2025 Colorado Aviation ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Individual Airport Economic Impact Report

Cortez Municipal (CEZ)

Cortez Municipal Airport (CEZ) is a commercial service airport in southwest Colorado serving the Four Corners region. CEZ offers multiple daily commercial flights to Denver and Phoenix. CEZ is used by both locals and visitors to access destinations in the region including Mesa Verde National Park, the Four Corners Monument, and nearby ski areas. In addition to commercial service operations, CEZ also supports numerous general aviation activities including charters, recreational flying, and flight training. Cortez Municipal Airport has a single-asphalt runway (03/21) that is 7,205 feet in length and 100-feet wide. CEZ is home to several businesses which provide critical services to the region such as aerial firefighting, emergency medical transport, and infrastructure inspection. The airport and its on-site businesses partner with both local community groups and national aviation organizations such as the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to participate in community events and host aviation outreach programs.

Top Activities

- Commercial Service
- Corporate/ Business Activity
- Recreational Flying
- Aerial Medical Operations
- Flight Training



Economic Impacts of

Cortez Municipal (CEZ)

Cortez Municipal is one of 66 public use airports that contribute to the State's aviation economic impact. To understand how CEZ 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 CEZ generated the below total economic activity in 2023. Of the $50.7 million of total business revenues generated by CEZ, $42.9 million were generated by on-airport activities and $7.8 million generated by visitor spending.[1]

219 total jobs

$15.1M total payroll

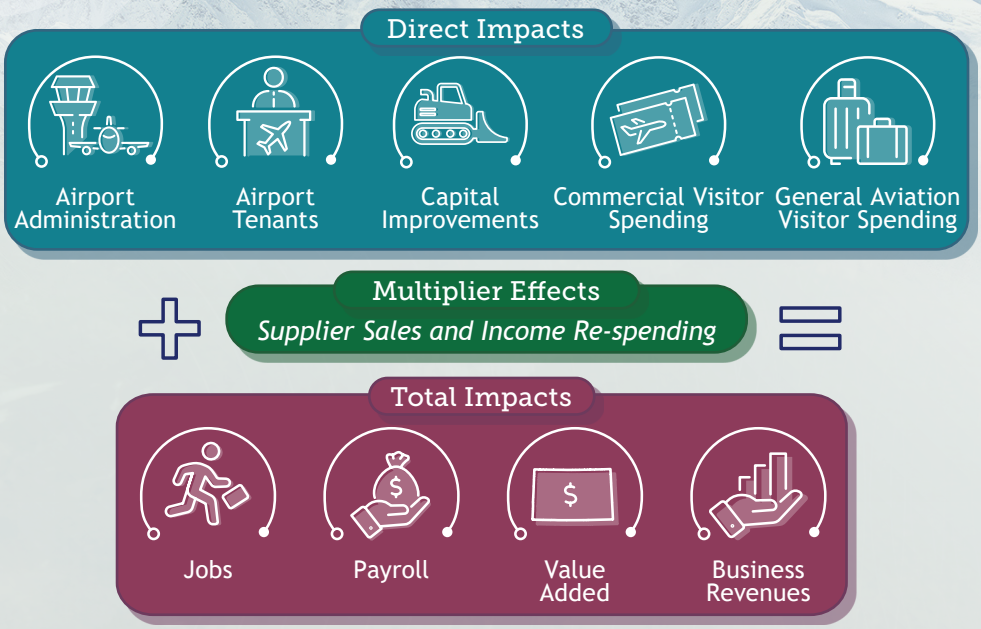
$27.5M total value added

$50.7M 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/*