



Economic Impact Study of

# Great Falls International Airport

2026

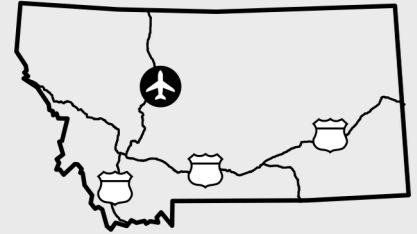


**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation

Map Data: Google

# Great Falls International Airport Impact

Great Falls International Airport is a public-use commercial service airport located in Great Falls, in Cascade County. The airport provides scheduled passenger service along with general aviation and cargo operations, handling over 9,000 general aviation and 11,500 commercial operations annually. The airfield features two runways, the primary measuring 10,502 feet, making it one of the longest in the state and capable of accommodating large military and commercial aircraft. Malmstrom Air Force Base, adjacent to the airport, contributes significant military aviation activity.



The airport supports agricultural aviation, wildland firefighting, search and rescue, emergency medical transport, law enforcement, and flight training. Great Falls is recognized as a basecamp for outdoor recreation, and the airport provides access to destinations including the Rocky Mountain Front, Missouri River, and multiple national forests. Military operations and defense-related activity represent a substantial component of the airport's broader economic contribution.

## Total Economic Impact on Montana



**Jobs**  
2,810



**Economic Impact**  
\$513.8 Million



**Payroll**  
\$164.4 Million

## 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:



Aerial Firefighting  
Supports Wildland  
Firefighting Operations.



Police/Law Enforcement  
**Supports** Police and Emergency  
Response Ops



Emergency Medical  
Aviation  
Supports Air Ambulance  
Operations



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



Corporate/Business Activity  
Supports Corporate and  
Business Activity



Agriculture Support  
Supports Agriculture  
through Aerial Application  
and/or Other

*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.

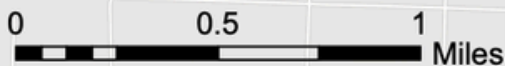
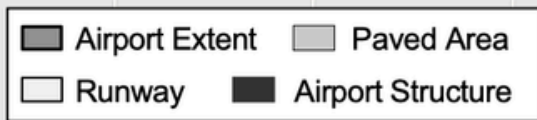
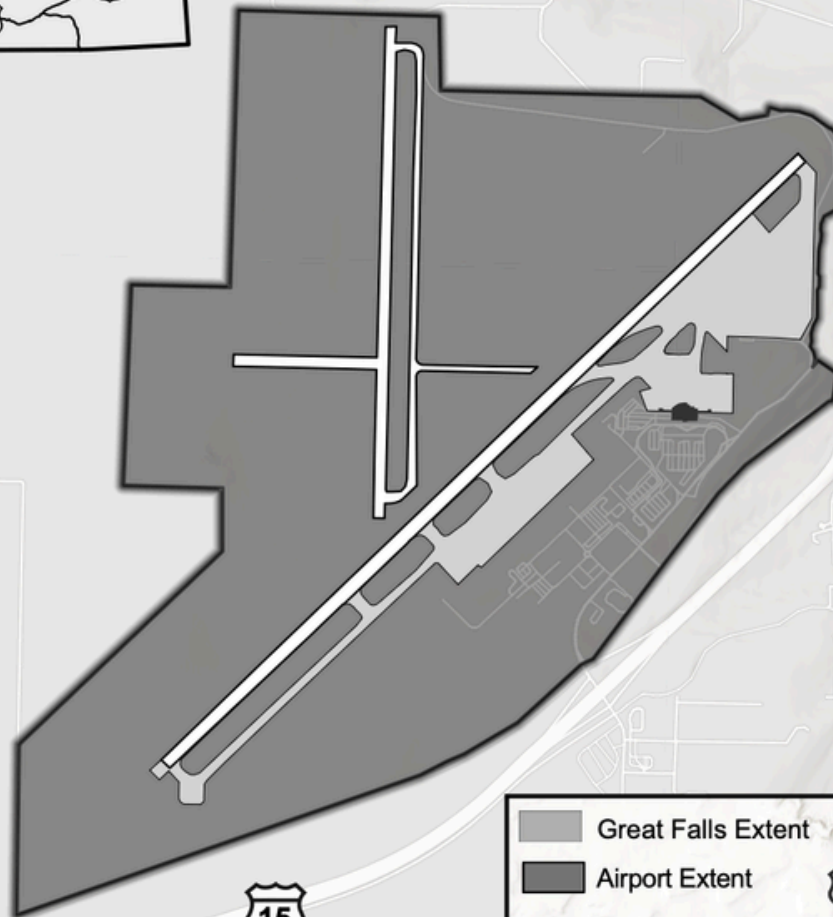
To document both the economic contributions and broader community functions of the state's aviation system, the Montana Department of Transportation undertook a comprehensive, statewide evaluation of Montana's airports. The **2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Aviation** study examines the full 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.

# Great Falls International Airport (GTF)

Great Falls, MT



47° 28.9' N  
111° 22.2' W  
3680'



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