

**INPUT-OUTPUT ANALYSIS OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE PEORIA-PEKIN MSA:
O'BRIEN FIELD VERSUS THE PEORIA CIVIC CENTER**

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ABSTRACT

The construction of civic centers, convention centers, stadiums, arenas, and other recreational and sports facilities of the same type are becoming more and more popular as a means of revitalizing central business districts. These types of activities are often promised to have a rather large, positive economic impact not only on the immediate neighborhood surrounding the facilities, but throughout the entire metropolitan area. Studies that predict this type of impact are what persuade decision makers that a civic center or new stadium would be a great benefit to their community. However, there is also the argument that sports and recreational facilities are not economic catalysts, and some go as far to say that they are ultimately a waste of taxpayer money. Are economic feasibility studies a sufficient way of measuring the impact of a facility? Furthermore, does it matter what type of facility is built (i.e. a civic center or a stadium)? This study used input – output analysis (I – O) to compare a minor league baseball stadium with a civic center to see which had the greater economic impact, and which had the greater employment impact on the Peoria – Pekin Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in 2002.

Input – Output Analysis is a method that determines the extent to which various industries in an economy interact with one another, and how much of a good or service is sold to the final consumer. IMPLAN (Impact Analysis and Planning), which is an input – output software package, was used to analyze the data. The results of the analysis show that Peoria Civic Center had a greater economic output and employment impact on the Peoria – Pekin MSA in 2002, than did O'Brien Field. This is not to say that every civic

center will have a larger impact than a stadium. This study is a basis for more research to be done in this area. As recreation and tourism continues to play a key role in downtown revitalization efforts, more research needs to be conducted before one can ultimately conclude that economic feasibility studies are enough to determine the true impact of a facility on a region, or that one type of facility should be chosen over another when making economic development decisions.