

# PLAINS AIRPORT – PLAINS

## QUALITATIVE BENEFITS

In addition to the economic benefits described above, Plains Airport provides access and services that promote the well being of the local community. Aviation activities that take place on a regular basis include recreational flying, corporate aviation, aerial inspections of pipelines and electric transmission lines, visitor access to local resorts, and forest and rangeland firefighting by the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation during the summer months.

Clark Fork Valley Hospital in Plains, Montana uses the airport occasionally for emergency medical evacuation operations. A survey of 35 hospitals in Montana gathered data to obtain information relating to how often hospitals use airports for patient transfer. Survey data indicated Clark Fork Valley Hospital in Plains, Montana uses Plains Airport on average two times per month for emergency patient transfer via air ambulance. Other aviation activities that occur occasionally at the airport include air cargo, civilian flight training, staging for community events, police and law enforcement operations, career training and education, aerial photography and surveying, and real estate tours.

Plains Airport also brings additional visitors into the area by hosting the Plains – Paradise Chamber of Commerce Fly-In Breakfast each year. The event is held in June and attracts approximately 800 – 1,000 attendees.

According to airport management data, the major airport users include Clark Fork Valley Hospital and the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Natural Resources and Conservation during the summer months. FAA data indicates MT Fluggesellschaft and Pain Consultants of the Rockies PC utilized the airport during the past year.



Montana Department of Transportation  
2701 Prospect Avenue | PO Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620-1001  
406.444.6200

Prepared by  
**WilburSmith**  
ASSOCIATES

# PLAINS AIRPORT PLAINS



**MONTANA**  
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

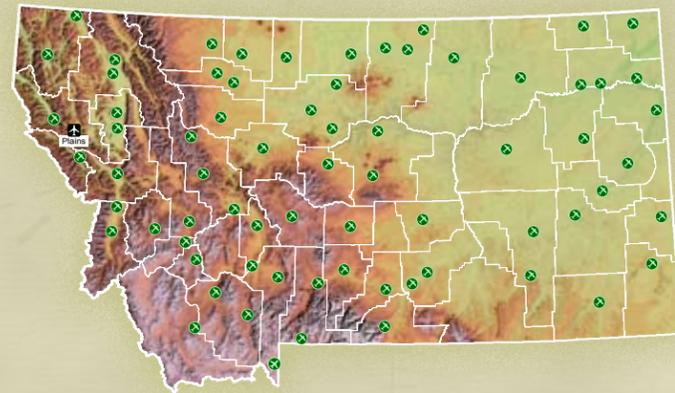
# PLAINS AIRPORT – PLAINS

## AIRPORT LOCATION

Plains Airport is located one mile northwest of Plains, Montana, in. Located in western Montana along the Clark Fork River, Plains offers visitors outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities in a beautiful mountain setting. The area has over 2,500 miles of trails to explore in the Lolo National Forest. Bighorn sheep can be viewed at Koo-Koo-Sint Bighorn Sheep Viewing Site. Several quaint vacation homes and bed and breakfasts are found in Plains and make for a perfect stay in the area.

Plains has a population of approximately 1,252. Major private employers in Sanders County include Clark Fork Valley Hospital, Spring Creek Lodge, IDA Inc., Lawyer Nursery, Monarch School, Quinn's Hot Springs Resort and Thompson River Lumber.

The 259-acre airport's primary runway, Runway 13/31, measures 4,650 feet in length and 75 feet in width. The airport, with ten based aircraft, experiences approximately 3,900 aircraft operations annually.



## STATEWIDE RESULTS

Economic benefits in the Montana Economic Impact of Airports Study are expressed in terms of jobs, payroll, and annual economic activity or output.

### Jobs/Employment

An estimated 18,800 jobs in Montana are in some way supported by the commercial and general aviation airports. These are jobs that are associated with on-airport businesses, tenants, and other activities that are located on commercial or general aviation airports in the State. In addition, spending by visitors arriving in Montana by air helps to support other jobs. When airport improvements are made, additional jobs are supported by the airports over the duration of these projects.

### Payroll/Earnings

The 18,800 jobs in Montana that are linked to the commercial and general aviation airports account for over \$600 million in annual payroll. Airport related payroll is a key component of the economic benefit cycle that starts at the airport. It was this economic cycle that was measured by this study's induced benefits. When those employed by on-airport businesses use their paycheck to

purchase groceries, new clothes, or household items, their spending helps to support other jobs in the community and the payroll associated with these jobs. The initial benefits that start at the airports continue to multiply once they enter the State's economy.

### Annual Economic Activity/Output

To operate Montana's airports, businesses located on the airports and businesses that support visitors who arrive in Montana via the airports all require the purchase of goods and services. These expenditures are most often in addition to those benefits identified in the payroll and earnings category. Benefits in this category are expressed in this study as total annual economic activity or output. Annual economic output related to the airports is typically assumed to be the sum of annual gross sales and average annual capital expenditures, including capital improvement projects.

**JOBS..... 18,800**

**PAYROLL.....\$600 MILLION**

**OUTPUT.....\$1.56 BILLION**

# MONTANA ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AIRPORTS STUDY

## ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Economic impacts at an airport are measured through employment, payroll, and output (spending). On-airport business and government activities (direct impacts) account for a significant portion of an airport's first round economic benefits. Additional first round benefits are also linked to visitors who arrive via the State's system of airports (indirect impacts). Spending by these visitors supports additional employment and associated annual payroll. These first round impacts create additional spin-off benefits that ripple through the economy. These second-round or induced benefits were measured with Montana-specific IMPLAN multipliers. When combined, first round and second-round benefits equal the total economic impact associated with each airport.

### First-Round Impact

In 2008, there were two government tenants on the airport, including airport management, who supported over 11 employees. These tenants' direct or first-round employment, payroll, and output impacts were derived from survey data. Direct output from all on-airport aviation-related tenants is estimated at \$2.9 million annually. The estimated direct annual payroll of these tenants is \$200,000. Operational data indicated that approximately 488 visitors used the airport. Indirect output from general aviation visitors is estimated at \$4,700.

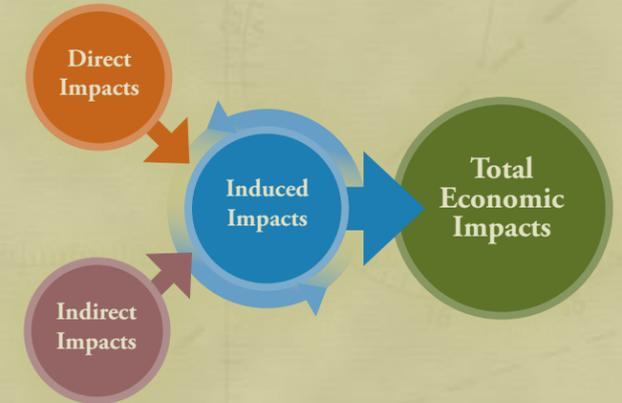
### Second-Round Impact

The first round impacts associated with on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors also create second-round impacts throughout the State. Second-round impacts are induced impacts calculated using the Montana specific IMPLAN multipliers. The accompanying table presents the 2008 first round, second-round, and total impacts for output, payroll, and employment as they relate to on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors.

### Total Impact

For 2008, the total output (including first round and second-round impacts) stemming from all on-airport tenants and general aviation visitors to Plains Airport was approximately \$4.9. Total full-time employment related to airport tenants and general aviation visitors, including all second-round impacts, is estimated at approximately 18 persons, with a total annual payroll (first round and second-round) of approximately \$330,100 associated with these jobs.

## METHODOLOGY



## AIRPORT SUMMARY TABLE

### FIRST-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

On-Airport	Visitor Spending
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAA, Other Government</li> <li>• Airport Management</li> <li>• Aircraft maintenance</li> <li>• Vendors</li> <li>• Retail &amp; Restaurant</li> <li>• Car Rental</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Other Ground Transportation</li> <li>• Fixed Based Operators</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotels</li> <li>• Retail &amp; Restaurants</li> <li>• Travel Agents</li> <li>• Convention Centers</li> <li>• Tourist Destinations</li> </ul>
<p><b>11.0 Jobs</b>  <b>\$200,000 in Payroll</b>  <b>\$2,884,000 in Economic Output</b></p>	<p><b>0 Jobs</b>  <b>\$0 in Payroll</b>  <b>\$4,700 in Economic Output</b></p>

### SECOND-ROUND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suppliers of Materials &amp; Services to Airports</li> <li>• Air Dependent Businesses</li> <li>• Visitor Dependent Businesses</li> <li>• Consumer Product and Service Sales</li> </ul>
<p><b>7.0 Jobs</b>  <b>\$130,100 in Payroll</b>  <b>\$1,967,300 in Economic Output</b></p>

### TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

<p><b>18.0 Jobs</b>  <b>\$330,100 in Wages</b>  <b>\$4,856,000 in Economic Activity</b></p>
---