TYS McGhee Tyson Airport

Aviation Moves Tennessee

Tennessee's aviation system has 76 public-use airports that support a wide range of activities, from commercial airline travel to private aircraft operations. Aviation contributes approximately 9% of Tennessee's gross domestic product (GDP) and generates an estimated $53.8 billion in total economic impact across the state. To better understand how these airports support Tennessee's economy, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Aeronautics Division conducted an updated Aviation Economic Impact Study.

Total Aviation Impact

$53.8B

Aviation contributes

9% of Tennessee's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

About McGhee Tyson Airport

Serving the City of Knoxville and the broader East Tennessee region, McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS) functions as a primary commercial service airport and a key aviation gateway for the Tennessee Valley. The airport supports passenger travel, business aviation, air cargo, and military operations, providing essential air access for a region that spans urban centers, rural communities, and major educational and employment hubs.

McGhee Tyson Airport is supported by two paved runways, with the longest measuring approximately 9,000 feet, allowing the airport to accommodate a full range of commercial, cargo, military, and general aviation aircraft. This runway capacity enables TYS to support scheduled airline service, air freight operations, business jets, and government aviation while maintaining operational reliability.

On-airport businesses and organizations represent a broad mix of aviation functions. Commercial airlines, air cargo operators, maintenance providers, and fixed-base operators (FBOs) support daily airport operations. Cirrus Aircraft operates its Vision Center at the airport, serving as a customer delivery, flight training, and aircraft hub for Cirrus aircraft owners. The airport also benefits from its proximity to the University of Tennessee, strengthening connections to education, research, and workforce development in the region.

To better understand the geographic reach of McGhee Tyson Airport, the map below shows a selection of flights that operated both into and out of the airport.

Jobs
14,542

Payroll
$930M

Value Added
$1.7B

Airport Economic Impacts

Business Revenue
$2.9B

On Airport Impacts
$1.6B

Visitor Spending Impacts
$1.3B

sums may not total due to rounding

TYS FLIGHT COVERAGE MAP

