



University of St.Gallen

Center for Aviation and Space Competence



Project: The Economic Impact of  
Regional Airports in Switzerland

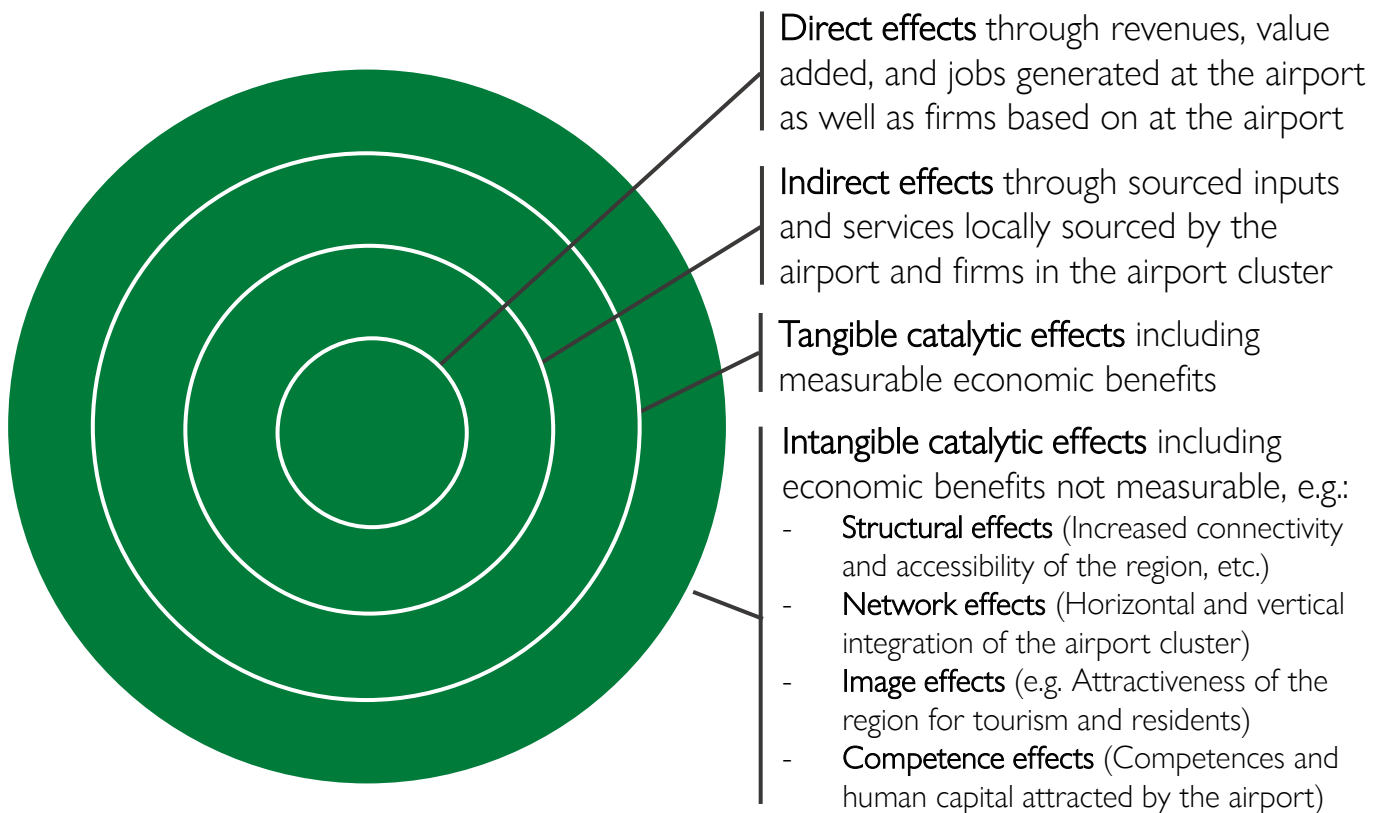


## Overview

Airports serve as vital gateways for connectivity and facilitate trade and travel, thus playing an indispensable role in economic development. Switzerland, situated at the heart of Europe, boasts a comprehensive aviation infrastructure, including 14 commercial airports as well as numerous additional airfields. While larger international airports such as Zurich-Kloten and Geneva Airport are regularly estimated to generate billions of Swiss francs of economic value annually, the significance of smaller and regional airports is often overlooked.

The objective of our project is to elucidate the role that smaller and regional airports play in regional economic development as well as the broader Swiss economy. We employ a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodology to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the distinctive regional impact created by individual airports. Based on the premise that the economic benefits of local airports extend beyond the aviation industry, our project places an emphasis on catalytic effects that arise outside the airport cluster. Following a standardised evaluation of direct and indirect effects, we explore these tangible effects based on a bespoke approach that fits the unique characteristics of each individual airport.

## Explanatory Model





## Data and Information Collection

The first step in our projects is the collection of appropriate data. While aviation data is expensive to obtain, regional economic data is often not detailed enough or not available at all. We therefore rely on a mix of openly available data sources and our own data collection. Our data collection process is therefore based on:

- Openly available data sources, such as:
  - Federal Statistical Office's Annual Civil Aviation Statistic
  - Local tourist accommodation statistics
  - UBS Alpine Property Focus
  - etc.
- Analysis of available financial statements
- Qualitative and quantitative interviews with stakeholders and industry insiders
- Online surveys with relevant industries

## Evaluation of Economic Impact

The objective is to identify and where possible quantify the economic effects following the explanatory model outlined above. Where feasible, the effects will be quantified via data aggregation, projection, or deduction. In instances where this is not possible, validated estimates based on industry averages and insights gleaned from stakeholder interviews will be provided. In cases where quantification is not feasible, a qualitative description of the economic effect at play will be supplied. Wherever hard information is not available we rely on a rigid triangulation approach to produce reliable results.

Aggregation of values where comprehensive data is available or can be obtained through survey

Projection or deduction of values using reasonable multipliers where only partial or overarching data is available

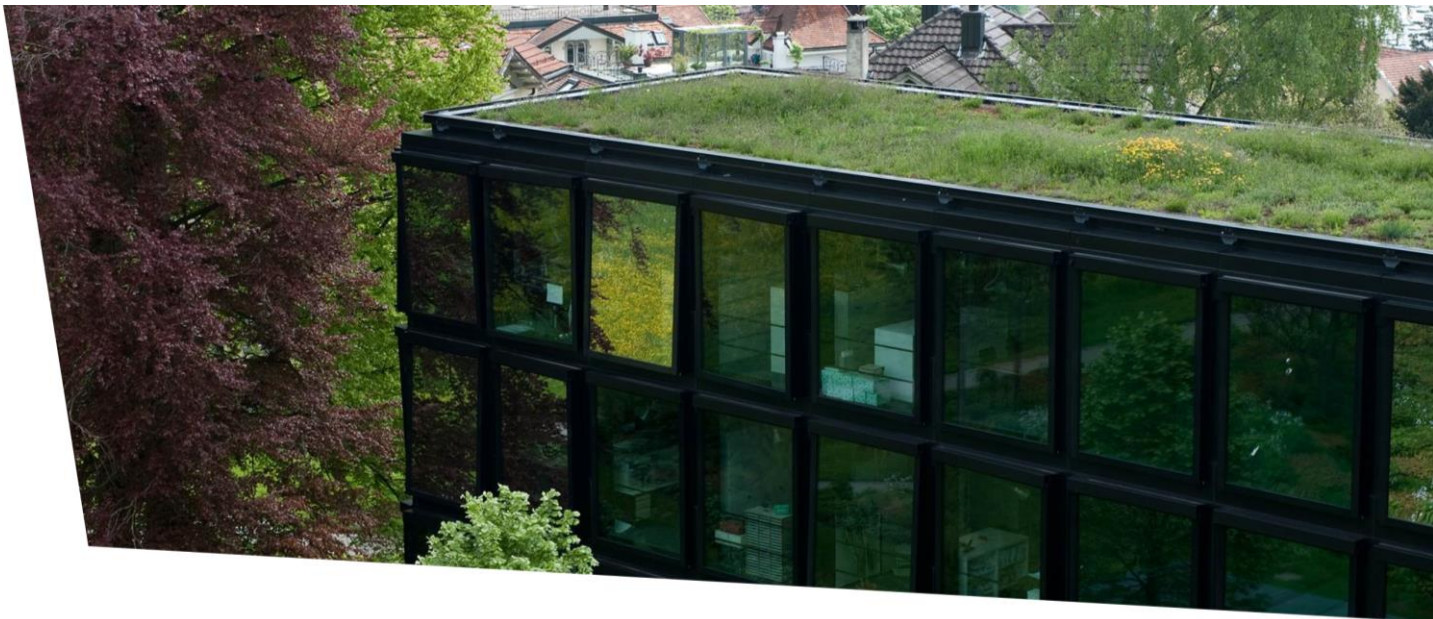
Validated estimation of values based on industry averages or reasonable assumptions, where data is not available

Qualitative description of additional channels of regional economic impact, where effects cannot be quantified



## Final Results and Presentation

As result we present a detailed description of the regional economic effects generated at the different stages of our explanatory model. It is important to us to present results in light of potential shortcomings and necessary omissions, with full transparency regarding the methodological approach used. The delivery may be in form of consulting slides or a short report. We are happy to present our finding to the airport administration, potential stakeholders, or the public.



Interessiert? Bitte kontaktieren Sie uns. Wir freuen uns eine Analyse dieser Art mit Ihnen für Ihren Flugplatz zu besprechen!

## Center for Aviation and Space Competence

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