2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Silver West (C08)

Located in south-central Colorado, Silver West Airport (C08) is a general aviation airport adjacent to Colorado's Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range. With its proximity to recreational attractions such as the Rainbow Trail, Beckwith Ranch, and the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Silver West Airport draws visitors within the state and outside Colorado that are destined for these nearby attractions. C08 is owned and operated by Custer County. C08 has a 6,954-foot-long asphalt runway (13/31), automated weather observing system, and state-of-the-art self-service fueling system. C08 also offers hangar rentals for its based aircraft and tie down parking for itinerant aircraft. Business tenants at C08 provide airframe and powerplant maintenance, aircraft rental services, and flight training. Each summer the airport hosts the Silver West AirFest, drawing crowds as large as up to 800 people with 40 to 50 aircraft that fly in for the annual event. Silver West Airport also supports flight training operations and accommodates both military and emergency medical operations conducted by helicopters. Silver West Airport serves an important role in promoting tourism in Colorado by providing access to local attractions as well as promoting aviation in the community and serving as an important link in Colorado's system of airports.

Top Activities

- Recreational Activities
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Aerial Medical Operations
- Military Activities
- Recreational Flying



Economic Impacts of

Silver West (C08)

Silver West is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how C08 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 C08 generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $1.5 million of total business revenues generated by C08, $1.4 million were generated by on-airport activities and $104 thousand generated by visitor spending.[1]

11 total jobs

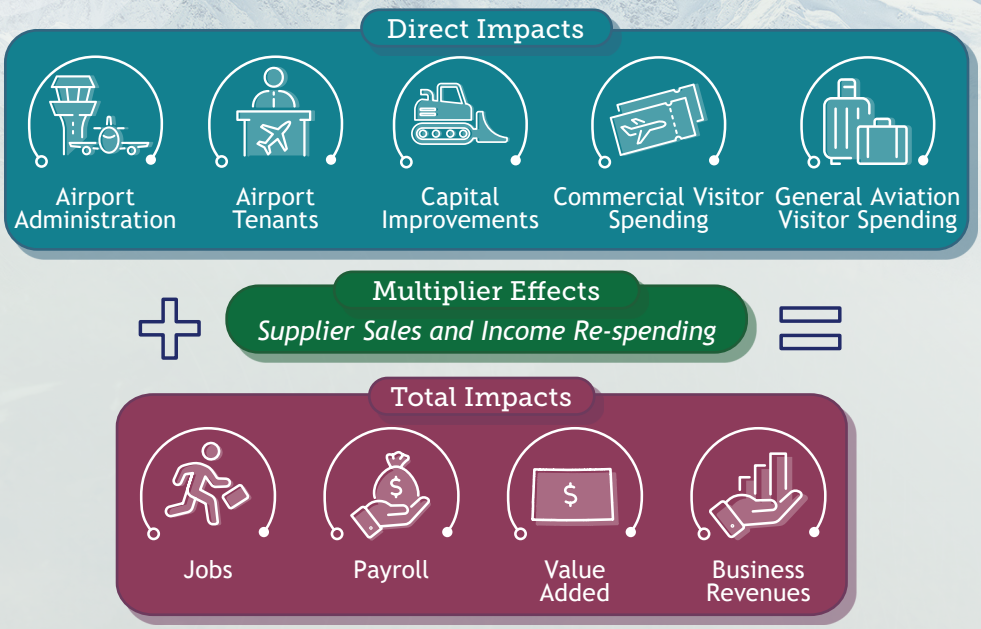
$459K total payroll

$839K total value added

$1.5M 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/*