



Missoula 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
\$174,181,000

Construction
\$6,313,000

Visitor Spending
\$131,820,000

SPIN-OFF ECONOMIC EFFECT
\$312,314,000

MSO TOTAL IMPACTS

4,492

\$171,432,000

\$537,927,000

Corporate/
Business Activity



Military Exercise/
Training



Emergency
Medical Aviation



Missoula International Airport



Missoula International Airport (MSO) sits on the western edge of Montana deep in the Rocky Mountains.

The airport is four miles northwest of the City of Missoula in Missoula County, Montana with a population of approximately 110,000 people. Missoula International Airport has direct access to Interstate 90 south of the Flathead National Forest.

The airport's 9,501-foot-long runway serves commercial and general aviation activities including:

- Recreational flying and parachuting
- Freight and cargo
- Corporate and business activity
- Military exercises
- Flight training
- Emergency medical aviation
- Commercial flight operations

Missoula International Airport also has a significant aerial wildland firefighting presence and serves as a firefighting base for 215 U.S. Forest Service employees. In addition, Neptune Aviation provides air tanker services to fight wildland fires and employs 200. Other tenants include commercial providers such as Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Airlines, Delta Airlines, Frontier Airlines, and United Airlines. Fixed-base operator services are provided by Northstar Jet and Minuteman Aviation. Other tenants include Aerotronics, Homestead Helicopters, Life Flight, and the corporate flight department for the Washington Corporation. Rental cars are available on airport property, as well as multiple concession operators. Annual capital projects also employ local residents and flow dollars into the local economy.

Missoula International Airport's diverse aviation activity makes it an economic keystone of the western Montana region.

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