

**EXECUTIVE  
SUMMARY**



**ARKANSAS**  
**STATE AIRPORT SYSTEM PLAN**  
2006

## PLAN OVERVIEW

An effective and efficient transportation system is essential to Arkansas' ability to grow and prosper. Airports and aviation are cornerstones of a first class transportation system. Within Arkansas, the Arkansas Department of Aeronautics (ADA) is charged with ensuring the state has a system of public commercial and general aviation airports that meets the needs of Arkansas' residents, businesses, and visitors.

To help ensure that Arkansas' airport system meets current and future transportation needs and at the same time supports the state's economy, the ADA undertook an update to the Arkansas State Airport System Plan (ASASP). The primary focus of the ASASP is on Arkansas' general aviation needs. This report provides a summary of a much larger technical report that was prepared to document the ASASP update.

The update to the ASASP was undertaken with a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and ADA funding. In addition, the ASASP update was completed following the FAA's most current advisory circular on aviation system planning. The ASASP helps the ADA to determine the extent, location, and timing of airport facilities needed over the next 20 years.



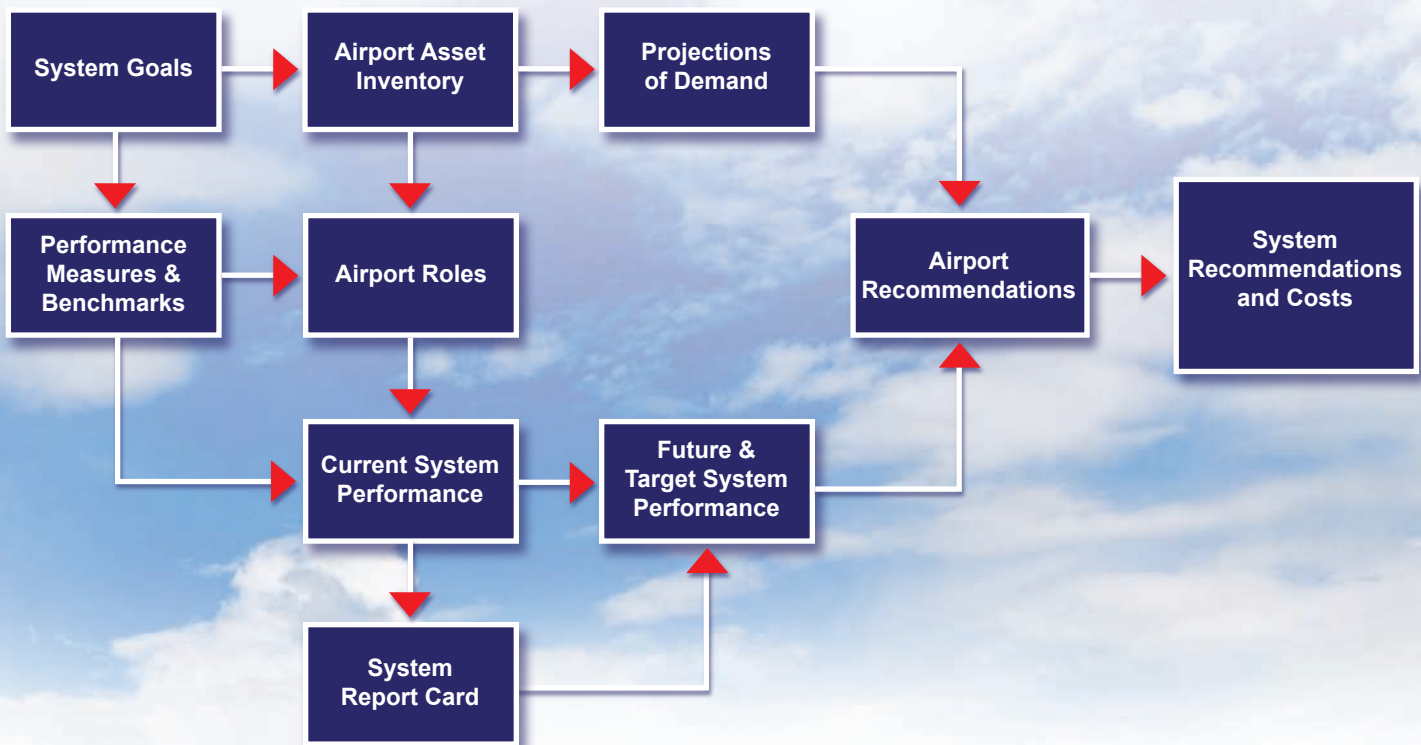
## STUDY PROCESS

An essential underpinning of the system plan was the establishment of goals for the Arkansas system of airports. Goals for the Arkansas airport system were then translated into performance measures. Performance measures provide the foundation for evaluating the airport system. In this study, the system evaluation provides a “report card” for the airport system. This report card identifies the system’s adequacies and deficiencies.

Within this plan, the system report card was prepared using a series of benchmarks associated with each of the performance measures. The benchmarks are the actual tests or yardsticks used to evaluate how the system is currently performing.

The study’s report card enables the ADA to capture current system performance and to set targets for how the system should perform in the future. The ASASP provides the ADA with a powerful and sustainable tool that can be used to track system performance changes over time. The plan also helps the ADA demonstrate how their actions and investments change system performance. The plan enables the ADA to enhance its accountability for airport investment decisions.

The accompanying chart depicts the process that was followed to update the Arkansas State Airport System Plan.

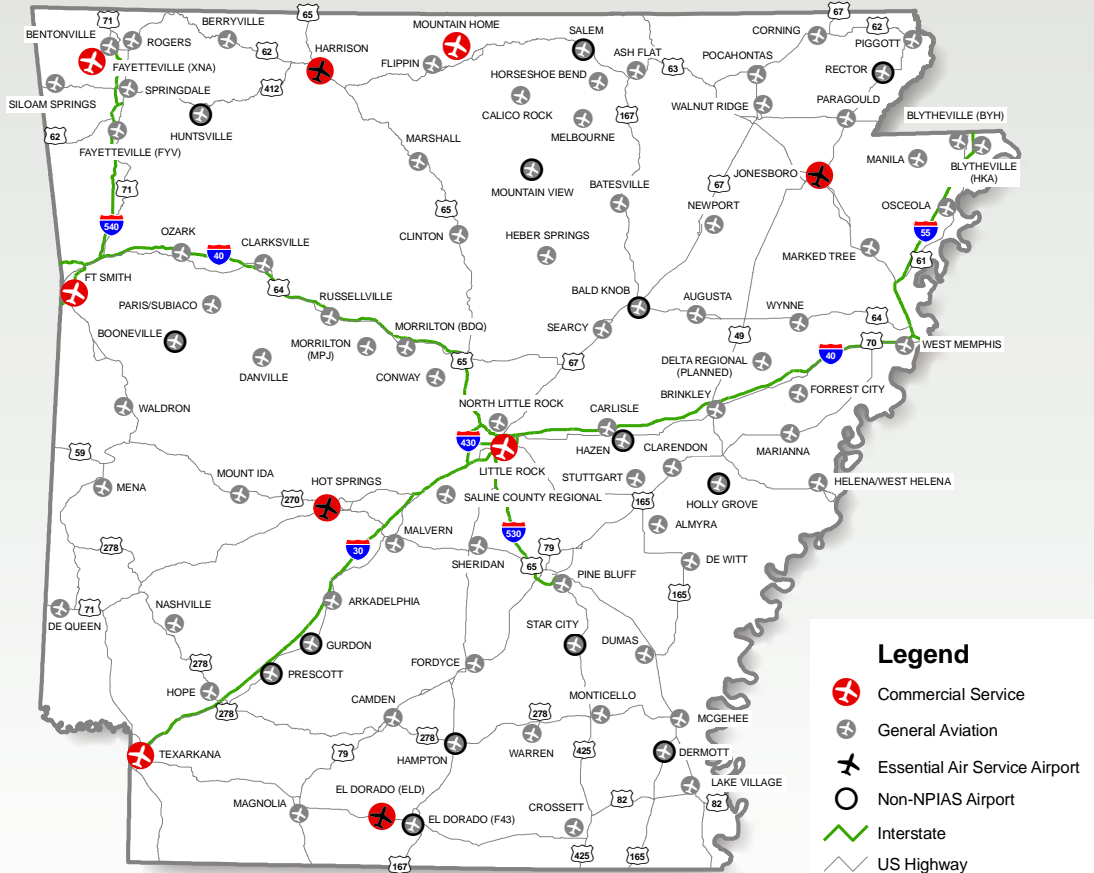


## AIRPORT SYSTEM

The Arkansas airport system has 91 airports. Within this system, eight airports have scheduled commercial airline service. One additional airport expects to have commercial airline service in the near term, for a total of nine commercial airports. The remainder of the airports in the Arkansas system are general aviation airports. In 2005, the public commercial and general aviation airports accommodated just over 2,800 based aircraft and almost 2.2 million total annual aircraft takeoffs and landings.

All of Arkansas' commercial airports have scheduled commercial airline flights. In some cases, the commercial airports have service provided by several airlines. In other cases, service is provided by only one carrier. At some of the single carrier commercial airports, service is subsidized through federal operating subsidies from the Essential Air Service (EAS) program. In 2005, commercial airports in Arkansas served 2 million boarding passengers or enplanements.

### ARKANSAS STATE AIRPORT SYSTEM



Note: Non-NPIAS airports are not included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems



## PUBLIC AIRPORTS

Aside from supporting scheduled commercial airline flights, commercial airports in Arkansas also serve operations associated with cargo and express carriers, some military aircraft, and various types of general aviation aircraft. General aviation aircraft can be sophisticated business jets capable of flying non-stop from Arkansas to Europe, or they can be single engine aircraft that are used for agricultural applications across the state.

All of the airports in the Arkansas system have public owners or sponsors, and all 91 airports are open to the public. Airports in Arkansas included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) are eligible for Federal funding. Presently, 77 of the 91 airports are included in the NPIAS.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ARKANSAS AIRPORT SYSTEM

As a companion to the system plan update, analysis was also undertaken to measure the economic impact of the system and of each airport. Arkansas' system of 91 public-use airports generates billions of dollars of economic activity and creates thousands of quality jobs. In addition, Arkansas residents increasingly depend on aviation to support their health, welfare, and safety.

The economic benefits from Arkansas' airport system were estimated using an FAA-approved methodology. Through extensive surveys, direct economic benefits related to tenants and indirect benefits stemming from visitors were measured. Direct and indirect benefits are categorized as first-round impacts. As first-round benefits are released into the economy, additional multiplier benefits are created. When an airport employee buys groceries, this spending helps support additional economic activity; this additional benefit was determined using Arkansas specific-multipliers. The multiplier impacts are shown as second-round impacts.



Arkansas' network of commercial airports provides residents with connections to regional, national, and international air service. Annually, more than two million passengers board a scheduled airline flight in Arkansas. Approximately 974,000 of the passengers using the commercial airports are visitors arriving for a variety of business, recreational, and personal reasons. More than 170,000 additional visitors arrive each year at Arkansas' commercial airports via private or corporate general aviation aircraft. When all on-airport business and visitor impacts are combined with the multiplier impact, commercial airports pump more than \$2.0 billion into Arkansas' economy each year. Over 24,000 jobs with an annual payroll of over \$712 million are attributable to the commercial airports in Arkansas.

More than 77 percent of all annual aircraft operations in the state are attributable to general aviation. Arkansas' general aviation airports support a wide variety of functions including corporate travel, pilot training, agricultural spraying, and police and fire protection. At general aviation airports, economic impacts stem from the provision of aviation services and expenditures by visitors. When all impacts are considered, general aviation airports contribute nearly 5,400 jobs, \$133.4 million in annual payroll, and \$494.5 million in annual economic activity to the state's economy.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

When all factors are combined, Arkansas' commercial and general aviation airports:

- Help sustain more than 29,000 jobs
- Generate \$846 million in annual payroll
- Produce \$2.5 billion in annual economic activity

In addition, airports in Arkansas serve as vital business links and support medical care, agriculture, law enforcement, recreation, and the environment.

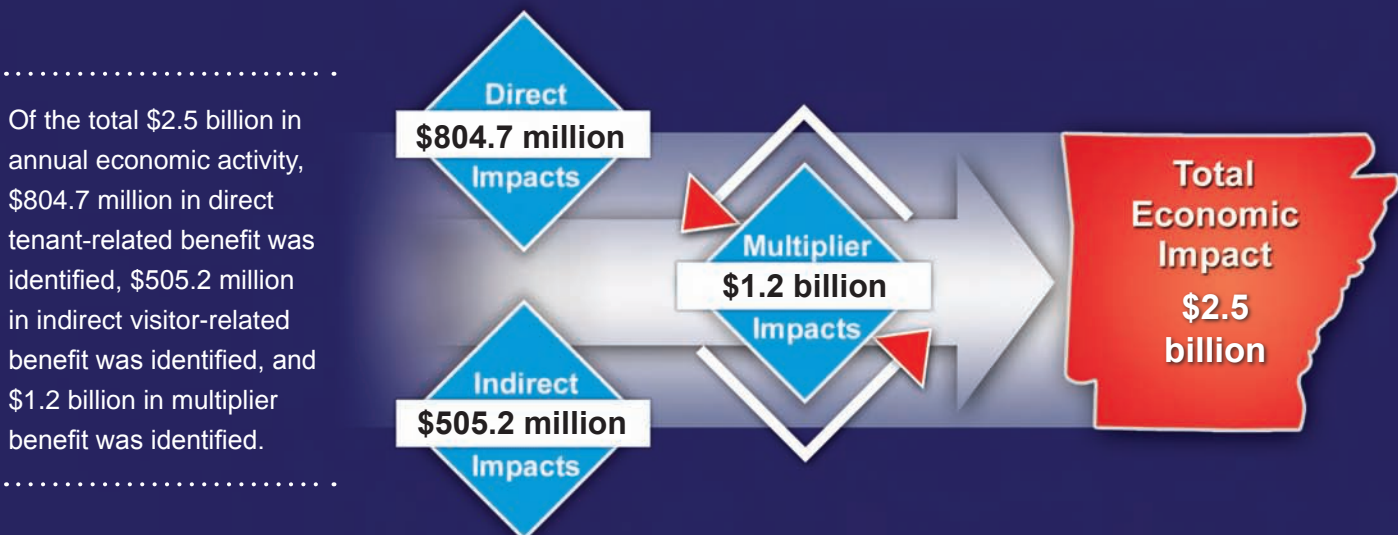
Based on analysis completed as part of this study, the annual economic value of public airports in the state is estimated at \$2.5 billion. This includes expenditures by hundreds of on-airport businesses/tenants and thousands of visitors who arrive in Arkansas by air. This annual economic impact also includes the multiplier effect associated with initial spending. This economic impact comprises nearly three percent of Arkansas' estimated Gross State Product (GSP).



In addition to the commercial and general aviation airports included in the system plan update, Arkansas is home to a major military facility – Little Rock Air Force Base. According to information supplied by the Little Rock Air Force Base, the installation generates millions of dollars in economic activity and supports thousands of jobs. An economic impact study for Little Rock Air Force Base indicates that it:

- Sustains more than 10,000 jobs
- Generates \$428 million in annual payroll
- Produces \$554 million in annual economic activity

### 2005 ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL AND GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORTS



## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS IN ARKANSAS

		First-Round Impacts	Second-Round Impacts	Total Impacts
<b>Employment</b>	Public Airports	17,554	11,955	29,509
	Little Rock Air Force Base	7,163	3,031	10,194
	<b>Total Employment</b>	<b>24,717</b>	<b>14,986</b>	<b>39,703</b>
<b>Payroll</b>	Public Airports	\$504,925,800	\$340,689,800	\$845,615,600
	Little Rock Air Force Base	\$319,082,600	\$109,279,700	\$428,362,300
	<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>\$824,008,400</b>	<b>\$449,969,500</b>	<b>\$1,273,977,900</b>
<b>Output</b>	Public Airports	\$1,309,893,500	\$1,201,018,100	\$2,510,911,600
	Little Rock Air Force Base	\$445,173,500	\$109,279,700	\$554,453,200
	<b>Total Output</b>	<b>\$1,755,067,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,310,297,800</b>	<b>\$3,065,364,800</b>

**Note: First-Round Impacts include Direct Impacts from tenants and Indirect Impacts from visitors; Second-Round Impacts are attributable to Multiplier Impacts**

Source: Wilbur Smith Associates and IMPLAN Multipliers

## BUSINESS BENEFITS FROM AVIATION

Many non-aviation businesses in Arkansas depend on aviation to efficiently move personnel, equipment, and products. More than 2,400 businesses throughout Arkansas were surveyed to assess their dependence on aviation. When major businesses were asked to rank the top reasons why they picked their location in Arkansas, convenient access to a commercial airport ranked 4th, while access to a general aviation airport ranked 6th among all factors considered.

Without access to general aviation and commercial airports, there are companies that would be forced to cut employment or possibly even leave Arkansas. Key information on how responding Arkansas businesses benefit from aviation is summarized as follows:

- 86% indicate their employees utilize commercial airline service.
- 74% indicate they have clients/vendors who use commercial airlines to visit them in Arkansas.
- 41% lease, charter, own, or have fractional ownership of a general aviation aircraft.
- 33% indicate their clients/vendors use general aviation aircraft to visit them in Arkansas.
- 72% indicate they use air cargo/package express on a regular basis.

Clearly, aviation and airports are important contributors to Arkansas' economy and to business growth and diversity throughout the state.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS IN ARKANSAS

Associated City	Airport Name	Total Employment	Total Payroll	Total Output
<b>Commercial Airports</b>				
El Dorado	South Arkansas Regional	104	\$4,301,500	\$12,176,200
Fayetteville	Northwest Arkansas Regional	4,734	\$106,857,300	\$358,404,800
Fort Smith	Fort Smith Regional	1,658	\$53,568,300	\$231,347,900
Harrison	Boone County Regional	120	\$3,668,200	\$12,212,400
Hot Springs	Hot Springs - Memorial Field	703	\$21,245,400	\$52,650,500
Jonesboro	Jonesboro Municipal	284	\$11,218,200	\$40,009,300
Little Rock	Little Rock National - Adams Field	16,112	\$501,503,000	\$1,277,145,400
Texarkana	Texarkana Regional - Webb Field	420	\$9,846,000	\$32,505,200
<b>Commercial Airports Total</b>		<b>24,135</b>	<b>\$712,207,900</b>	<b>\$2,016,451,700</b>
<b>General Aviation Airports</b>				
Almyra	Almyra Municipal	22	\$504,500	\$3,588,100
Arkadelphia	Arkadelphia - Dexter B. Florence Field	59	\$1,356,300	\$4,614,700
Ash Flat	Sharp County Regional	17	\$433,300	\$2,316,100
Augusta	Augusta - Woodruff County	2	\$59,600	\$221,400
Bald Knob	Bald Knob Municipal	13	\$325,300	\$991,100
Batesville	Batesville Regional	72	\$1,762,500	\$5,486,400
Benton	Saline County Regional *	98	\$2,591,400	\$14,644,500
Bentonville	Bentonville Municipal - Louise M. Thaden Field	46	\$891,700	\$2,199,000
Berryville	Berryville - Carroll County	16	\$288,700	\$717,800
Blytheville	Arkansas International	158	\$3,623,700	\$12,548,100
Blytheville	Blytheville Municipal	136	\$2,974,300	\$7,480,300
Booneville	Booneville Municipal	6	\$126,900	\$404,000
Brinkley	Frank Federer Memorial	24	\$521,300	\$2,611,700
Calico Rock	Calico Rock Municipal - Izard County	6	\$139,700	\$587,400
Camden	Camden - Harrell Field	38	\$879,100	\$3,514,700
Carlisle	Carlisle Municipal	50	\$1,145,800	\$3,184,100
Clarendon	Clarendon Municipal	16	\$306,500	\$1,053,900
Clarksville	Clarksville Municipal	14	\$344,200	\$2,262,000
Clinton	Clinton Municipal	58	\$1,248,400	\$4,814,300
Conway	Conway - Cantrell Field	55	\$1,195,700	\$3,864,600
Corning	Corning Municipal	58	\$1,624,300	\$5,897,600
Crossett	Crossett - Jack Stell Field	17	\$386,000	\$978,700
Danville	Danville Municipal	2	\$46,200	\$157,400
DeQueen	J Lynn Helms - Sevier County	24	\$524,600	\$4,118,400
Dermott	Dermott Municipal	6	\$117,100	\$1,206,800
DeWitt	DeWitt Municipal	38	\$820,400	\$5,067,400
Dumas	Billy Free Municipal	23	\$511,800	\$2,026,900
El Dorado	El Dorado - Downtown	46	\$1,091,800	\$3,006,100
Fayetteville	Fayetteville Municipal - Drake Field	317	\$8,474,100	\$34,043,600
Flippin	Marion County Regional	69	\$2,077,600	\$5,128,000
Fordyce	Fordyce Municipal	1	\$30,200	\$94,200
Forrest City	Forrest City Municipal	86	\$1,830,400	\$7,904,600
Gurdon	Gurdon Municipal - Lowe Field	1	\$32,900	\$111,000
Hampton	Hampton Municipal	1	\$24,100	\$111,700
Hazen	Hazen Municipal	12	\$513,900	\$1,324,200
Heber Springs	Heber Springs Municipal	20	\$410,100	\$1,534,000
Helena	Helena - Thompson-Robbins Field	69	\$1,434,300	\$5,622,200
Holly Grove	Holly Grove Municipal	14	\$297,100	\$2,270,900
Hope	Hope Municipal	38	\$870,100	\$3,391,200

\* The impact of Saline County Regional is a combination of the existing airport and a replacement airport under construction.

Source: Wilbur Smith Associates and IMPLAN

Associated City	Airport Name	Total Employment	Total Payroll	Total Output
Horseshoe Bend	Horseshoe Bend	5	\$129,700	\$429,400
Huntsville	Huntsville Municipal	4	\$88,400	\$291,400
Lake Village	Lake Village Municipal	86	\$2,169,700	\$6,059,600
Magnolia	Magnolia Municipal	18	\$400,700	\$1,797,100
Malvern	Malvern Municipal	30	\$1,035,000	\$5,231,700
Manila	Manila Municipal	17	\$403,700	\$1,139,700
Marianna	Marianna - Steve Edwards Field	56	\$2,225,800	\$7,035,400
Marked Tree	Marked Tree Municipal	9	\$199,800	\$1,827,000
Marshall	Marshall - Searcy County	5	\$135,200	\$760,400
McGehee	McGehee Municipal	27	\$734,100	\$2,524,900
Melbourne	Melbourne Municipal - John E. Miller Field	16	\$490,800	\$2,249,700
Mena	Mena Intermountain Municipal	824	\$14,338,500	\$48,544,400
Monticello	Monticello Municipal - Ellis Field	17	\$443,100	\$2,525,200
Morrilton	Morrilton Municipal	14	\$277,300	\$1,260,100
Morrilton	Petit Jean Park	18	\$407,800	\$1,942,100
Mount Ida	Mount Ida - Bearce	7	\$135,100	\$356,200
Mountain Home	Ozark Regional **	137	\$3,145,300	\$9,829,500
Mountain View	Mountain View - Wilcox Memorial Field	57	\$1,357,100	\$4,944,900
Nashville	Howard County	7	\$182,500	\$765,900
Newport	Newport Municipal	36	\$761,600	\$3,520,400
North Little Rock	North Little Rock Municipal	138	\$3,869,800	\$15,870,100
Osceola	Osceola Municipal	4	\$42,300	\$285,900
Ozark	Ozark - Franklin County	35	\$552,100	\$1,645,200
Paragould	Paragould - Kirk Field	20	\$518,800	\$2,917,100
Paris	Paris-Subiaco Municipal	23	\$924,200	\$2,407,600
Piggott	Piggott Municipal	4	\$106,000	\$501,300
Pine Bluff	Pine Bluff Municipal - Grider Field	101	\$2,605,800	\$8,882,600
Pocahontas	Pocahontas Municipal	10	\$129,500	\$435,600
Prescott	Prescott - Kizer Field	2	\$37,800	\$140,100
Rector	Rector	11	\$239,100	\$2,146,900
Rogers	Rogers Municipal - Carter Field	756	\$25,141,300	\$93,599,100
Russellville	Russellville Regional	21	\$470,900	\$1,284,400
Salem	Salem	4	\$106,700	\$418,100
Searcy	Searcy Municipal	46	\$1,163,100	\$4,292,700
Sheridan	Sheridan - Grant County Regional	9	\$205,600	\$429,500
Siloam Springs	Siloam Springs - Smith Field	64	\$1,394,400	\$4,872,900
Springdale	Springdale Municipal	246	\$5,890,700	\$18,563,500
Star City	Star City Municipal	5	\$117,300	\$418,500
Stuttgart	Stuttgart Municipal	152	\$4,264,900	\$16,625,200
Waldron	Waldron Municipal	4	\$112,000	\$497,800
Walnut Ridge	Walnut Ridge Regional	199	\$4,345,400	\$16,988,600
Warren	Warren Municipal	4	\$80,600	\$170,700
West Memphis	West Memphis Municipal	361	\$9,825,500	\$35,587,900
Wynne	Wynne Municipal	17	\$366,800	\$1,344,500
<b>General Aviation Airports Total</b>		<b>5,374</b>	<b>\$133,407,700</b>	<b>\$494,459,900</b>
<b>Commercial Airports</b>		<b>24,135</b>	<b>\$712,207,900</b>	<b>\$2,016,451,700</b>
<b>General Aviation Airports</b>		<b>5,374</b>	<b>\$133,407,700</b>	<b>\$494,459,900</b>
<b>Little Rock Air Force Base</b>		<b>10,194</b>	<b>\$428,362,300</b>	<b>\$554,453,200</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>39,703</b>	<b>\$1,273,977,900</b>	<b>\$3,065,364,800</b>

\*\* Ozark Regional is expected to gain commercial service in the fall of 2006.

Source: Wilbur Smith Associates and IMPLAN