QUALITATIVE BENEFITS

In addition to the economic benefits described above, Circle Town & County Airport provides access and services that promote the well being of the local community.   Aviation activities that take place on a regular basis include recreational flying, agricultural spraying, and corporate aviation. A survey of 35 hospitals in Montana gathered data to obtain information relating to how often hospitals use airports in Montana for patient transfer. Survey data indicated McCone County Health Center uses Circle Town & County Airport once per month on average for emergency patient transfer via air ambulance. Glasgow based STAT Air Ambulance frequently flies critical care patients out of the airport to Deaconess Hospital. Other aviation activity that occurs occasionally at the airport includes aerial inspections of utilities.

FAA data indicates charter aircraft companies utilized the airport for general aviation during the past year.

CIRCLE TOWN COUNTY AIRPORT
CIRCLE

MONTANA
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

AIRPORT LOCATION

Circle Town County Airport is located one mile east of Circle, Montana, in McCone County. The Circle area is surrounded by beautiful scenery that includes rolling prairie grassland, scoria buttes, and badlands terrain, all of which can be viewed from the nearby Big Sky Back Country Byway. The Big Sky Back Country Byway links the Yellowstone River and Missouri River and follows a section of the historic Regina-Yellowstone (R-Y) Trail, which tourists from Canada used to reach Yellowstone National Park. Circle is the county seat of McCone County.

Circle has a population of approximately 570. Major employment sectors in the area include agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, public administration, health care and social assistance, and construction.

The 140-acre airport's primary runway, Runway 12/30, measures 4,100 feet in length and 75 feet in width. A second runway, Runway 3/21, is turf and measures 2,150 feet in length and 75 feet in width. The airport, with two based aircraft, experiences approximately 3,750 aircraft operations annually.
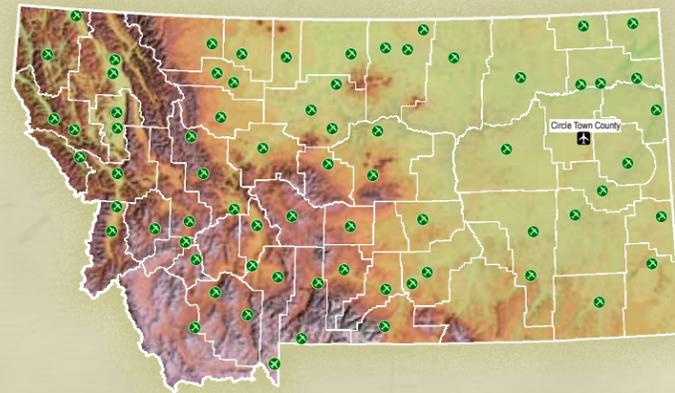
STATEWIDE RESULTS

Economic benefits in the Montana Economic Impact of Airports Study are expressed in terms of jobs, payroll, and annual economic activity or output.

Jobs/Employment

An estimated 18,800 jobs in Montana are in some way supported by the commercial and general aviation airports. These are jobs that are associated with on-airport businesses, tenants, and other activities that are located on commercial or general aviation airports in the State. In addition, spending by visitors arriving in Montana by air helps to support other jobs. When airport improvements are made, additional jobs are supported by the airports over the duration of these projects.

Payroll/Earnings

The 18,800 jobs in Montana that are linked to the commercial and general aviation airports account for over $600 million in annual payroll. Airport related payroll is a key component of the economic benefit cycle that starts at the airport. It was this economic cycle that was measured by this study's induced benefits. When those employed by on-airport businesses use their paycheck to purchase groceries, new clothes, or household items, their spending helps to support other jobs in the community and the payroll associated with these jobs. The initial benefits that start at the airports continue to multiply once they enter the State's economy.

Annual Economic Activity/Output

To operate Montana's airports, businesses located on the airports and businesses that support visitors who arrive in Montana via the airports all require the purchase of goods and services. These expenditures are most often in addition to those benefits identified in the payroll and earnings category. Benefits in this category are expressed in this study as total annual economic activity or output. Annual economic output related to the airports is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures, including capital improvement projects.

JOBS............18,800

PAYROLL.......$600 MILLION

OUTPUT.........$1.56 BILLION

ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Economic impacts at an airport are measured through employment, payroll, and output (spending). On-airport business and government activities (direct impacts) account for a significant portion of an airport's first-round economic benefits. Additional first-round benefits are also linked to visitors who arrive via the State's system of airports (indirect impacts). Spending by these visitors supports additional employment and associated annual payroll. These first-round impacts create additional spin-off benefits that ripple through the economy. These second-round or induced benefits were measured with Montana-specific IMPLAN multipliers. When combined, first-round and second-round benefits equal the total economic impact associated with each airport.

First-Round Impact

In 2008, there was one aviation-related tenant located on the airport. This tenant functions as the as the FBO and as airport management for the airport sponsor. In order to preserve tenant confidentiality, total tenant and visitor impacts have been combined. This tenant's direct employment, payroll, and output impacts were derived from survey data. For 2008, the total combined first-round output stemming from all on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors to Circle Town County Airport was approximately $55,200. Total first-round full-time employment related to airport tenants and general aviation visitors is estimated at 1.5 full time equivalent positions with a total first-round payroll of approximately $29,900 annually. Survey data indicated that approximately 432 visitors used the airport in 2008.

Second-Round Impact

The first-round impacts associated with on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors also create second-round impacts throughout the State. Second-round impacts are induced impacts calculated using the Montana specific IMPLAN multipliers. The accompanying table presents the 2008 first-round, second-round, and total impacts for output, payroll, and employment as they relate to on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors.

Total Impact

For 2008, the total output (including first-round and second-round impacts) stemming from all on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors to Circle Town County Airport was approximately $90,900. Total full-time employment related to airport tenants and general aviation visitors, including all second-round impacts, is estimated at approximately three persons, with a total annual payroll (first-round and second-round) of approximately $55,700 associated with these jobs.

METHODOLOGY
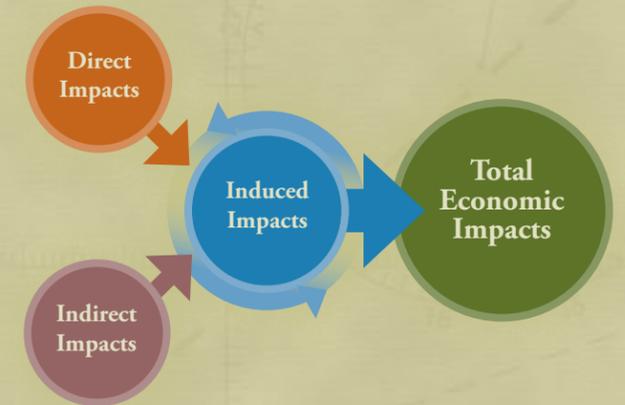
AIRPORT SUMMARY TABLE

FIRST-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport	Visitor Spending
• FAA, Other Government	• Hotels
• Airport Management	• Retail & Restaurants
• Aircraft maintenance	• Travel Agents
• Vendors	• Convention Centers
• Retail & Restaurant	• Tourist Destinations
• Car Rental	
• Parking	
• Other Ground Transportation	
• Fixed Based Operators	

1.5 Jobs
$29,900 in Payroll
$55,200 in Economic Output

SECOND-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

• Suppliers of Materials & Services to Airports
• Air Dependent Businesses
• Visitor Dependent Businesses
• Consumer Product and Service Sales

1.5 Jobs
$25,800 in Payroll
$35,700 in Economic Output

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

3.0 Jobs
$55,700 in Wages
$90,900 in Economic Activity