2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Centennial (APA)

Centennial Airport (APA), nestled in the southeast metro business district just 12 miles from downtown Denver, stands out as one of the nation's busiest general aviation airports. Its clientele spans various sectors from international corporations to air ambulance services, military operations, and flight schools. Spanning both Arapahoe and Douglas counties, APA employs thousands at businesses located on airport property and supports many other jobs in the community and region. APA is both a logistical hub and vital-lifeline. The airport supports medical evacuation flights and humanitarian missions delivering aid, connecting people in need with essential resources. APA offers 24/7/365 service to its customers including U.S. Customs services for international travelers. Additionally, the largest air ambulance companies in Denver provide service via the airport, transporting patients, doctors and organs to locations throughout the state and country. Apart from aeronautical use, the airport fosters community engagement through various amenities and initiatives such as the Wings Over the Rockies Exploration of Flight Museum, recreational facilities, dining options, and educational institutions like the Colorado Skies Academy. APA is at the forefront of sustainability efforts, pioneering initiatives such as offering unleaded AvGas—the first in Colorado to do so—and participating in sustainability programs. Moreover, it actively engages with the community through events like blood drives and charity initiatives, demonstrating its commitment to social responsibility. APA is a transportation hub, vital economic engine, pioneer in sustainable aviation and lifeline to the community.

Top Activities

- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Recreational Activities
- Flight Training
- Aerial Medical Operations
- Aerospace Research



Economic Impacts of

Centennial (APA)

Centennial is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how APA 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 APA generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $2.4 billion of total business revenues generated by APA, $2.1 billion were generated by on-airport activities and $252.1 million generated by visitor spending.[1]

9,061 total jobs

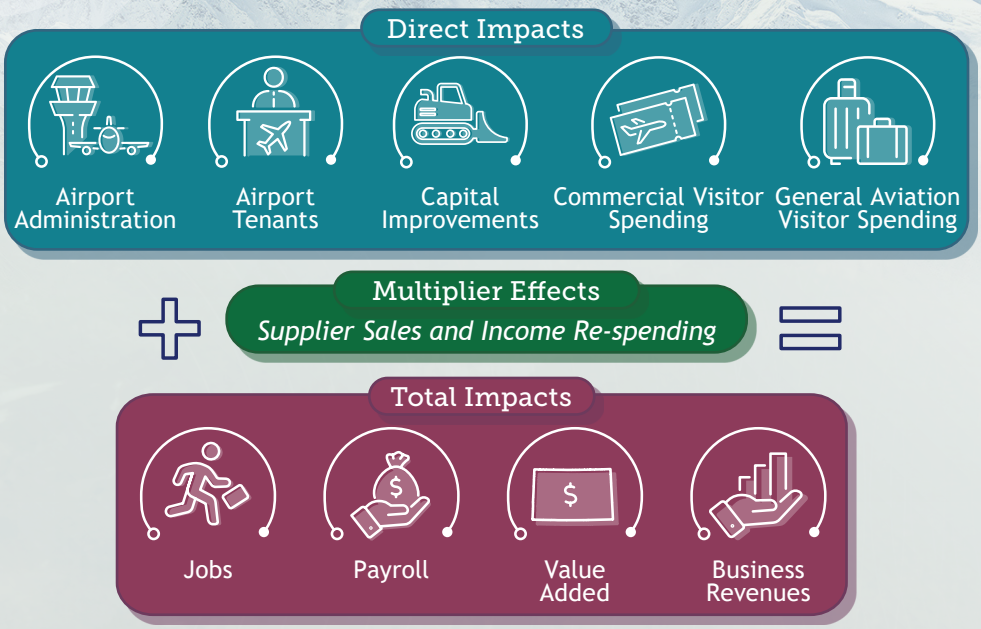
$756.5M total payroll

$1.3B total value added

$2.4B 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/*