

**LOM  
2019**

DELAWARE VALLEY  
**dvrpc**  
REGIONAL  
PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 2021

# LOM—WINGS FIELD



# 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:**

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# LOM—Wings Field

Blue Bell, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

**Runway Orientation:** 6/24

**Runway Length:** 3,700 ft.

Wings Field is a privately owned, public-use airport located in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. The airport's fixed-base operator is flyADVANCED. Wings Field features a general aviation terminal and offers a variety of services, including aircraft management and maintenance, aircraft rental, flight training, and charter flight services. The airport serves a variety of general aviation needs and serves as a reliever to Philadelphia International Airport. Flight activity includes corporate, recreational, flight training, and emergency medical flights. The airport hosts a number of employers and organizations, including the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club, Angel Flight East, and PennStar.



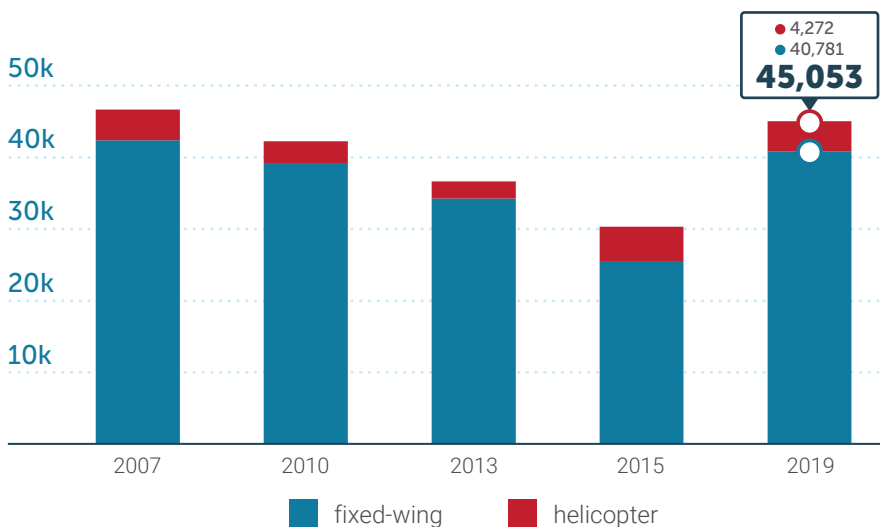
Source: Nearmap, 2020

## 2019 Aircraft Operations

Wings Field had an estimated 45,053 total operations during the 2019 cycle, a 47.9 percent increase over the previous cycle in 2015 as shown in Figure 1. Fixed-wing operations increased by 15,250 or 59.7 percent. Helicopter operations decreased by 528 or 11 percent.

**45,053**  
2019 total operations

FIGURE 1: HISTORIC AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS



**40,781**  
fixed-wing operations

**4,272**  
helicopter operations

The operations estimates for the 2019 cycle reverses a downward trend in activity experienced in previous count cycles. This was attributed to a new FBO and added flight school operations.

Source: DVRPC, 2021

## Seasonal Operations

Figure 2 illustrates the total seasonal operations estimated for each period during the 2019 count cycle at Wings Field. 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	92.9	8,357	49%
SPRING	116.0	10,558	89%
SUMMER	131.4	12,092	100%
FALL	106.2	9,774	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

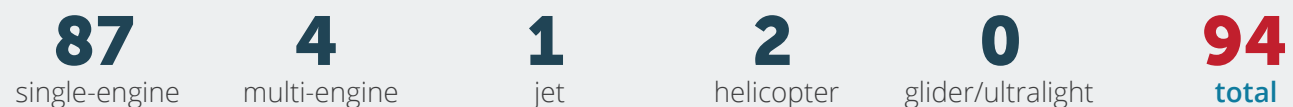
TABLE 2: HELICOPTER OPERATIONS BY SEASON

SEASON	AVG. DAILY OPERATIONS	SEASONAL OPERATIONS
WINTER	11.7	1,053
SPRING	11.7	1,065
SUMMER	11.7	1,077
FALL	11.7	1,077

Source: DVRPC, 2021

## 2019 Based Aircraft

Wings Field had a reported 94 based aircraft during the 2019 count cycle. This is a decrease from the 103 based aircraft reported during the 2015 cycle.

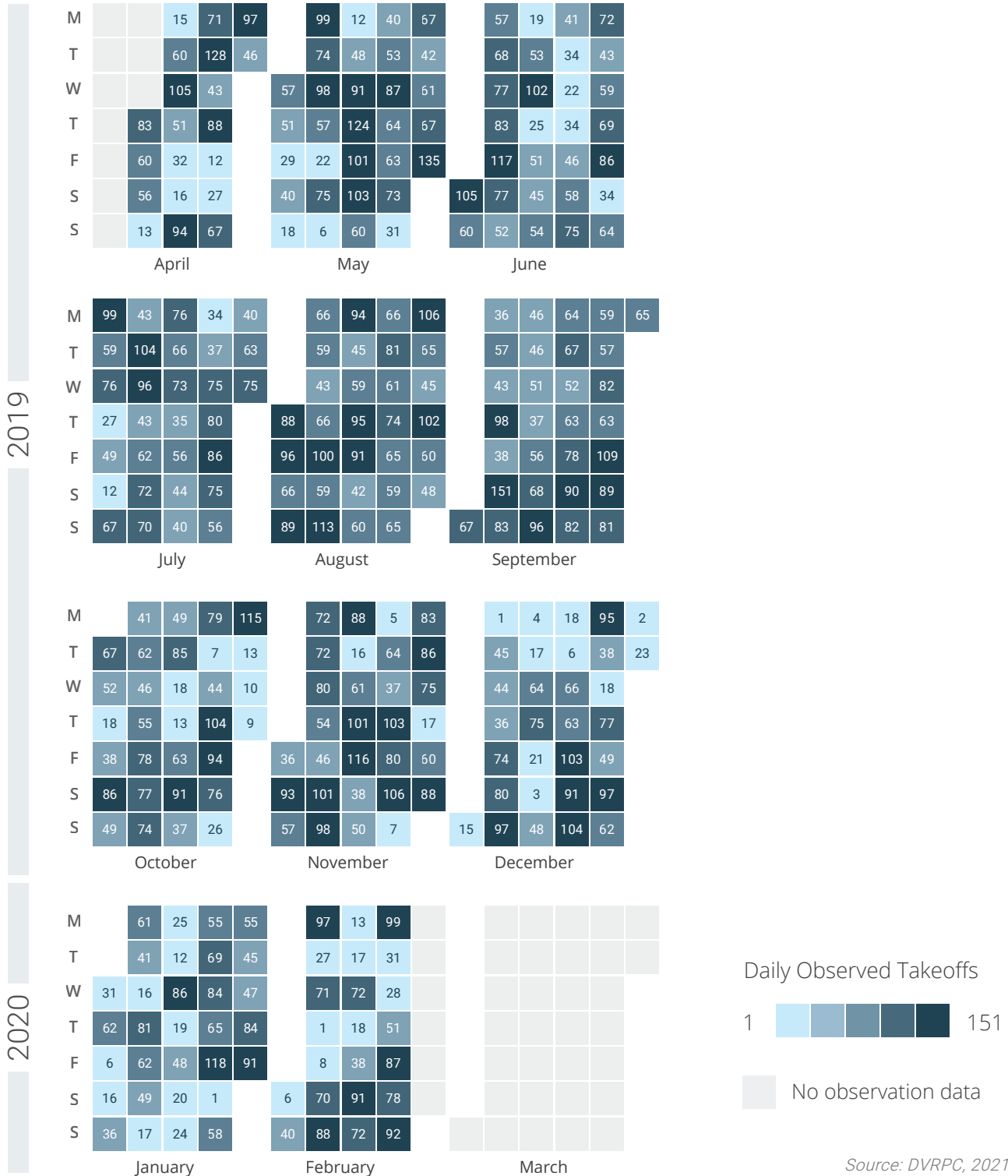


Source: FAA 5010 Master Record, 2019

# Observed Daily Fixed-Wing Takeoffs

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

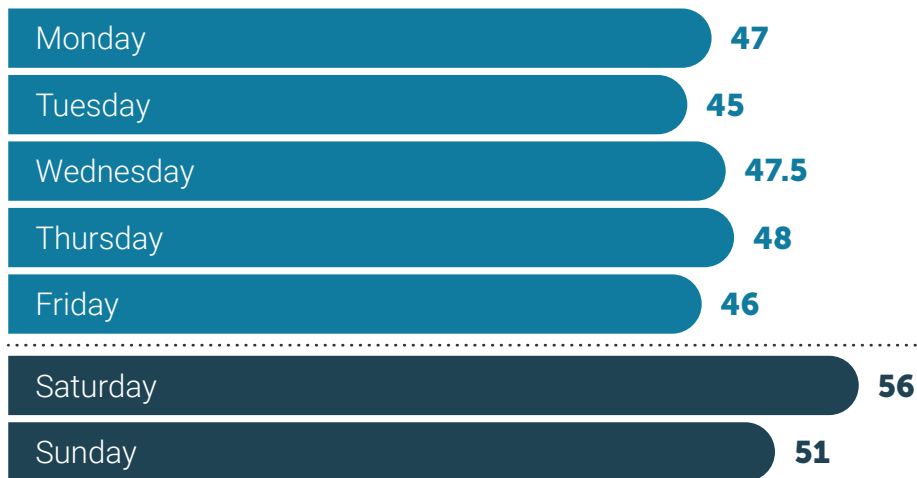
FIGURE 3: OBSERVED DAILY FIXED-WING TAKEOFFS



## Fixed-Wing Takeoff Patterns

The observation data collected provides insights to the patterns of aircraft operations at Wings Field. 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.

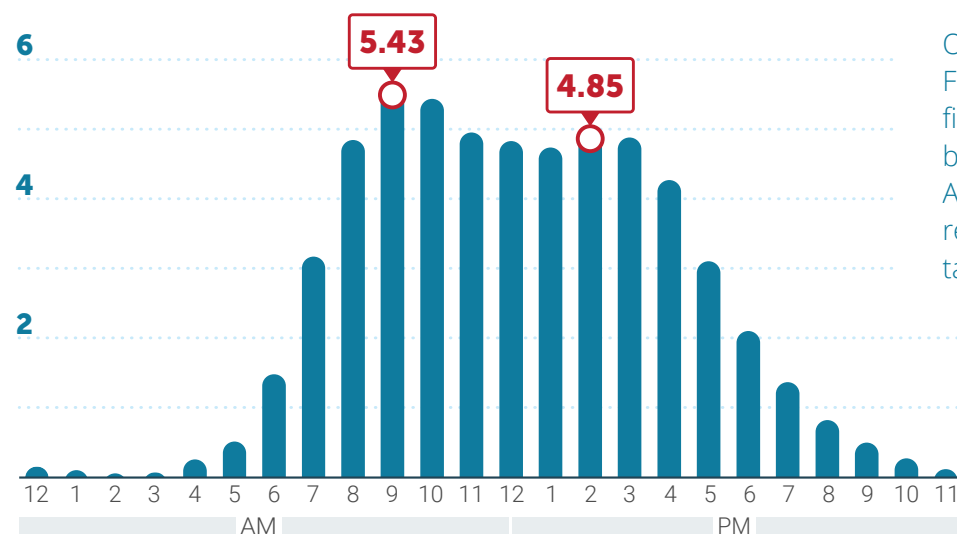
FIGURE 4: AVERAGE DAILY FIXED-WING TAKEOFFS BY DAY OF WEEK



In 2019 Wings Field had an average of 47 weekday and 54 weekend daily fixed-wing takeoffs.

Source: DVRPC, 2021

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



On a typical day in 2019, Wings Field had peak average hourly fixed-wing takeoffs of 5.43 between 9:00 and 10:00 AM. Activity throughout a typical day remained elevated above four takeoffs per hour until 5:00 PM.

Source: DVRPC, 2021

# LOM—Wings Field 2019 Aircraft Operations Counting Program

**PUBLICATION NUMBER:** 19035

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**GEOGRAPHIC AREA COVERED:** Blue Bell,  
Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

**ABSTRACT:** This technical report presents aircraft operations estimates for LOM—Wings Field in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. These aircraft operation 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.

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