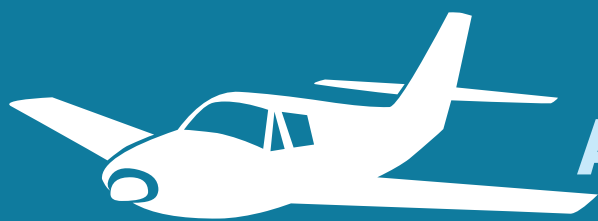


**MQS**  
2019

DELAWARE VALLEY  
**dvrpc**  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 2021

# MQS—CHESTER COUNTY AIRPORT



## 2019 AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS COUNTING PROGRAM

3-42-0125-019-2018



**The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)** is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for a diverse nine-county region in two states: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey. The DVRPC Regional Aviation System Plan Region includes three additional counties: Salem in New Jersey, New Castle in Delaware, and Cecil in Maryland.

**DVRPC's vision** for the Greater Philadelphia region is a prosperous, innovative, equitable, resilient, and sustainable region that increases mobility choices by investing in a safe and modern transportation system; that protects and preserves our natural resources while creating healthy communities; and that fosters greater opportunities for all.

**DVRPC's mission** is to achieve this vision by convening the widest array of partners to inform and facilitate data-driven decision making. We are engaged across the region and strive to be leaders and innovators, exploring new ideas and creating best practices.

## **Aircraft Operations Counting Program**

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) has conducted aircraft operations counts at the non-towered airports in the 12-county, four-state Delaware Valley Regional Airport System Plan (RASP) area since 1986. Aircraft operations counts and annual estimates of activity are essential for planning and programming of airport improvements. Reliable operations data at airport facilities provides a basis for service provision and future activity forecasting. While towered airports generally have access to this information through air traffic controllers, the general aviation and reliever airports that make up the majority of facilities in the region rely primarily on estimates for their traffic data.

DVRPC's cyclical aircraft operations counting program focuses on the counting of non-towered National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) airports and is made possible by funding through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The regional NPIAS airports are counted in a three-year program. The resulting aviation operations data created from these annual counting cycles provides facility-level details on based aircraft; estimated average daily, seasonal, and annual fixed-wing operations; and helicopter activity estimates.

The complete program methodology is documented in *Aircraft Operations Counting Program Methodology* (TM19018) and additional aviation data resources are available at [www.dvrpc.org/aviation](http://www.dvrpc.org/aviation).

### **Acknowledgments:**

This report is funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation, FAA, Harrisburg Airports District Office, under Award Number 3-42-0125-019-2018.





# MQS—Chester County Airport

Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania

**Runway Orientation:** 11/29  
**Runway Length:** 5,400 ft.

Chester County Airport is a public-use airport located in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. The airport is owned by the Chester County Airport Authority, and Signature Flight Support serves as the fixed-base operator. Chester County Airport hosts a terminal building with a lounge and offers services, including transient hangar space, fueling, aircraft maintenance, and rentals. The airport serves a variety of general aviation activity and is a reliever to Philadelphia International Airport. Flight activity includes corporate, recreational, and training, as well as helicopter operations related to the adjacent Sikorsky Helicopter plant. The airport hosts several businesses, including SureFlight Aircraft Completions, Independence Aircraft Services, Chester County Aviation, and Global Air Services.

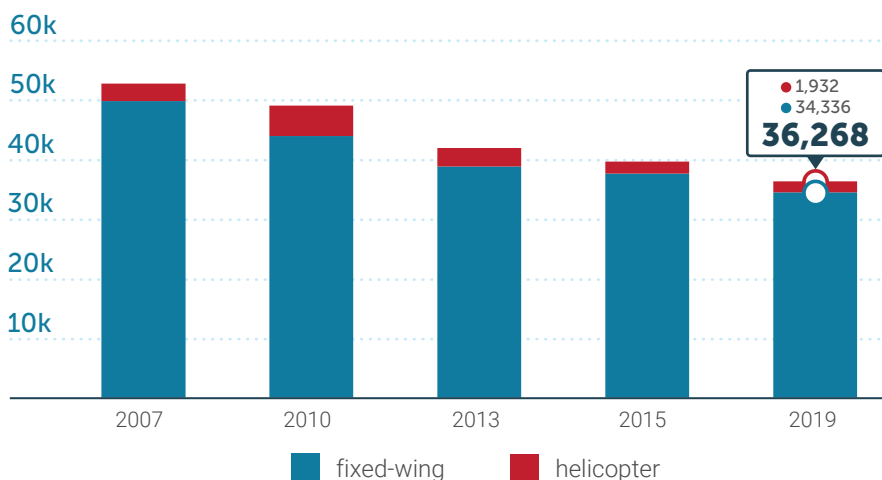


Source: Nearmap, 2020

## 2019 Aircraft Operations

Chester County Airport had an estimated 36,268 total operations during the 2019 cycle, an 8.1 percent decrease from the previous cycle in 2016 as shown in Figure 1. Fixed-wing operations decreased by 3,151 or 8.4 percent. Helicopter operations decreased by 64 or 3.2 percent.

FIGURE 1: HISTORIC AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS



**36,268**

2019 total operations

**34,336**

fixed-wing operations

**1,932**

helicopter operations

The operations estimates for the 2019 cycle continues a downward trend in activity experienced in previous count cycles.

Source: DVRPC, 2021

## Seasonal Operations

Figure 2 illustrates the total seasonal operations estimated for each period during the 2019 count cycle at Chester County Airport. Tables 1 and 2 show the breakdown for fixed-wing and helicopter operations by season with average daily operation estimates.

FIGURE 2: TOTAL ESTIMATED SEASONAL OPERATIONS



Source: DVRPC, 2021

TABLE 1: FIXED-WING OPERATIONS BY SEASON

SEASON	AVG. DAILY OPERATIONS	SEASONAL OPERATIONS	PERCENTAGE DAYS OBSERVED <sup>1</sup>
WINTER	74.8	6,730	49%
SPRING	96.4	8,770	89%
SUMMER	111.9	10,294	100%
FALL	92.8	8,542	100%

<sup>1</sup>“Percentage days observed” is calculated based on the number of days observations were collected as a share of the total days in a given season.

Source: DVRPC, 2021

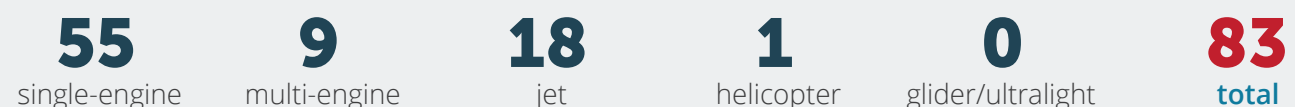
TABLE 2: HELICOPTER OPERATIONS BY SEASON

SEASON	AVG. DAILY OPERATIONS	SEASONAL OPERATIONS
WINTER	5.2	472
SPRING	4.5	412
SUMMER	6.2	572
FALL	5.2	476

Source: DVRPC, 2021

## 2019 Based Aircraft

Chester County Airport had a reported 83 based aircraft during the 2019 count cycle. This is a decrease from the 87 based aircraft reported during the 2016 cycle.

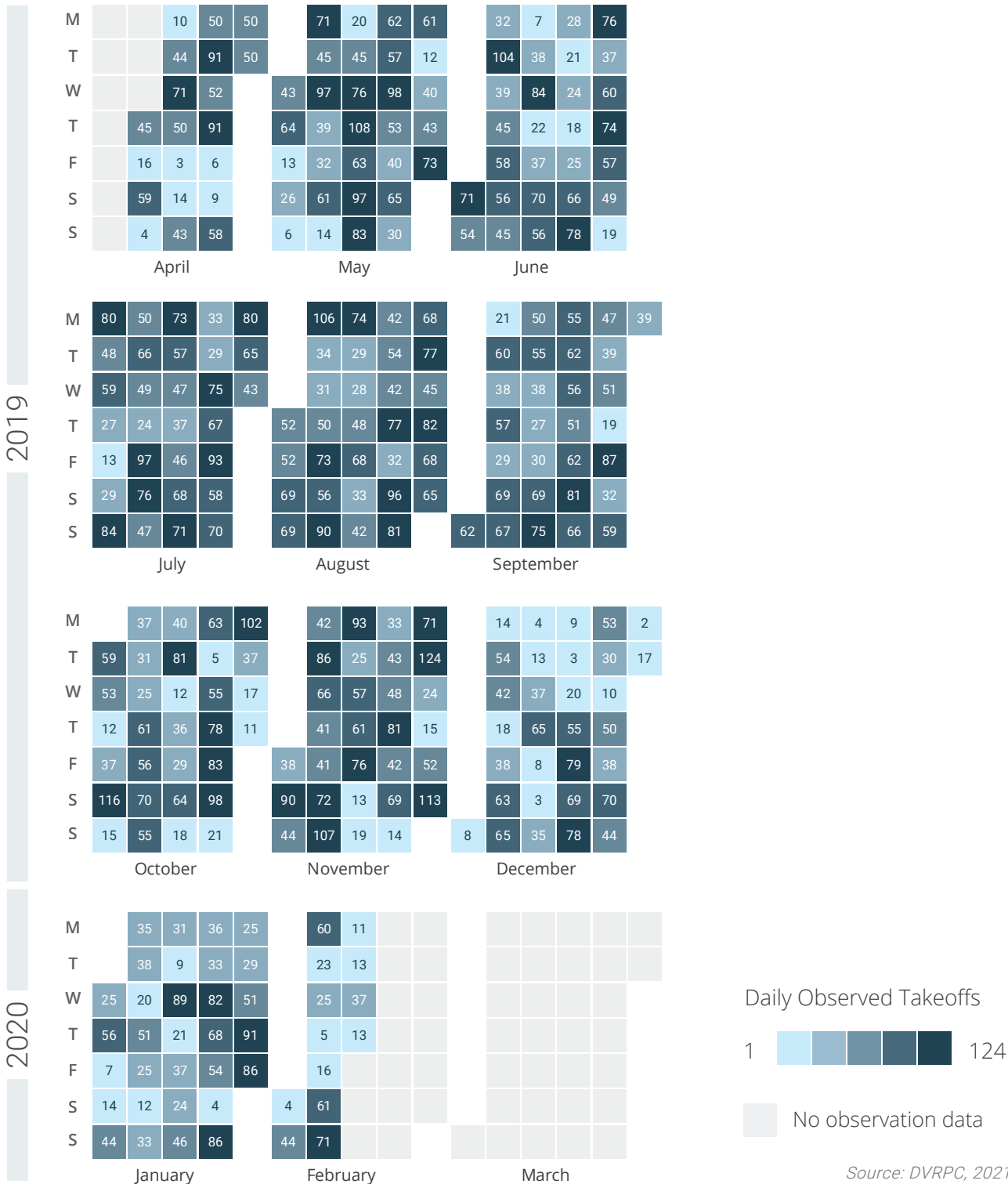


Source: FAA 5010 Master Record, 2019

# Observed Daily Fixed-Wing Takeoffs

Fixed-wing operation estimates are based on takeoff events observed at Chester County Airport over the course of the counting cycle. Figure 3 illustrates the daily total of observed takeoffs for each day in the counting cycle.

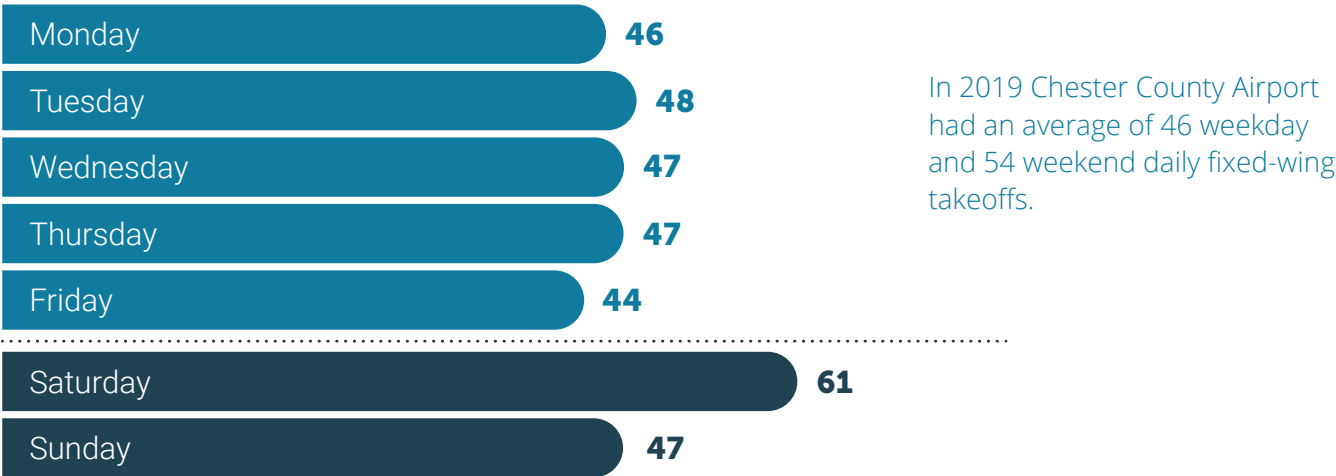
FIGURE 3: OBSERVED DAILY FIXED-WING TAKEOFFS



# Fixed-Wing Takeoff Patterns

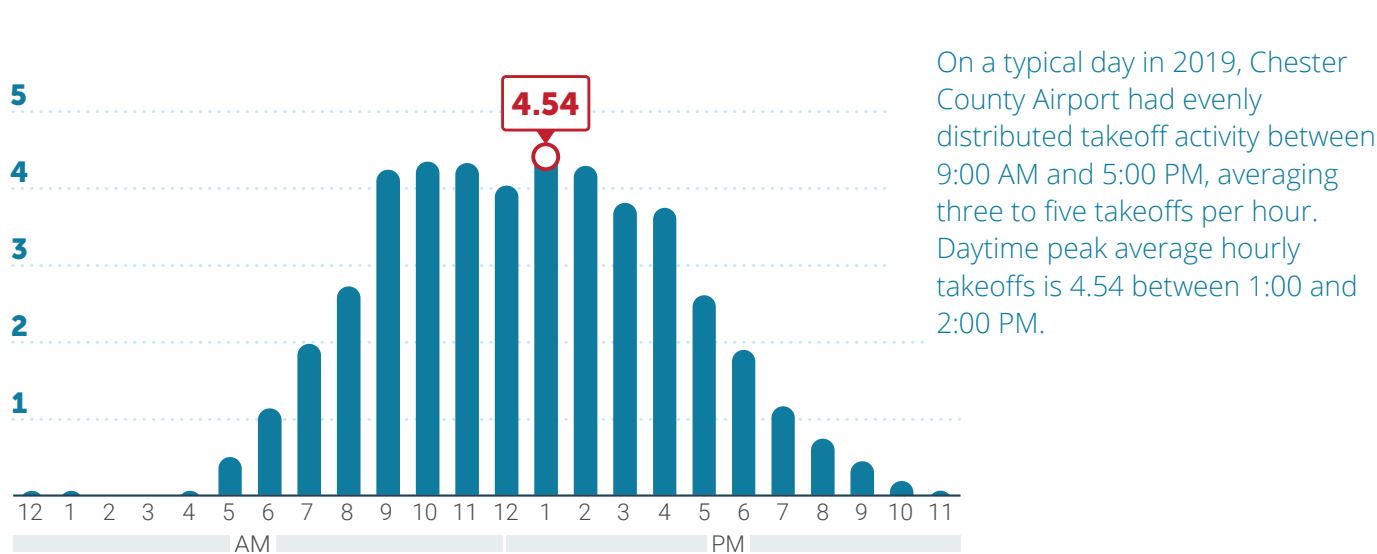
The observation data collected provides insights to the patterns of aircraft operations at Chester County Airport. Utilizing the fixed-wing sample data, average daily takeoffs by day of week can be calculated to better understand the distribution of activity throughout the week. The observed events also provide a clearer illustration of the temporal distribution of fixed-wing takeoffs throughout a typical day. These patterns are illustrated in Figures 4 and 5.

FIGURE 4: AVERAGE DAILY FIXED-WING TAKEOFFS BY DAY OF WEEK



Source: DVRPC, 2021

FIGURE 5: AVERAGE FIXED-WING TAKEOFFS BY TIME OF DAY



Source: DVRPC, 2021

# MQS—Chester County Airport 2019 Aircraft Operations Counting Program

**PUBLICATION NUMBER:** 19034

**PUBLISHED:** April 2021

**GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED:** Coatesville,  
Chester County, Pennsylvania

**ABSTRACT:** This technical report presents aircraft operations estimates for MQS—Chester County Airport in Coatesville, Pennsylvania. These aircraft operations estimates are a part of the cyclical regional aircraft counting program. This report is a part of the 2019 counting cycle. Acoustic counts of fixed-wing takeoffs were collected during the observation period from April 2019 through February 2020. The estimates based on these observations, along with additional data collection, are presented in this report. Results are used by multiple sources to monitor aircraft activity levels in the Delaware Valley and as a base for planning and forecasting documents.

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Michael Ruane  
Manager, Office of Freight & Aviation Planning  
215.238.2888 | [mruane@dvrpc.org](mailto:mruane@dvrpc.org)



**Title VI Compliance:** DVRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and related nondiscrimination mandates in all programs and activities. DVRPC's website, [www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org), may be translated into multiple languages. Publications and other public documents can usually be made available in alternative languages and formats, if requested. DVRPC's public meetings are always held in ADA-accessible facilities, and held in transit-accessible locations whenever possible. Translation, interpretation, or other auxiliary services can be provided to individuals who submit a request at least seven days prior to a public meeting. Translation and interpretation services for DVRPC's projects, products,

and planning processes are available, generally free of charge, by calling (215) 592-1800. All requests will be accommodated to the greatest extent possible. Any person who believes they have been aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice by DVRPC under Title VI has a right to file a formal complaint. Any such complaint must be in writing and filed with DVRPC's Title VI Compliance Manager and/or the appropriate state or federal agency within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory occurrence. For more information on DVRPC's Title VI program or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, please visit: [www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/TitleVI](http://www.dvrpc.org/GetInvolved/TitleVI), call (215) 592-1800, or email [public\\_affairs@dvrpc.org](mailto:public_affairs@dvrpc.org).

DVRPC is funded through a variety of funding sources including federal grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Pennsylvania and New Jersey departments of transportation, as well as by DVRPC's state and local member governments. The authors, however, are solely responsible for the findings and conclusions herein, which may not represent the official views or policies of the funding agencies.





190 N Independence Mall West  
8th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1520  
215.592.1800 | fax: 215.592.9125  
[www.dvrpc.org](http://www.dvrpc.org)

Connect With Us! [f](#) [t](#) [@](#) [in](#) [v](#)

