

2014 Economic Impact Study

Fact Sheet

The 2014 Economic Impact Study was completed so that Edmonton International Airport (EIA) can understand how it contributes to the economic climate of the community, as well as the extent of its support on tourism and trade.

Through its business and commercial activities and operations, EIA contributes directly to employment and the economy in Edmonton, the surrounding areas and the province. It also acts as an economic catalyst, facilitating the growth of regional businesses and industrial sectors. The economic contribution of the airport to the community is termed the economic impact of EIA.

How does EIA impact the local and regional economy?

Between the two studies conducted in 2008 and 2014, EIA impacted the regional and provincial economy through businesses at the airport and related to the airport, industries that supply and support the airport, employees who use their salaries to support the economy and through services that facilitate tourism, trade, investment and productivity growth. The combination of these factors led to:

- Approximately 40 per cent increase in **total employment** accounting for approximately 12,600 person years¹ annually of employment generated by operations at EIA and off-site aviation industry
- Approximately 14.5 per cent increase in **total commercial passengers** representing of 7.3 million commercial passengers and 900,000 **general aviation passengers** in 2014 combined for a record **8.2 million total passengers**².
- Approximately 47 per cent increase in **total GDP** impact representing nearly \$1.2 billion
- Approximately 43 per cent increase in **total economic output** accounting for over \$2.2 billion economy-wide in the region

Why did EIA see so much growth?

- Increase in commercial and general aviation passengers
- Growth in EIA's cargo village
- Increased parking facilities
- Increase in onsite companies like Big Eagle, Patrik's Water Hauling and the Renaissance Hotel
- Increase concessions and retail onsite (with record breaking sales per passenger)
- Increase in fixed-based operators serving the resource sector and various charter services

¹ A "person year" of employment is equivalent to one full-time job for an entire year.

² The total 8.2 million passengers includes commercial, business and general aviation passengers. Business and general aviation includes non-scheduled air service such as corporate or private flights.

What sectors does EIA support?

Tourism for Alberta

Airports are necessary for communities to develop tourism to its full potential. EIA is not a primary tourist generator, instead it enables access for those interested in the attractions of the city/province/country:

- Hotels
- Malls
- Car Rentals
- Sports activities
- Outdoor leisure activities (hiking/skiing)
- Tour operators

The study commissioned suggested that EIA facilitated tourism into Alberta lead to over \$600 million in GDP output.

Energy Sector and Northern Development

EIA's proximity to the North allows the Airport to facilitate easy access for approximately 11,000 resource workers residing in the Edmonton area to commute to the Northern resource sector, while supporting the local economy.

Nisku-Leduc Energy Park

Located adjacent to Edmonton International Airport, the Nisku-Leduc Energy Park is the second largest energy park in North America. The world class manufacturing hub for oil and gas firms export 65 per cent of manufactured goods, with much of it being air-eligible. This geographical advantage makes it easy for EIA to help facilitate goods movement both domestically and internationally.

- The Nisku-Leduc Energy Park is home to over 500 companies, employing more than 16,000 highly skilled trades and professional workers.

What's next?

Additional International Passenger and Cargo Flights

In keeping with EIA's mission to drive our region's economic prosperity through aviation and commercial development, EIA is exploring opportunities to add new international passenger and cargo flight options. Expanding our non-stop international passenger and cargo specific flights would be an essential piece in developing new services for people, products and goods that will benefit the regional economy.

Cargo growth is a significant component of the Airports growth. A corresponding study highlighted that the addition of an Asian Freighter would create a GDP increase of \$24.8 million per year for the region, while an Asian passenger flight could lead to a total GDP output of \$18.4 million per year. These services would increase EIA's overall economic impact in Alberta and surrounding provinces and their associated industries.