

# The Economic Impact of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is one of the Pacific Northwest's leading economic engines. From airport workers who live in neighboring communities to cherry farmers in Central Washington, and from shops in tourist destinations like Pike Place Market to corporate giants like Microsoft and Boeing, Sea-Tac touches nearly every aspect of the economy.

The Port of Seattle, operator of Sea-Tac Airport, retained Martin Associates to measure the airport's economic contribution based on business activity data collected in 2013. Results demonstrate Sea-Tac is a strong driving force for sustainable regional prosperity. Activity on-site at the airport and throughout Washington state resulting from purchases by visitors arriving at Sea-Tac generates the following:

- 171,796 jobs, including 109,924 direct jobs
- \$6.1 billion in personal income
- \$16.3 billion in business revenue
- \$565 million in state and local taxes



Airport activity, including spending by visitors arriving at Sea-Tac, is one of our region's top direct job producers.

## WHAT IS SEA-TAC AIRPORT'S IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY?

Representative examples

#### DIRECT IMPACTS—ON-SITE AT THE AIRPORT

Jobs and business revenue directly generated from airport activity
Airlines, concessions, mechanics, security, ground transportation and cargo handlers

#### **DIRECT IMPACTS FROM THE VISITOR INDUSTRY**

Jobs and revenue directly generated from tourist activity associated with the airport Hotels, restaurants and retail stores

#### **INDIRECT IMPACTS**

Jobs and revenue resulting from purchases by airport businesses Equipment suppliers, catering and business services like insurance and law firms

#### **INDUCED IMPACTS**

Jobs and revenue resulting from purchases by direct employees Education, grocery stores, coffee shops and transportation

#### **RELATED IMPACTS**

Benefits resulting from activity by firms that use airport cargo and passenger facilities Farmers, manufacturers and businesses that depend on air travel

#### **AIRPORT ACTIVITY CREATES JOBS**

#### On-site activity at the airport

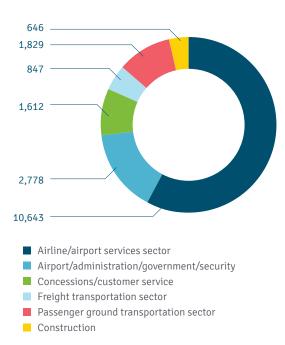
Of 32,791 total jobs generated by on-site activity at Sea-Tac, 18,353 were direct jobs held by employees who help move more than 100,000 passengers through Sea-Tac every day, and by the hundreds of thousands of tons of air freight handled annually at the airport. These direct job holders include airline staff, employees of airport shops and restaurants, Transportation Security Administration agents, firefighters, taxi drivers and many others. About 21 percent of these direct employees live in the communities that surround the airport.

#### Additional benefits

Airport activity creates additional benefits when airport-dependent businesses spend revenues and employees spend earnings on purchases from other local firms. Of the \$1 billion in income earned by the 18,353 direct employees, \$950 million was re-spent throughout the region, creating 8,349 induced jobs for Washington residents. Purchases from local firms by airport businesses supported an additional 6,090 indirect jobs. Altogether, on-site passenger activity and freight operations at Sea-Tac created close to 33,000 jobs in 2013.

#### WHO WORKS AT THE AIRPORT?

(ON-SITE DIRECT JOBS)







Washington's wine country and outdoor attractions draw tourists and dollars.

#### **VISITOR INDUSTRY IMPACTS**

Spending by visitors flying through Sea-Tac created 139,004 jobs in 2013. Tourism is a big business in Washington, ranking as the state's fourth largest industry in terms of Gross Domestic Product. Sea-Tac Airport is a gateway for tourist activity across the entire state, including several rural counties where tourism is especially important to local economies.

About 9 million out-of-town visitors arrived via Sea-Tac for business or pleasure in 2013. When these travelers spent their money in our region, it generated substantial economic impacts, including \$365 million in state and local taxes.

### VISITOR INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT IMPACT BY SECTOR (DIRECT JOBS)



#### SEA-TAC IS VITAL TO THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE NORTHWEST ECONOMY



#### Connecting our state to the world

In addition to direct, indirect and induced impacts, Sea-Tac Airport serves a broader, fundamental economic function that enables other economic sectors to thrive in the Pacific Northwest. We live in a global economy, where employers can choose to place their operations nearly anywhere. First-class airports are essential for global businesses, which need efficient travel connections to customers, suppliers and partners throughout the country and around the world.

As an example of Sea-Tac's contribution to the success of Northwest businesses, about 3,000 Microsoft employees fly through the airport each week.

Dedicated check-in kiosks serve Microsoft employees traveling through Sea-Tac.

### Cargo services fuel our region's production and export economy

A total of 119,685 manufacturing, agricultural and other jobs were related to air cargo shipments from Sea-Tac to overseas and domestic destinations in 2013.

With daily, non-stop service to dozens of domestic and international destinations, Sea-Tac is the Northwest's primary air cargo gateway. Transport by air freighters and in the holds of passenger planes is especially important for high-value and perishable cargo, or when speed is critical. Certain industries, including some considered to be leading sectors of modern economies, need access to air cargo facilities to maximize competitiveness.

In the Northwest, air cargo at Sea-Tac supports industries such as:

- Aerospace
- High-value agriculture including cherries and blueberries
- Fresh seafood
- Life sciences such as pharmaceuticals and medical devices
- · High-tech manufacturing

SEA-TAC'S TOP AIRBORNE EXPORTS-2013 (IN MILLIONS)			
1	Aircraft & spacecraft	\$1,810	
2	Medical/optical instruments	\$1,335	
3	Electrical machinery	\$1,179	
4	Machinery	\$1,031	
5	Miscellaneous chemical products	\$139	
6	Furskins & artificial fur	\$130	
7	Fish/seafood	\$100	
8	Plastics	\$82	
9	Inorganic chemicals & rare earth metals	\$75	
10	Footwear	\$74	



#### Aerospace

Air cargo is so important to Boeing supply chains that the company located one of its few global spare parts warehouses adjacent to Sea-Tac. For Boeing suppliers, air cargo is an important strategy for meeting the demands of the just-in-time manufacturing process for the Boeing 787 and other aircraft lines.



#### Cherries

Cherries are another significant export shipped predominantly by air in order to reach international markets at peak freshness, when the selling price is highest. Sea-Tac freighter flights to Asia increase by 300 percent in order to accommodate the summer cherry rush.



#### Seafood

Air cargo service is key to moving fresh seafood because of its perishability. Fresh seafood is a lucrative business line for seafood companies in comparison to frozen product, which is worth only half the price.

#### IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



Sea-Tac's international business is booming. More than 3.5 million international (including Canada and Mexico) passengers passed through the airport in 2013, up 32 percent compared to 2007 data in the port's last economic impact study. The airport gained 14 new long-haul international services since 2007, including three new routes in 2014. Recent new services are estimated to contribute \$75 million of additional annual personal income in our region and support up to 1,500 jobs each. International trade valued at billions of dollars passes through Sea-Tac cargo facilities each year.

#### SEATTLE'S LONG-HAUL INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER AND CARGO DESTINATIONS



## SEA-TAC AIRPORT'S GROWING ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

The number of visitors to the region who arrived at Sea-Tac in 2013 increased by 18 percent compared to 2007, leading to the creation of 36,000 additional tourism industry jobs in just six years. Driven by the region's economic strength, the rate of air travel continues to grow. Total annual passenger counts are expected to nearly double, to a projected 66 million by 2034, compared to the airport's current volume.

This surge in activity means tens of thousands of new airport-dependent jobs will be created on-site and in the tourism industry. Expanding the airport to accommodate this growth will generate thousands of construction jobs and other opportunities for businesses large and small. Plans include a new international arrivals facility, renovation of the north part of the airport and an upgrade of the baggage system.

#### Read the full study at http://bit.ly/porteconimpact

A THRIVING AIRPORT MEANS THOUSANDS OF JOBS PLUS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS				
	Sea-Tac (On-Site)	Sea-Tac (Visitors)	Tota	
Jobs				
Direct	18,353	91,571	109,924	
Induced	8,349	30,109	38,457	
Indirect	6,090	17,325	23,415	
Total	32,791	139,004	171,796	
Personal income (\$1,000)				
Direct	\$1,002,911	\$1,859,863	\$2,862,774	
Re-spending	\$949,957	\$1,591,020	\$2,540,977	
Indirect	\$196,789	\$476,520	\$673,309	
Total	\$2,149,656	\$3,927,403	\$6,077,059	
Business revenue (\$1,000)	\$7,983,023	\$8,363,347	\$16,346,370	
Local purchases (\$1,000)	\$518,552	\$831,043	\$1,349,594	
State/local taxes (\$1,000)	\$199,918	\$365,248	\$565,160	
Aviation taxes (\$1,000)	\$547,189	N/A	\$547,189	

Note: Totals may not sum due to rounding

#### PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSIONERS

Tom Albro Stephanie Bowman Bill Bryant John Creighton Courtney Gregoire

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ted J. Fick

MANAGING DIRECTOR, AVIATION DIVISION Mark M. Reis

Port of Seattle P.O. Box 1209 Seattle, WA 98111-1209

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport P.O. Box 68727 Seattle, WA 98168-0727

www.portseattle.org

Photography, Don Wilson

The Port of Seattle operates under the State of Washington's Public Disclosure Act. To obtain public records, visit http://bit.ly/pr-requests or call 206.787.4141.