

Report gauges economic impact of PTI

BY ENTERPRISE STAFF

TRIAD — Piedmont Triad International Airport contributes \$8.6 billion to the local economy and supports more than 30,000 local jobs, according to a report released by the N.C. Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation.

The report, "North Carolina: The State of Aviation," shows the airport and aviation-related jobs in the Triad also provide \$1.6 billion in personal income and contribute \$204.7 million in local and state tax revenue, based on 2019 data analyzed in the report.

"We are very happy with the numbers in this new report," said Kevin Baker, executive director of the Piedmont Triad Airport Authority. "One of the airport's two key missions is to be a significant driver of the local economy. This report indicates that we are

meeting that objective."

The study, conducted every two years for the DOT by N.C. State University's Institute for Transportation Research and Education, highlights the pre-pandemic economic impacts of the state's public airports. The 2019 numbers are the most recent figures available.

"COVID-19 has had a significant impact on this and other airports, particularly on the passenger service side," airport authority chairman Paul Mengert said. "Nevertheless, this study shows that our economic development efforts are paying off and that we need to push forward with them, now more than ever."

Other highlights in the report include:

- PTI leads the state in cargo service, with total annual processed freight of 303,500 tons.

Top cargo carriers that operate at PTI include FedEx, UPS and Kalitta Air.

- HAECO Americas, which has its North American headquarters at PTI, is the state's leading commercial aerospace maintenance and repair company, employing nearly 3,000 of the 4,583 maintenance and repair workers in North Carolina, which ranks fifth in the nation in aerospace maintenance and repair employment.

- The Triad region leads the state in the number of students enrolled in community college aviation programs, with more than 500 students in Guilford Technical Community College programs alone.

To see the full report, including a breakdown of the economic contributions of each airport in the state, go to ncdot.gov/aviation.