2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Hopkins Field (AIB)

Hopkins Field (AIB) is a general aviation airport in southwest Colorado, located just three miles from downtown Nucla. The airport is owned and operated by Montrose County. The primary runway, 05/23, is asphalt and has a length of 5,212 feet and width of 75 feet. Runway 11/29 is a turf runway and has a length of 4,000 feet and width of 80 feet. The airport serves general aviation traffic flying in and out of the area providing an easy means of travel given the rugged terrain surrounding the community. The airport supports the community by providing direct access to many attractions in the region such as skiing, wedding venues, festivals, businesses, and many other outdoor activities that Southwestern Colorado has to offer. AIB provides convenient access to some of Colorado's most prominent tourist destinations like Telluride, the Dolores River Basin, and the Uncompahgre Plateau. In addition to general aviation traffic, AIB frequently supports law enforcement, search and rescue, and military activities.

Top Activities

- Recreational Activities
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Police/Law Enforcement
- Search and Rescue
- Military Activities



Economic Impacts of

Hopkins Field (AIB)

Hopkins Field is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how AIB 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 AIB generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $907 thousand of total business revenues generated by AIB, $222 thousand were generated by on-airport activities and $684 thousand generated by visitor spending.[1]

10 total jobs

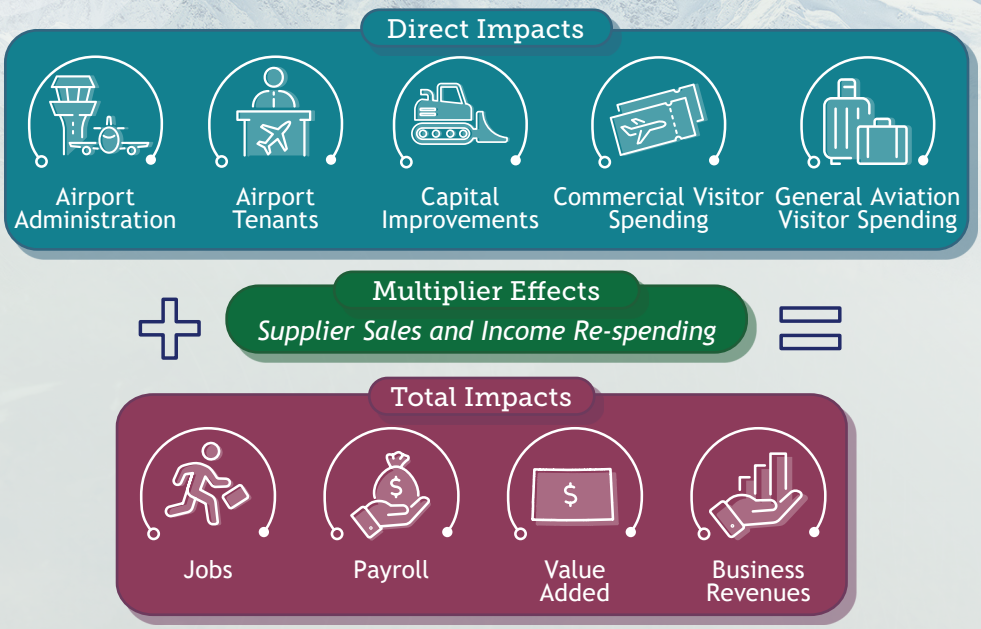
$287K total payroll

$546K total value added

$907K 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/*