2025 Colorado Western Slope Aviation Economic Impact Study

COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Aeronautics

Total Economic Impacts of Colorado's Western Slope Airports

$5.0B
Total Business Revenues

27,747
Total Jobs

$1.6B
Total Payroll

$3.0B
Total Value Added

Western Slope Economic Contributions

The 20 Western Slope airports generate economic impacts through key activities:

On-Airport Activities
Jobs: 9,193
Business Revenues: $2.2B

Off-Airport Visitor Spending
Jobs: 18,554
Business Revenues: $2.8B

Western Slope airports facilitate many activities that generate impacts, including:

- 210 on-airport businesses employing more than 3,800 people
- 926,000 out-of-state visitors arriving via commercial airlines
- 216,000 out-of-state visitors arriving via GA aircraft

Aviation Activity on the Western Slope

- The 9 commercial service airports and 11 general aviation (GA) airports supported more than 62,000 take-offs and landings in 2025.
- 8 airlines offer seasonal and year-round flights to 22 unique out-of-state destinations from Western Slope airports, including 14 of the 15 busiest airline hubs in the U.S.
- Western Slope airports recorded more than 1.8 million passenger enplanements (boardings) in 2025.
- Western Slope airports support aerial wildland firefighting, delivering more than 1.28 million gallons of retardant to fires in 12 states in 2026.

Growth of Western Slope Aviation

- Commercial passenger enplanements increased by 61% between 2018 and 2025.
- 7 of the 9 commercial airports are completing terminal expansion projects, leveraging more than $60 million of FAA grant funds since 2022.
- The Colorado Division of Aeronautics installed weather cameras at 12 Western Slope Airports and 13 mountain weather stations, improving safety for pilots.

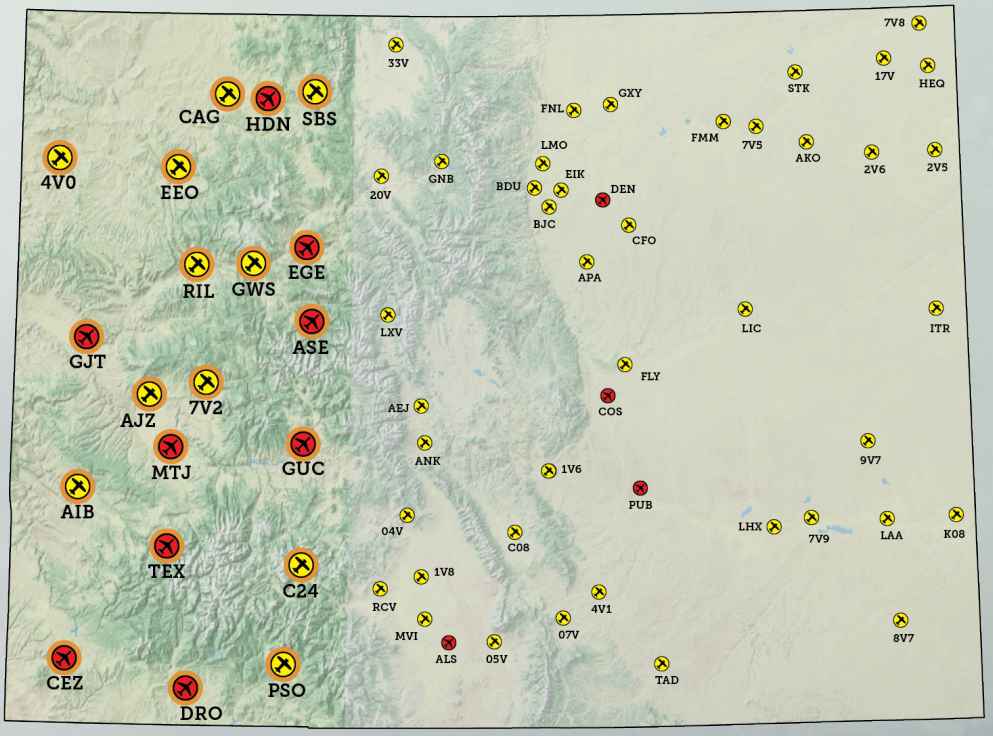
For more information about the methodology of the 2025 CEIS, please visit: https://www.coloradoaviationsystem.com/2025-ceis/

Western Slope Airports

Each airport included in the Western Slope Analysis contributes to the region's overall economic impacts, as detailed in the table below.

Airport Legend

- Commercial Service
- General Aviation
- Included in Western Slope Analysis



Total Economic Impacts by Airport

City	Airport Name	FAA ID	Jobs	Payroll	Value Added	Business Revenues
Commercial Service Airports						
Aspen	Aspen-Pitkin County	ASE	7,316	$440.3M	$826.2M	$1.4B
Cortez	Cortez Municipal	CEZ	219	$15.1M	$27.5M	$50.7M
Durango	Durango-La Plata County	DRO	1,993	$111.8M	$199.7M	$342.1M
Eagle	Eagle County Regional	EGE	4,404	$269.3M	$487.7M	$783.4M
Grand Junction	Grand Junction Regional	GJT	3,398	$255.3M	$445.8M	$817.0M
Gunnison	Gunnison-Crested Butte Regional	GUC	958	$54.5M	$91.9M	$154.9M
Hayden	Yampa Valley Regional	HDN	3,574	$178.0M	$313.3M	$512.7M
Montrose	Montrose Regional	MTJ	4,323	$231.0M	$421.5M	$713.1M
Telluride	Telluride Regional	TEX	571	$31.1M	$57.5M	$97.1M
General Aviation Airports						
Craig	Craig-Moffat County	CAG	78	$4.9M	$9.2M	$18.8M
Creede	Mineral County Memorial	C24	21	$940K	$1.7M	$3.2M
Delta	Blake Field	AJZ	37	$2.6M	$4.9M	$9.7M
Glenwood Springs	KGWS Sumers Airpark	GWS	126	$8.5M	$16.4M	$34.2M
Meeker	Meeker-Coulter Field	EEO	42	$1.9M	$3.5M	$6.4M
Nucla	Hopkins Field	AIB	10	$287K	$546K	$907K
Pagosa Springs	Stevens Field	PSO	47	$3.2M	$5.8M	$11.9M
Paonia	North Fork Valley	7V2	3	$98K	$174K	$294K
Rangely	Rangely	4V0	46	$2.4M	$3.5M	$5.5M
Rifle	Rifle Garfield County	RIL	391	$25.1M	$42.5M	$79.4M
Steamboat Springs	Bob Adams Field	SBS	190	$11.7M	$20.9M	$48.3M
Western Slope Region Total			**27,747**	**$1.6B**	**$3.0B**	**$5.0B**

K: Thousands, M: Millions, B: Billions