

AVIATION

The aviation consulting practice of EDR Group addresses both standard and broader economic impacts of airports and aviation, including reliance on regional and state economies on air services, and the full story of the importance of general aviation in sustaining economic development. This broad perspective is the reason that major airports, such as ATL and SFO have turned to EDR Group, as have numerous states for their airport system plans and federal agencies for investigations into strategic research questions.

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL). As part of teams, EDR Group conducted studies in 2006, 2010 and 2014 to document the airport's contribution to the regional economy and tax base. The studies demonstrate the importance of ATL to the economies of metropolitan Atlanta (including cities and counties), Georgia and to neighboring states in the southeastern U.S. and included a detailed commodity based air cargo analysis. EDR Group provided ATL administration with a model using Microsoft Excel to enable airport staff to conduct simple updates and “what-if” analyses.

San Francisco International Airport (SFO). EDR Group led a team that provided a detailed and comprehensive estimate of the contribution and roles of SFO to the Bay Area economy and to the nine counties in the region. Studies were conducted for 2012 and 2015, and an interim update was developed for 2014. These studies illustrated the role of SFO, in the Bay Area and the United States.

Vancouver International Airport (YVR). EDR Group evaluated the economic development benefits of expanding overseas air cargo activity at YVR. YVR strengths and opportunities were assessed in comparison to other airports in the Pacific Northwest regional network with a focus on destinations served, multi-modal resources, and regional commodity dependence.

The Role of U.S. Airports in the National Economy. For the Airport Cooperative Research Program, EDR Group led a study to quantify the economic impact of U.S. public use airports and the national airport system to the national economy. This research provides a significantly advanced methodology for identifying the wider economic benefits of airports based on airports’ roles in connecting regions across the U.S. and connecting regions in the U.S. to world markets.

Passenger Value of Time, Benefit-Cost Analysis, and Airport Capital Investment Decisions. For the Airport Cooperative Research Program, EDR Group examined how airports make capital investment decisions and an analysis of value of time for air passengers. The research matched trip segments, the range of potential capital investments at airports, with the value of time associated with each segment and investment.

South Dakota State Aviation System Plan. As part of a team, EDR Group assessed the contribution of airports to the state economy through the development of the 2010 South Dakota State Aviation System Plan. Beyond a traditional impact assessment, EDR Group developed focused modules of the study to analyze the economic contribution of airports to the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and South Dakota’s pheasant hunting season, and the degree to which businesses in South Dakota rely on air transportation for business travel and cargo movement. The study was developed on three levels, including customized catchment regions for each airport from South Dakota’s four established economic development regions and statewide.