



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY AIRPORTS CONTRIBUTE MORE THAN \$3.8 BILLION TO SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ECONOMY

FORT MYERS, Fla. (June 15, 2010) – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) conducted a Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study that showed that Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) and Page Field General Aviation Airport (FMY) in Fort Myers, contributed more than \$3.8 billion to the region's economy on an annual basis in 2009. The Florida Statewide Aviation Economic Impact Study began in December 2008 and was completed in March 2010.

As part of an update to the Florida Aviation System Plan, FDOT focused on annual economic impact associated with 19 commercial airports, 102 public-use general aviation airports, as well as 11 military aviation facilities. The study looked at various on-airport and off-airport aviation-related activities expressed as direct, indirect and induced (multiplier) impacts. In total, aviation is responsible for an estimated \$114.7 billion in annual economic activity or output in the state of Florida.

Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) contributed more than \$3.7 billion to the local economy from airport and related-airport activities and accounted for 41,588 jobs.

The study also examined the economic impacts of Page Field (FMY), the general aviation and reliever airport operated by the Lee County Port Authority. The FDOT study showed Page Field's contribution was \$94.5 million in 2009 and that the airport is responsible for more than 987 jobs.

"The FDOT study shows the significant economic benefit of aviation in Florida," said Robert M. Ball, A.A.E, executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. "We are proud that Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field General Aviation Airport are a vital part of the state's transportation infrastructure and contribute to the social and economic well-being of Southwest Florida."

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 7.4 million passengers in 2009 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. Page Field General Aviation Airport had nearly 76,000 air operations in 2009. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for operations or construction at either airport. For more information, log onto www.flylcpa.com.