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

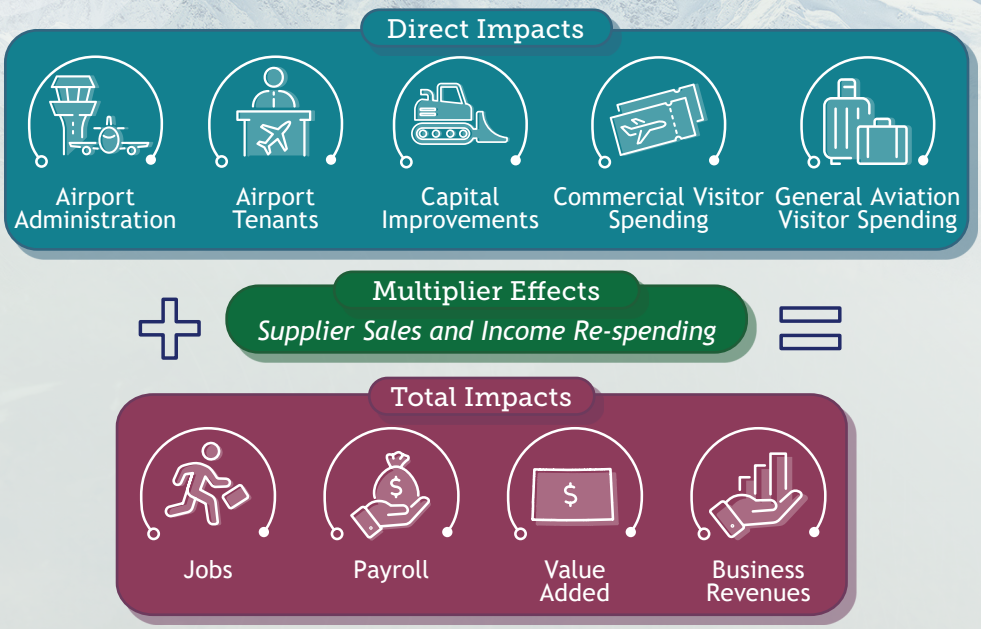
$15K total payroll

$26K total value added

$46K total business revenues

[1] *Totals may not sum due to rounding*

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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.

348,466 total jobs

$23.5B total payroll

$40.3B total value added

$68.9B total business revenues

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