

Kalispell, Montana

Glacier Park International Airport



2016 Economic Impact Study for
MONTANA AIRPORTS

MONTANA
MDT ★
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Montana's Airports Support Our State

Montana's airports play an integral role in our transportation system by providing access to destinations within the state, throughout the country, and across the globe. Airports also offer significant economic benefits to our communities by supporting jobs; generating payroll; paying taxes; and triggering spending at local, regional, and state levels.

The importance of airports goes beyond transportation and economics. Airports offer services and other attributes of value that cannot always be easily measured in dollars and cents. Residents and visitors use airports for leisure and business travel, and airports serve as the base for a wide range of critical activities such as wildland firefighting, search and rescue operations, and training for future aviators. Airports are the starting point for aircraft that conduct utility inspections, provide medical evacuation services, and transport staff and executives for business activity.

To better understand the value of Montana's airports from the perspective of both economics and community benefits, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) conducted a comprehensive study of the state's aviation facilities. The study analyzed the contributions of the Montana airport system, including aviation-related and non-aviation-related businesses, visitor spending, capital expenditures on construction, and additional spin-off (or "multiplier") effects. The study also examined specific activities and uses at each airport to identify how these facilities support Montana's residents and visitors.

Methodology

This study expresses the economic benefits of Montana's airports in terms of jobs, payroll, and total annual economic impact derived from the activities that occur at aviation facilities. Direct impacts include those from on-airport businesses, construction-related activities, and spending from visitors who travel through an airport. Airports host on-airport businesses that serve aircraft or passengers such as:

- Administration
- Military
- Airlines
- Maintenance
- Parking
- Concessions
- Car rental
- General aviation
- Air tours
- Air cargo

Additionally, airside and landside construction projects require continuous investments, many of which are high-dollar, long-term undertakings. Because commercial service and general aviation airports are essential to visitors' abilities to conduct business or vacation in Montana, airports support the hospitality industry through lodging, restaurant, retail, and entertainment spending.

Airports' direct impacts also have spin-off effects throughout Montana, as dollars spent at an airport and by visitors off-airport are re-spent locally, regionally, and statewide. Spin-off effects are caused when a portion of direct business revenues are used to purchase goods and services in Montana (i.e., indirect effects) and when the portion of revenues paid as wages to workers are spent within the state (i.e., induced effects).

Combined, direct impacts and spin-off effects compose the total contribution of an individual airport and determine the statewide impact of Montana's airport system.



STATEWIDE IMPACTS

Aviation is a vital key to Montana's economic activity and transportation network. The public-use airports in the state contribute:



DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport
\$48,775,000

Construction
\$2,495,000

Visitor Spending
\$87,314,000



GPI TOTAL IMPACTS

2,154

\$63,245,000

\$228,473,000

Corporate/
Business Activity



Aerial/Wildland
Firefighting



Military Exercise/
Training



Emergency
Medical Aviation



Police/Law
Enforcement



Glacier Park International Airport



Glacier Park International Airport (GPI) is a commercial airport located six miles northeast of the City of Kalispell in Flathead County, Montana. Kalispell is centrally located in the Rocky Mountains, just 15 miles north of Flathead Lake. The city is a short drive from local attractions such as Whitefish Mountain Ski Resort, Glacier National Park, and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area. The airport is along Highway 2 leading into Columbia Falls and Kalispell.

Glacier Park consists of one 9,000-foot-long runway and one 3,500-foot-long runway, providing an accommodating destination for a wide array of aircraft types. Due to Kalispell's role in the regional and state economies, business travelers frequently use the airport's general and commercial aviation facilities. Glacier Park hosts 18 tenants, including the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, SkyWest Airlines, Glacier Jet Center, Horizon Air, Rocky Mountain Avionics, Alert Air Ambulance, and several leading rental car companies.

The airport accommodates diverse aviation activities including:

- Recreational flying
- Freight/cargo
- Aerial photography and surveying
- Aerial wildland firefighting
- Aerial inspections
- Military exercises and training
- Search and rescue
- Emergency medical flights

Combined with its convenient location, business and corporate presence, and robust runway configuration, Glacier Park is critical to the economy of the city and region.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Persons who need an alternative format should contact the Civil Rights Bureau, Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue., PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone 406-444-9229. Those using a TTY may call 1(800)335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.



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