



Economic Impact Study  
**Dillon Airport**  
2026



**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation



# Dillon Airport Impact

Dillon Airport is a public-use general aviation airport located in Dillon, in Beaverhead County in southwest Montana. The airfield features two paved runways, the primary measuring 6,500 feet, and handles approximately 5,400 annual operations. The airport supports agricultural spraying, search and rescue, flight training, emergency medical transport, corporate and business aviation, law enforcement, wildland firefighting, aerial photography and surveying, and ballooning. The facility serves as a cross-country training destination for regional flight schools and a staging area for military demonstrations, community events including balloon and helicopter rides, and environmental preservation efforts including firefighting. The on-airport FBO is an active community member with sponsorships to local 4-H and FFA programs.



## Total Economic Impact on Montana



**Jobs**  
14



**Economic Impact**  
\$1.8 Million



**Payroll**  
\$794 Thousand

## Qualitative Impacts

In addition to generating substantial economic impacts, this airport supports a variety of harder to quantify “Qualitative Impacts” that support critical statewide safety and enterprise. The 2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports Study documents the following non-inclusive list of qualitative impacts associated with the airport:



**Emergency Medical Aviation**  
Supports Air Ambulance Operations



**Corporate/Business Activity**  
Supports Various business activity such as oil and gas field activities



**Aerial Surveying & Photography**  
Supports aerial surveying, inspections, and photography



**Recreation and Education**  
Supports cross country training flights, access to recreational flying and ballooning, and other educational opportunities



**Military Exercise/Training**  
Used for Military Training and/or Transit Flights

*Source: Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports.*

# Montana Airports Support Our State



**Jobs**  
39,400



**Economic Impact**  
\$6.4 Billion



**Payroll**  
\$2.4 Billion

Montana's airport system functions as a critical component of the state's transportation and economic infrastructure, enabling connectivity across a large and geographically dispersed landscape. Through scheduled commercial service and general aviation activity, airports provide access between Montana communities and regional, national, and international markets, supporting passenger travel, freight movement, and time-sensitive operations that cannot be efficiently served by surface transportation alone.

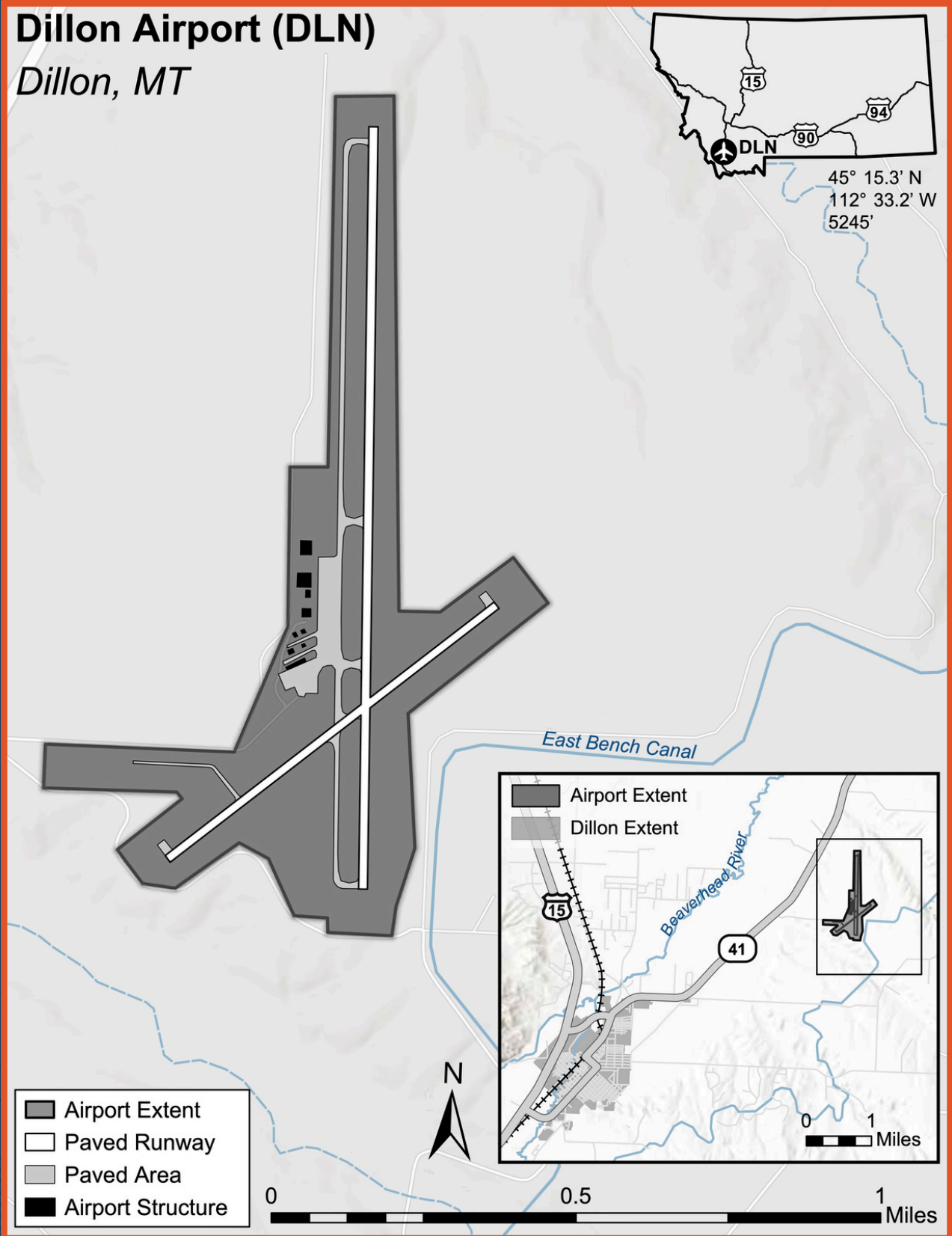
Beyond mobility, Montana's airports support a broad range of economic activity that contributes to employment, income generation, and business operations throughout the state. Aviation-related enterprises, on-airport and nearby businesses, visitor spending associated with air travel, and ongoing investment in airport facilities collectively generate economic activity at the local, regional, and statewide levels. These effects extend across multiple sectors, including tourism, healthcare, construction, professional services, and natural resource industries.

To document both the economic contributions and broader community functions of the state's aviation system, the Montana Department of Transportation undertook a comprehensive, statewide evaluation of Montana's airports. The **2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Aviation** study examines the full scope of airport-related activity, including aviation and non-aviation businesses, visitor spending, capital investment, and secondary economic effects, while also identifying the specific roles individual airports play in supporting residents, businesses, and critical services across Montana.



# Dillon Airport (DLN)

Dillon, MT



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