



Economic Impact Study
Ruby Valley Field Airport
2026



MONTANA
Department of Transportation



ZENITH
ECONOMICS

Ruby Valley Field Airport Impact

Ruby Valley Field is a public-use general aviation airport located in Twin Bridges, in Madison County in southwest Montana. The airfield features a 6,000-foot paved runway with a secondary turf crosswind runway and handles approximately 1,500 annual general aviation operations, with 90 percent transient traffic driven largely by visitors with second homes and those traveling for recreation. The airport is home to Ruby Valley Aviation, which provides flight instruction, fuel, and hangar space. Airport activities include recreational flying, agricultural spraying, search and rescue, flight training, emergency medical transport, corporate and business aviation, aerial inspections, wildland firefighting, and military exercises. The facility serves as a wildfire fighting staging area for the district and hosts a fly-in and airshow every other year. The manager describes it as the closest airport to recreation in southwest Montana, with fly-in visitors supporting the local economy.



Total Economic Impact on Montana



Jobs
5



Economic Impact
\$375 Thousand



Payroll
\$155 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:



Search & Rescue
Supports Search and Rescue Operations



Agriculture Support
Supports Agriculture through Aerial Application



Emergency Medical Aviation
Supports Air Ambulance Operations



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



Recreation and Education
Provides Pilot Training, Aviation Education, and access to recreational flying



VIP/Visitor Gateway
Serves as Gateway for High-Profile Visitors and Tourism

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.

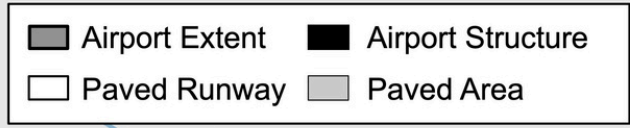
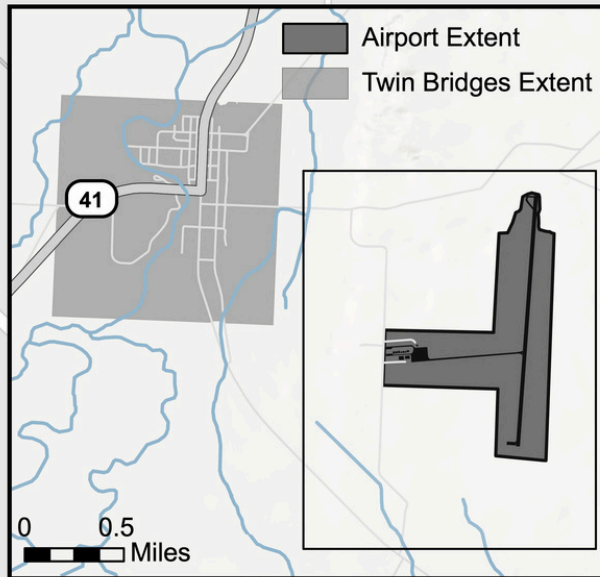


Ruby Valley Field Airport (RVF)

Twin Bridges, MT



45° 32.1' N
112° 18.1' W
4788'



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