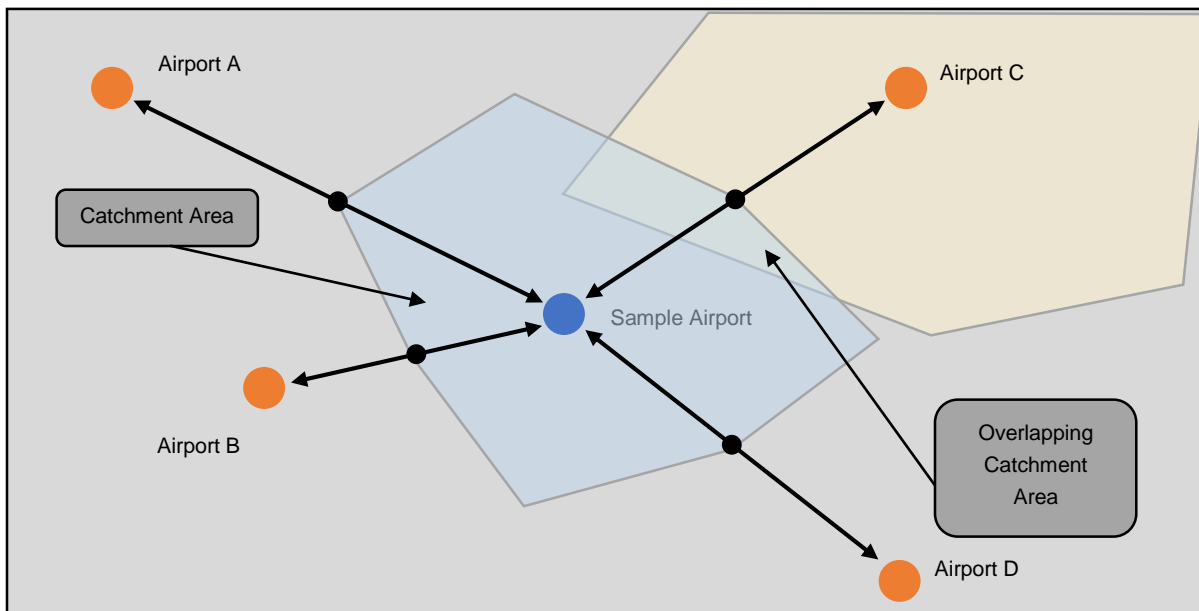


# Defining an Air Service Catchment Area

An airport catchment area, or air service area, is a geographic area surrounding an airport where it can reasonably expect to draw passenger traffic. The catchment area represents the area which a given airport can serve with regard to drive time. To determine a rough idea of an airport's catchment area based on drive time, find the distance between your airport and other airports in the region that compete for passengers. Find the halfway point between each other airport and your airport. By connecting the halfway points, and respective halfway points between the other airports, a rough idea of the catchment area can be determined (see **Figure 1**).

**Figure 1: Estimate of a Passenger Catchment Area Based on Drive Time**



Source: Mead & Hunt, 2015

The demand for air service is affected by a variety of factors including:

- Population
- Income levels
- Local economic activity
- Proximity to alternate airports
- Non-stop service or connections
- Air fares
- Parking costs

Areas that are equidistant to more than one airport can be considered a secondary or contested catchment area. Also, based on the factors presented that influence the analysis, catchment areas are not exclusive and may overlap in some instances.

**NOTE:** Determining a catchment area is a complex process. Using an air service consultant with expertise on this topic may be beneficial for your airport when performing a catchment area analysis.