2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Blake Field (AJZ)

Blake Field (AJZ) is a general aviation airport in southwest Colorado, located just three miles from downtown Delta and at the base of the Grand Mesa - the largest flat-top mountain in the world. The airport serves as a gateway for corporate business travel in addition to local and regional travelers that use general aviation services. AJZ offers fueling services, hangar space, oxygen servicing, and aircraft tie down parking. In addition to general aviation operations, frequent activities at AJZ include emergency air medical transportation, aerial photography/survey, and search and rescue operations. Many companies utilize AJZ to transport executives and employees to and from the region as part of their business activity. This helps attract businesses to the area and promotes economic development. Additionally, the airport's proximity to local business centers and tourist destinations makes it an attractive option for corporate events and conferences. Blake Field spurs tourism and associated leisure travel with attractions including the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the Devil's Thumb Golf Course, and a host of extraordinary hiking, biking, and other recreational activities.

Top Activities

- Recreational Flying
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Aerial Medical Operations
- Aerial Photography/ Survey
- Search and Rescue



Economic Impacts of

Blake Field (AJZ)

Blake Field is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how AJZ 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 AJZ generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $9.7 million of total business revenues generated by AJZ, $9.3 million were generated by on-airport activities and $436 thousand generated by visitor spending.[1]

37 total jobs

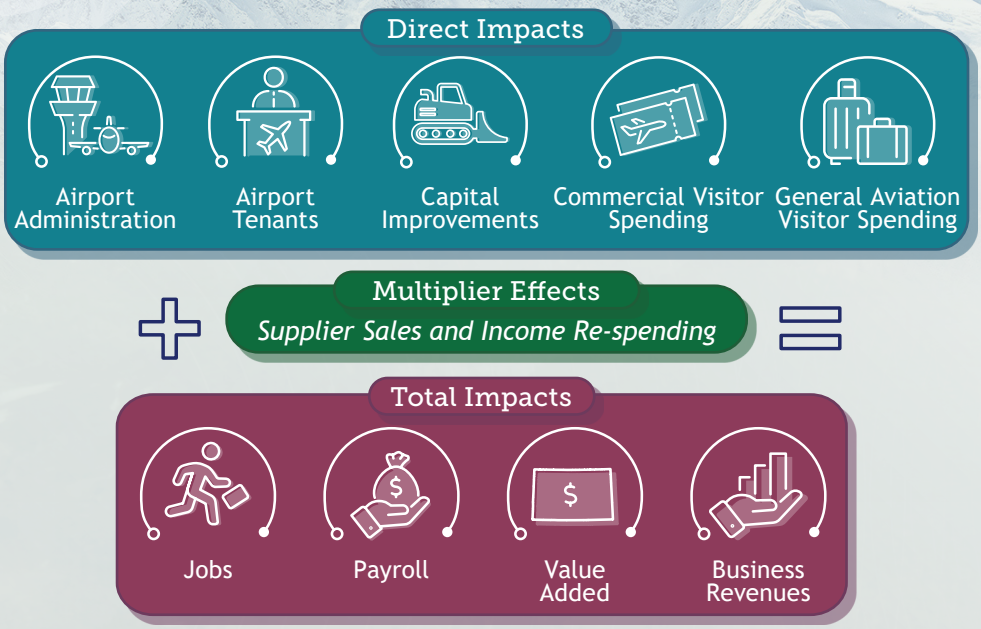
$2.6M total payroll

$4.9M total value added

$9.7M 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/*