



2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY



Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Leach (1V8)

Leach Airport (1V8) is a general aviation airport located in the San Luis Valley, sitting four miles northeast of the Town of Center. The elevation at 1V8 is 7,600 feet above sea level and the airport has a 7,000-foot long asphalt runway to support performance at that high of an elevation. 1V8 is surrounded by pristine natural resources and destinations including the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Rio Grande National Forest, both of which are less than 30 miles away. 1V8 provides private pilots a convenient fuel stop during cross-country flights and promotes tourism in the region with aeronautical activity and passengers visiting for recreational activities. 1V8 also supports fixed wing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) testing on-site, medevac, military flight training operations, transportation for agricultural and other businesses located in the area while also supporting recreation and tourism in region. Leach Airport serves as an excellent stop while touring some of Colorado's most visually stunning regions.

Top Activities



Re-fueling



Flight Training



Corporate/
Business
Activity



Aerospace
Research



Aerial
Medical
Operations



Economic Impacts of Leach (1V8)

Leach is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how 1V8 and other airports support economic activity, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Division of Aeronautics undertook the 2025 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study (CEIS). The study determined that 1V8 generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the \$46 thousand of total business revenues generated by 1V8, \$30 thousand were generated by on-airport activities and \$16 thousand generated by visitor spending.¹



2

total jobs



\$15K

total payroll



\$26K

total value
added



\$46K

total business revenues

¹ Totals may not sum due to rounding





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Direct Impacts



Airport
Administration



Airport
Tenants



Capital
Improvements



Commercial Visitor
Spending



General Aviation
Visitor Spending



Multiplier Effects

Supplier Sales and Income Re-spending



Total Impacts



Jobs



Payroll



Value
Added



Business
Revenues

What is Economic Impact?

Two types of economic impacts are generated as a result of airport activity: Direct Impacts and Multiplier Effects (supplier sales and income re-spending). Direct impacts come from the activities of the airport administration, on-airport tenants, capital improvement spending, and spending by visitors arriving on commercial and general aviation aircraft. Multiplier effects are generated when portions of direct revenues are used to purchase goods and services from Colorado businesses (supplier sales), and when income earned by workers in airport-supported jobs is spent at Colorado businesses (income re-spending). Total Impacts represent the summation of the direct impacts, supplier sales, and income re-spending effects for the state.

Economic Impact Measures

Economic Impacts are communicated by the total jobs, payroll, value added, and business revenues generated by each airport. These are defined as:



Jobs

Total number of people employed, both full-time and part-time.



Payroll

Total employment compensation, including wages, benefits, and taxes paid on behalf of employees.



Value Added

Total contribution to the Gross State Product. It includes all payroll, profits, and business taxes paid.



Business Revenues

Total expenditures for airport administration, capital projects and tenant sales of goods and services, as well as visitor spending in Colorado's hospitality-related sectors. Also referred to as "output," "sales," or "economic activity/impact."

Statewide Aviation Economic Impacts

Colorado's 66 public use airports range from small GA airports to a major international airline hub, all of which contribute to the state's economy. The impacts of on-airport activities and visitor spending associated with each airport, combined with the statewide impacts of off-airport air cargo operations, helped Colorado's aviation system generate \$68.9 billion in total economic activity (business revenues) in 2023.



\$68.9B

total business revenues

348,466

total jobs

\$23.5B

total payroll

\$40.3B

total value
added

For more information on the Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study, please visit our webpage at <https://www.coloradoaviationsystem.com/>



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