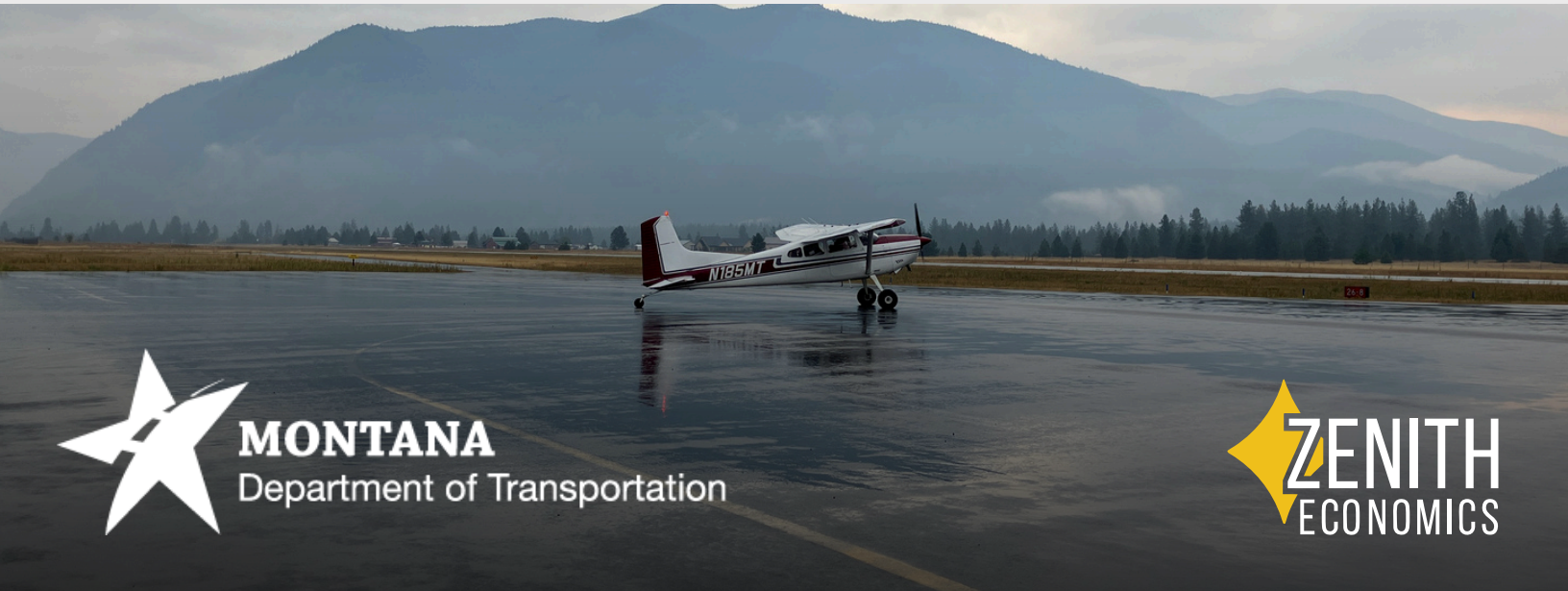
Economic Impact Study

Thompson Falls Airport

2026



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Thompson Falls Airport Impact

Thompson Falls Airport is a public-use general aviation airport located in Thompson Falls, Sanders County in western Montana along the Clark Fork River. The airfield features a primary runway of 4,200 feet and handles approximately 3,000 annual general aviation operations. Airport activities include search and rescue, freight, flight training, emergency medical transport, corporate and business aviation, law enforcement, and wildland firefighting. The airport hosts an annual June airshow, engaging the local community and visiting pilots.

Total Economic Impact on Montana

Jobs
4

Economic Impact
$783 Thousand

Payroll
$321 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:

Aerial Firefighting
Supports Wildland Firefighting Operations

Air Cargo & Logistics
Facilitates Freight and Cargo Transport Operations

Emergency Medical Aviation
Supports Air Ambulance Operations

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

Corporate/Business Activity
Supports Corporate and Business Activity

Agriculture Support
Supports Agriculture through Aerial Application

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.

Source: Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports.

Thompson Falls Airport (THM)

Thompson Falls, MT

47° 34.4' N
115° 16.8' W
2467'

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