

# EKALAKA AIRPORT – EKALAKA

## QUALITATIVE BENEFITS

In addition to the economic benefits described above, Ekalaka 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 and corporate aviation. In addition to these activities, a survey of 35 hospitals in Montana gathered data on how often hospitals use airports for patient transfer. Survey data indicated Dahl Memorial Healthcare Association in Ekalaka, Montana uses Ekalaka Airport for emergency patient transfer via air ambulance. Other aviation activities that occur seasonally or once per year at the airport include agricultural spraying, staging for community events, military exercises and training, forest and rangeland firefighting, and aerial photography and surveying.

According to airport management data, the major airport users include Plu's Flying Service and Laird Flying Service. FAA data indicates the Montana Department of Highways utilized the airport for general aviation during the past year.



Montana Department of Transportation  
2701 Prospect Avenue | PO Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620-1001  
406.444.6200

Prepared by  
**WilburSmith**  
ASSOCIATES

# EKALAKA AIRPORT EKALAKA



**MONTANA**  
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

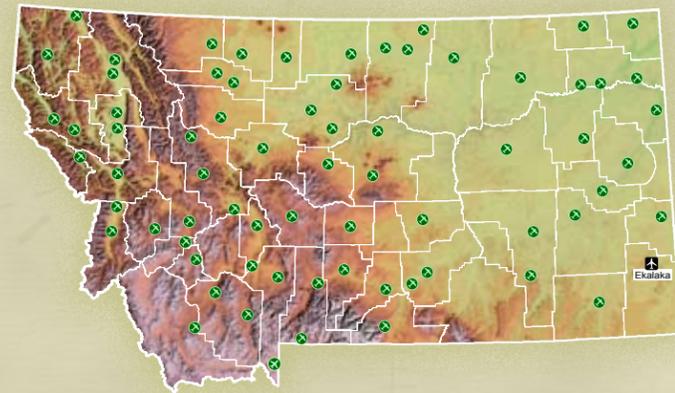
# EKALAKA AIRPORT – EKALAKA

## AIRPORT LOCATION

Ekalaka Airport is located two miles southeast of Ekalaka, Montana, in Carter County. In the small eastern town of Ekalaka, visitors can enjoy the tranquil scenery, wide open spaces, and leisurely pace of the eastern Montana prairies. Ekalaka is home to Carter County Museum, the State of Montana's first county museum. The museum houses unique paleontological discoveries and Native American artifacts. Other area attractions include the beautiful sandstone formations at Medicine Rocks State Park and Chalk Buttes, Long Pines, and Ekalaka Hills, which offer excellent hunting for wild turkeys, mule deer, and whitetail deer. Ekalaka is the county seat of Carter County.

Ekalaka has a population of approximately 400. Major employment sectors in the area include health care and social assistance, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, accommodation and food services, and construction.

The 162-acre airport's primary runway, Runway 13/31, measures 3,800 feet in length and 75 feet in width. The airport, with four based aircraft, experiences approximately 2,050 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**

# MONTANA ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

## 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 were no aviation-related tenants located on the airport. All economic impacts generated by the airport are the result of sponsor operation of the airport and visitor related impacts. For 2008, the total combined first round output stemming from all sponsor activity and general aviation visitors to Ekalaka Airport was approximately \$29,700. There is not enough activity at the airport, however, to generate employment. Survey data indicated that approximately 488 visitors used the airport in 2008.

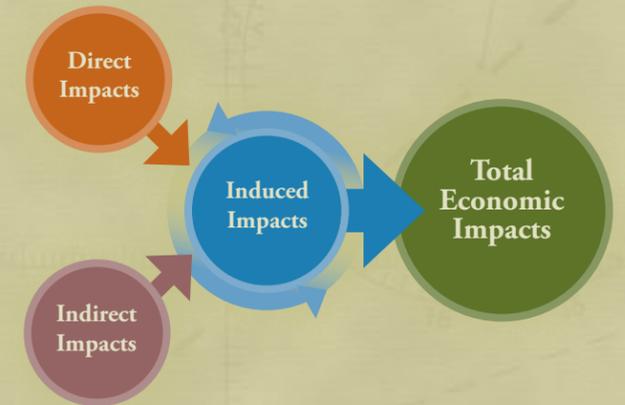
### Second-Round Impact

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 Ekalaka Airport was approximately \$49,500.

## METHODOLOGY



## AIRPORT SUMMARY TABLE

### FIRST-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport	Visitor Spending
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAA, Other Government</li> <li>• Airport Management</li> <li>• Aircraft maintenance</li> <li>• Vendors</li> <li>• Retail &amp; Restaurant</li> <li>• Car Rental</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Other Ground Transportation</li> <li>• Fixed Based Operators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotels</li> <li>• Retail &amp; Restaurants</li> <li>• Travel Agents</li> <li>• Convention Centers</li> <li>• Tourist Destinations</li> </ul>
<p><b>0 Jobs</b>  <b>\$0 in Payroll</b>  <b>\$25,000 in Economic Output</b></p>	<p><b>0 Jobs</b>  <b>\$0 in Payroll</b>  <b>\$4,700 in Economic Output</b></p>

### SECOND-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suppliers of Materials &amp; Services to Airports</li> <li>• Air Dependent Businesses</li> <li>• Visitor Dependent Businesses</li> <li>• Consumer Product and Service Sales</li> </ul>
<p><b>0 Jobs</b>  <b>\$0 in Payroll</b>  <b>\$19,800 in Economic Output</b></p>

### TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

<p><b>0 Jobs</b>  <b>\$0 in Wages</b>  <b>\$49,500 in Economic Activity</b></p>
---