals, ground transportation and retail purchases within the county.

The indirect impact considers the effect of two additional airport impacts on the regional economy. The first impact is the economic activity of local suppliers to the airport and regional businesses that host air travelers (hotels, restaurants and entertainment establishments).

The indirect impact also includes the spending of the payroll of area businesses serving visitors. Employees of these businesses spend a significant portion of their income throughout the local economy.

Economic Impact

2016

Tri-County Regional Airport (LNR)

Lone Rock, WI



Airplanes on ramp

Airport revenue – direct impact

| Tri-County Regional Airport | State | Total |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| \$ 43,493 | \$6,446 | \$49,939 |

Note: The results of this report are produced from a basic model and do not completely address all the economic nuances facing this airport.

The average economic impact of a medium classified airport, similar to Tri-County Regional Airport, in Wisconsin provides approximately \$4 million in economic output, supports roughly 34 jobs and contributes about \$2 million in personal income to the regional economy annually.

Average economic contribution of medium classified airport to the regional economy

| FTE jobs | Wage income | Economic output/sales |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 34 | \$2 million | \$4 million |

Other benefits

In 2016, Tri-County Regional Airport generated \$29,193 in public revenue from aircraft storage. The airport also generated \$14,300 in revenue from airport leases, and \$6,446 in state aviation fuel taxes and aircraft registration fees for a total of \$49,939 in direct airport and state revenue.