

The Economic Benefits of Night Flights: The Case of Germany

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Aviation is associated with a range of environmentally damaging consequences including noise pollution. Night flights are of special concern to policy makers in densely populated Western Europe. The present study investigates the economic benefits of night flights. Thus it is concerned with only one side of the cost/benefit equation. The study assesses the benefits of night flights at the largest 22 airports in Germany. It includes an analysis of the composition of night flights to and from these airports such as length of haul or passenger and freight operations. The calculation of direct, indirect and induced benefits of night flights for the German economy in the year 2008 is based on information from surveys, workplace counts and available statistics. In addition, the consumer surplus that passengers and shippers gain from night flights is estimated. The approach requires the specification of average prices and sales volumes in the air transport markets under consideration. The paper's results demonstrate the significance of night flights for the German economy and the potential disbenefits of a ban of night flights or other regulation or legislation to limit aircraft noise during the night hours.