2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Central Colorado Regional (AEJ)

Central Colorado Regional Airport (AEJ), nestled just two miles south of Buena Vista in Chaffee County, plays a pivotal role in the local and regional aviation infrastructure of Colorado. Owned and operated by the Town of Buena Vista, this public use general aviation facility enhances the accessibility of the region and supports a wide range of aeronautical activities. AEJ supports air cargo operations and critical emergency and operational services, both of which are vital for community safety and well-being. AEJ is committed to the next generation of aviation advancements, which is evident in their extensive pilot training programs, including civilian and military pilot training, as well as the airport's support of unmanned aircraft system (UAS) operations. AEJ is capable of accommodating large corporate aircraft—a key feature for the economic and logistic support of the Upper Arkansas River Valley. The airport's modern terminal and fixed-base operator (FBO) hangar supports high altitude aircraft testing conducted by both private enterprises and public agencies, including the military. This capability is essential for developing safer, more efficient aviation technologies. AEJ supports a wide range of aeronautical uses, which serves the needs of the general aviation community, whether that be for pilot training, military activity, or business or recreational air transportation.

Top Activities

- Recreational Activities
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Military Activities
- Aerial Inspection
- Search and Rescue



Economic Impacts of

Central Colorado Regional (AEJ)

Central Colorado Regional is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how AEJ 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 AEJ generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $4.6 million of total business revenues generated by AEJ, $3.8 million were generated by on-airport activities and $792 thousand generated by visitor spending.[1]

29 total jobs

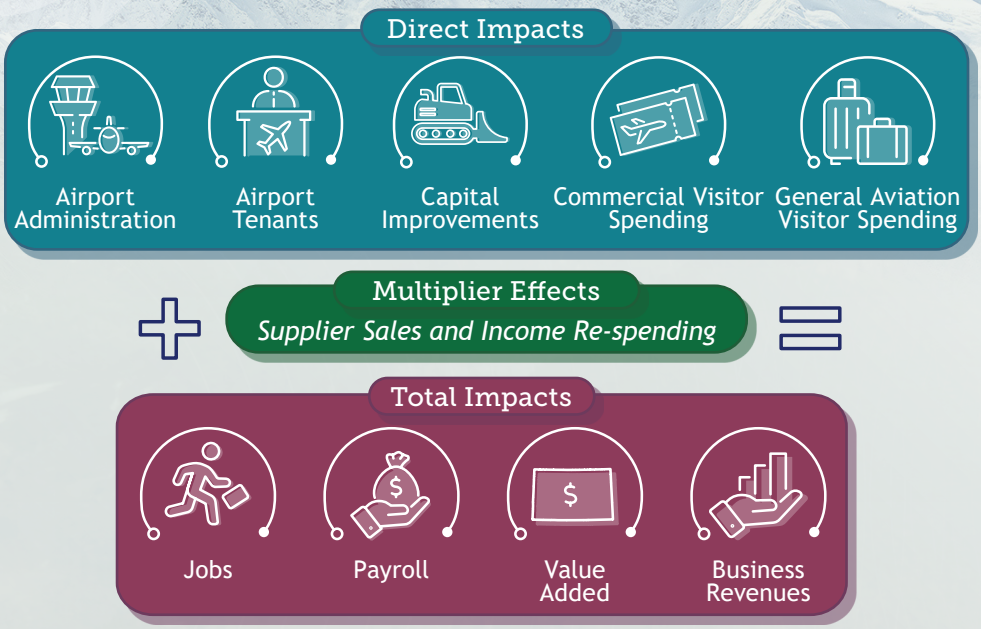
$1.5M total payroll

$2.4M total value added

$4.6M 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/*