

► **EWU Study Shows Economic Impact of Spokane Airports**

CHENEY, Washington

A new report out of Eastern Washington University reveals Spokane Airports accounts for nearly three quarter of a billion dollars of economic impact on Spokane and Kootenai Counties. The study, which compiled information from 2013, was conducted by EWU’s Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis at the request of the board of Spokane Airports.

The Institute relied on various data sources to measure economic activity, including the Spokane Airports’ overall operations budget, surveys on visitor spending and airport tenant employment.

Among the findings, the total value added enabled by Spokane Airports totaled just over \$754 million in the two counties in 2013. This represented about 2.7 percent of the size of the two county economy. Spokane Airports impact many different sectors, including eating and drinking establishments, real estate offices, the health care industry and service providers to buildings. While the airlines and their contract firms are the main driver of economic activity, airport sales in 2013 were strongly driven by the more than 735,000 visitors – or about half of all passengers boarding an airplane.

The analysis also shows Spokane Airports generates more than \$101 million in state and local taxes, including sales and property taxes. Of that amount, the study estimates that nearly \$38 million of that tax revenue stays within Spokane County. Additionally, when compared to recent economic impact studies of other airports, average trip spending of about \$440 by visitors to the two counties fell into a range of several cities and closely matched the results of Albuquerque and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Spokane Airports is jointly owned by Spokane County and the City of Spokane. The city and county operate the airports under provisions of RCW 14.08, which establishes the operation of airports by more than one municipality under joint agreement. The operating authority of Spokane Airports is the Spokane Airport Board, consisting of seven appointees from the two governmental bodies. For more information, visit www.spokaneairports.net.

Eastern's Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis provides data and analysis of a variety of regional indicators for businesses and communities to help plan for the future. To learn more, visit <http://www.ewu.edu/policyinstitute>.

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