



Economic Impact Study  
**Townsend Airport**  
2026

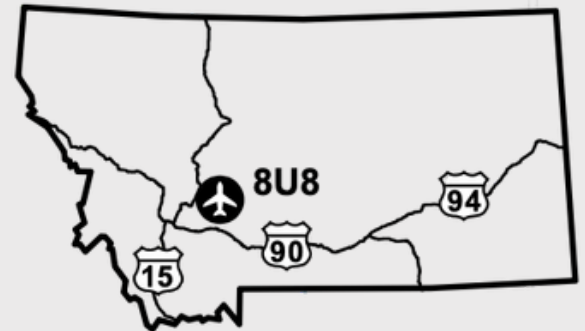


**MONTANA**  
Department of Transportation



# Townsend Airport Impact

Townsend Airport is a public-use general aviation airport located in Townsend, Broadwater County in central Montana along the Missouri River between Helena and Bozeman. The airfield features a primary runway of 4,000 feet and include a pilot lounge, courtesy car service and access to the adjacent county fair grounds. The airport supports general aviation activity for the Townsend community and surrounding area, providing access for recreational flying, emergency services, and agricultural operations.



The facility provides vital air services to this Missouri River valley community and access to nearby Canyon Ferry Lake, a popular recreation destination.

## Total Economic Impact on Montana



**Jobs**  
4



**Economic Impact**  
\$548 Thousand



**Payroll**  
\$174 Thousand

## Qualitative Impacts

In addition to generating 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.



**Agriculture Support**  
Supports Agriculture through Aerial Application and/or Other



**Emergency Medical Aviation**  
Supports Air Ambulance Operations



**Recreational Flying**  
Supports recreational flying and access.

# Montana Airports Support Our



**Jobs**  
39,400



**State  
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.

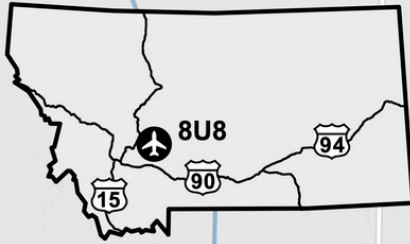
To document both the economic contributions and broader community functions of the state's aviation system, the Montana Department of Transportation undertook a comprehensive, statewide evaluation of Montana's airports. The **2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Aviation** study examines the full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

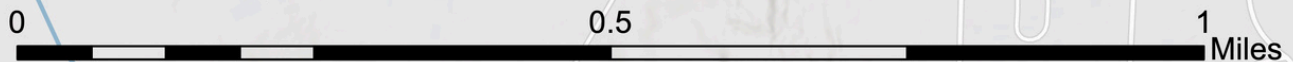
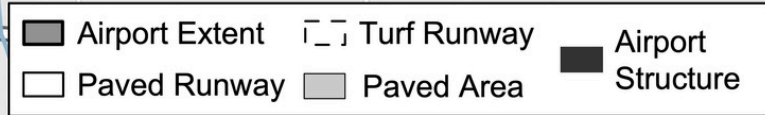
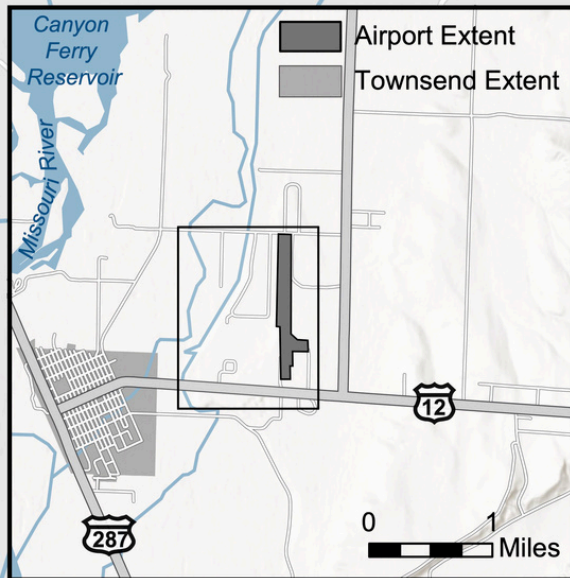
# Broadwater County Airport (8U8)

Townsend, MT



47° 28.9' N  
111° 22.2' W  
3680'

Montana Ditch



AERONAUTICS DIVISION  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
Helena, MT 59620-0507



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