2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Colorado Plains Regional (AKO)

Colorado Plains Regional Airport (AKO) is a general aviation airport in northeastern Colorado. Owned and operated by the Town of Akron, AKO supports aviation in the local community and provides regional access to northeastern Colorado while spurring a wide range of aeronautical activity. It has a 7,000-foot-long by 100-foot-wide asphalt runway (11/29), weather reporting equipment, and approach capabilities suitable for large business jets. AKO also provides services from its business tenants including airframe and power plant maintenance, advanced composite manufacturing, fueling services, and sale of specialized parts. AKO serves a diverse group of aeronautical users and activities including recreational pilots, transient and local general aviation aircraft utilizing FBO services, military training aircraft, and medical operations. AKO is one of the only airports in Colorado's Golden Plains Region capable of supporting business jet activity with its runway length, all-weather capabilities, and FBO services. The airport draws users visiting the famed Ballyneal Golf and Hunt Club, which is approximately 50 miles southeast of the airport. The airport also serves an important general aviation facility supporting aerial agriculture application in areas with some of Colorado's most vital crops such as wheat, corn, and millet. AKO supports the local economy and serves as an important link in the region and Colorado's statewide aviation system and economy.

Top Activities

- Recreational Flying
- Military Activities
- Recreational Activities
- Flight Training
- Agricultural Application



Economic Impacts of

Colorado Plains Regional (AKO)

Colorado Plains Regional is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how AKO 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 AKO generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $25.0 million of total business revenues generated by AKO, $21.5 million were generated by on-airport activities and $3.5 million generated by visitor spending.[1]

109 total jobs

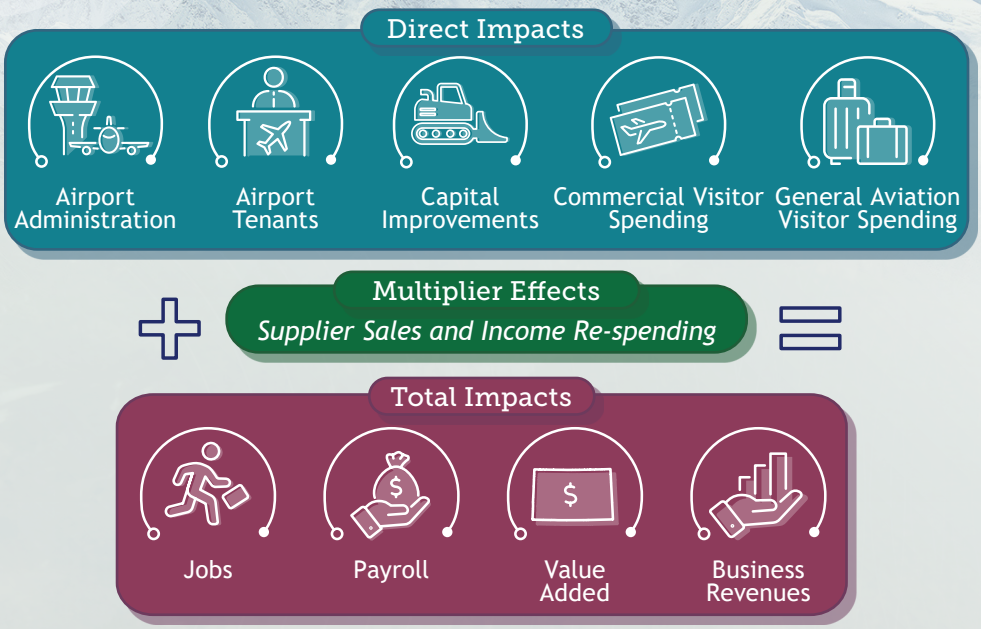
$8.4M total payroll

$13.2M total value added

$25.0M total business revenues

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

2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY



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/*